

## Terms of Reference (ToR)

for Share-Net Bangladesh Young Researcher Fellowship

# STUDY ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR) FOR ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH IN BANGLADESH

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## 1. ABOUT SHARE-NET BANGLADESH

Share-Net Bangladesh is a knowledge platform on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and gender that connects and brings together the Communities of Practice (CoPs) in the field of SRHR. A community consists of SRHR practitioners, activists, policy makers, social and medical researchers, development practitioners, government officials, activists, legal experts, students, and members of vulnerable and underserved groups.

Share-Net Bangladesh visions to establish universal access to and utilisation of SRHR. It's mission is to create evidence-informed policies and practices to enable everyone access to good-quality care to ensure their sexual and reproductive wellbeing. Share-Net Bangladesh generates knowledge from experts and practitioners which are being disseminated through effective communication tools in order to support advocacy and awareness campaigns.

Share-Net Bangladesh involves young people in the platform to ensure their active contribution in SRHR and gender in creating evidence based policy development. In this light, Share-Net Bangladesh is launching the Share-Net Bangladesh Young Researcher Fellowship.

This unique opportunity is provided to talented young researchers so that they can contribute to knowledge generation in the field of SRHR and gender and share their findings with Share-Net's international and national Communities of Practice.

## 2. PROBLEM ANALYSIS

Adolescents and young people in Bangladesh consistently lack access to sexual and reproductive health information and services.<sup>a</sup> According to the International Human Rights, they have the same right to control over their bodies as adults, and need to receive information, counselling and access to the full range of modern contraceptive options. The adolescent SRH challenges are currently recognised through Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 3, which aims to provide universal access to sexual and reproductive health services as well as incorporating such services into national strategies. According to UNICEF data, the number of adolescents in Bangladesh today is 36 million, making up 22% of the population. It is well known that adolescents show risky behaviour and therefore it is important to integrate adolescents and youth in the SRHR programmes in a participatory way so that they are able to take well-informed decisions and act in a responsible way. Study finds that due to lack of awareness adolescents and youth face challenges to meet their SRH services and understand their rights.<sup>b</sup> According to Bangladesh government data,

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<sup>a</sup> Engel, D. M. C., Paul, M., Chalasani, S., Gonsalves, L., Ross, D. A., Chandra-Mouli, V., ... & Beadle, S. (2019). A Package of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Interventions—What Does It Mean for Adolescents?. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 65(6), S41-S50.

<sup>b</sup> Cortez, R., Quinlan-Davidson, M., & Saadat, S. (2014). Challenges for Adolescent's Sexual and Reproductive Health within the Context of Universal Health Coverage.

more than 50% of women who are in their 20s were married before their 18th birthday.

The Bangladesh government has brought out the National Adolescent Health Strategy 2017-30 prioritising four thematic areas of intervention: adolescent sexual and reproductive health, violence against adolescents, adolescent nutrition and mental health of adolescents. This is an excellent initiative from the government. Share-Net Bangladesh urges young researchers to come forward with their innovative research concepts and proposals that could lead to opportunities for improved SRHR and gender services to adolescents and youths.

### 3. OBJECTIVE

The objective is to conduct research for improving elements of the adolescents and youth SRHR in Bangladesh. This study could result in recommendations, conclusions and innovative ideas for change.

### 4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants have to meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. Must be a Bangladeshi national
2. Age must be 30 years or less by 31st December 2020
3. Must be currently pursuing Masters or PhD in areas such as Social Science/Public Health/Development Studies/Gender Studies/Anthropology or any relevant discipline from a University Grants Commission (UGC) approved university in Bangladesh to apply for this call
4. All applicants (lead and team members) must be a member of Share-Net Bangladesh. [Click here to become a member.](#)
5. May apply as an individual, or as a team (maximum 4 researchers in a team).

## 5. CONTENTS OF THE RESEARCH PROPOSAL

The proposal must clearly mention the following information:

- Name of the primary researcher
- Name of the other researchers in the team (for proposal submission as a team)
- Name of the masters programme or PhD topic and the university

You are advised to follow the structure below to write your proposal:

- Title of the research
- Problem analysis/Context
- Objective of the study
- Research questions
- Hypothesis
- Conceptual framework
- Research methods and procedures
- Methodology
- Population, data collection method
- Significance of the study
- Dissemination plan
- Complete work plan with time schedule
- Budget breakdown (must include the cost of: proofreading by a professional, printing+binding 30 copies which will be handed over to the Share-net secretariat)
- Bibliography
- Annexes
- Recommendation letter from supervisor (current programme)
- CVs of the researcher(s)

## 6. RESEARCH GRANT & MODE OF PAYMENT

Share-Net Bangladesh will fund two proposals for the period of June 2020 - September 2020. Grant is limited to 200,000 BDT.

30% payment will be made upon signing the contract.

20% payment will be made upon receiving the first progress report.

50% payment will be made upon receiving the final research paper and the report.

## 7. DELIVERABLES

Following are the deliverables:

1. The young researchers to submit the first progress report after collecting data
2. The young researchers to present the draft paper to Share-Net Bangladesh secretariat
3. The young researchers to deliver the final paper after incorporating feedback from Share-Net Bangladesh secretariat (main report should be not more than 30 pages excluding annexes)
4. The young researchers to submit the final report including a one-pager summary
5. The young researchers to present the paper during the Knowledge Fair 2020
6. The young researchers must disseminate their findings (presentation/publication)

The research will be guided and supervised by the Share-Net Bangladesh secretariat

## 8. TIMELINE

- The last date to send queries to the Share-Net Bangladesh secretariat is 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2020.
- The last date to submit the proposal is 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2020.
- Share-Net Bangladesh will announce and contact the winner on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2020.
- The contract will be signed by 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2020.
- The research project will start from 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2020.
- The final research report must be delivered by 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2020.

## 9. SUBMISSION AND CONTACT DETAILS:

Research proposal must be submitted [via this link](#) in pdf format (size should not be more than 5 MB)

For proposal submission and any query please contact.

**Kishore Kumer Basak**

Coordinator, Share-Net Bangladesh

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\*\* Share-Net Bangladesh will have the copyright to publish and circulate the research through the platform. Without written permission from the Share-Net Bangladesh secretariat, the young researchers and the supervisors will refrain from publishing and presenting the paper to any national and international platform and conference.