

SRHR KNOWLEDGE FAIR 2021

Concept Note

Background

Knowledge Fair on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) is an annual event of Share-net Bangladesh. Each year a theme is selected on the broad umbrella of SRHR to organize the largest event on SRHR knowledge sharing. More than 300 SRHR experts, specialists, researchers, academicians, practitioners, students join this event to share and learn new knowledge. Focusing on the theme, the event hosts plenary, scientific paper presentation, poster presentation, stall exhibition and much more.

6th SRHR Knowledge Fair | Climate Change and SRHR

The **6th SRHR Knowledge Fair** is being organized by Share-Net Bangladesh on 21st November 2021. The daylong event will be held online on its virtual platform (for all audience/attendees) and partially in a physical space (only for participants). The virtual and physical venues are accessible for persons with disabilities.

Date and Time: 21st November 2021 (Sunday) from 09:30 AM to 01:40 PM (Bangladesh time).

Theme of the SRHR Knowledge Fair 2021

The theme of this year is '**Climate Change and SRHR**'. The theme reflects the need for addressing the impacts of climate change on the SRHR of people in Bangladesh who are victims of climate change, especially adolescent girls and women. Bangladesh being the 7th most vulnerable country affected by climate change¹, the people not only struggle to survive and sustain, but also deal with the negative impacts on their sexual and reproductive health



consequences of climate change. This theme is important at this moment so that SRHR could be sufficiently focused on the upcoming National Plan for Disaster Management.

Contextualization

Bangladesh is intrinsically vulnerable to the effects of climate change due to its unique geographical location as a low-lying river delta². Changing precipitation patterns, such as drought and shorter but

¹ https://www.germanwatch.org/sites/default/files/20-2-01e%20Global%20Climate%20Risk%20Index%202020_14.pdf

² Rahman, M. M., Ahmad, S., Mahmud, A. S., Hassan-uz-Zaman, M., Nahian, M. A., Ahmed, A., ... & Streatfield, P. K. (2019). Health consequences of climate change in Bangladesh: An overview of the evidence, knowledge gaps and challenges. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change*, 10(5), e601.

more intense rainfall, can have negative direct and indirect impacts on health and can contribute to desertification and flooding, food insecurity, internal and external migration, and increased conflict. Marginal populations, poor and socially disadvantaged individuals, women, adolescents, children and people with disabilities are often most affected³. Knowing that natural disasters can exacerbate pressures for child marriage, response efforts should specifically include provisions to protect and provide opportunities for vulnerable adolescent girls. This includes primarily safe sanitation, clean water, hygiene, and health services, and at the same time secondarily accessible education and income generation opportunities⁴.

Over the years, researchers are establishing the significant connection between climate change and demeaning SRHR. According to the researchers, in Bangladesh while discriminatory gender roles, power relationships and social norms systematically create gender inequality, climate change and its consequences further intensifies women's and girls' social vulnerability causing more child marriage, violence. That is why it is time that we focus on the impact of climate change in the practice of SRHR.

The theme has a broad perspective, however for the 2021 SRHR Knowledge Fair, it will focus on the following thematic topics for discussion -

1. **Climate change induced gender-based violence**
2. **Child marriage and climate change**

The thematic topics reflect **SDG 3, SDG 5 and SDG 13**.

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Sessions

Plenary Session: Experts and specialists will have an engaging discussion on the impact of climate change on SRHR and required policy support.

Scientific Research Presentations: There will be two thematic presentation sessions on two thematic topics (mentioned above). Three researchers in each of the two sessions will present their research findings from their latest research studies.

Call for Abstracts:

A call for abstracts was launched inviting researchers to share their recent research findings connecting climate change and SRHR for the presentation sessions. More about the process can be found in this

³ McLeod, C., Barr, H., & Rall, K. (2019). Does Climate Change Increase the Risk of Child Marriage: A Look at What We Know-And What We Don't-With Lessons from Bangladesh and Mozambique. *Colum. J. Gender & L.*, 38, 96.

⁴ Brides, G. N. ICRW. "Taking Action to Address Child Marriage: the Role of Different Sectors. Food Security & Nutrition Brief." 2016.

[LINK](#). The selected ones will get the opportunity to present their abstracts at the Knowledge Fair sessions.

Digital Poster Presentations:

Similarly, a call was also circulated inviting interested organisations and individuals to submit digital posters portraying progress, update regarding project activities in relation to climate change and SRHR. Here is the [LINK](#) to the call for digital posters. The selected poster will be displayed and presented in both the online and physical space.

'SRHR Recognition of the Year' Award:

The 'SRHR Recognition of the Year' Award is an interesting inclusion to the Knowledge Fair since 2020 which is being continued this year too. This award is a recognition of year-long contributions with hard work and dedication by the SRHR practitioners, researchers or experts. This year, the award will be delivered for two age groups, one for the age group under 35 and another one for the age group over 35. One important criteria for selection is that the person should have a significant level of contribution through his/her/their work at the grassroots level. Share-Net Bangladesh prioritizes giving recognition to those who have real contributions, but are not recognized in mainstream media. Recommendations for the award have been collected following a structured methodology which have been scored for making the final selections an awardee for the SRHR award.

About Share-Net Bangladesh:

Share-Net Bangladesh is the first global hub of Share-Net International which is a knowledge platform focused on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) based in the Netherlands. The platform seeks to combine the expertise and strengths of the national knowledge networks in all its hubs with the aim to contribute significantly to policy, practices, and program development in the field of SRHR. It brings together the dynamic Community of Practice (CoP) that consist of social and medical researchers, development practitioners, government officials, legal experts, students, and members of vulnerable and under-served groups to engage with one another to find solutions and take critical issues forward. Share-Net Bangladesh has more than 1000 individual members.

While Bangladeshi practitioners have been working on SRHR issues for an extensive period of time, creating best practices and generating knowledge through rigorous research, SRHR remains a possible thrust area in establishing greater human rights. Key functions of the network include:

1. Establishing links with key national, global partners, stakeholders and networks working on SRHR
2. Sharing and stimulating the use of existing SRHR knowledge
3. Generating new knowledge to address priority research and intervention gaps
4. Disseminating knowledge through effective communication tools
5. Creating space for finding solution and supporting advocacy
6. Bridging the gap between all involved in SRHR policy and services

Share-Net Bangladesh is hosted by **RedOrange Media and Communications**.