

**Share-Net**  
International

The Knowledge Platform on  
Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights



**“Supported by Share- Net International”**



Published year: 2021

*Project supported by Share- Net International /'Cholo Kotha Boli- youth to youth podcast / project number (10201-2404.03)/ Grant Letter number (2021-C123)*

*Ref. no. – 06-07-2021/'Cholo Kotha Boli- youth to youth podcast / project number (10201-2404.03)/ Grant Letter number (2021-C123) /CON-01*



A research report on knowledge and practice of SRHR among different sectors of the population living in the Baunya-Badh slum.

**Researcher:** Md. Be-Nozir Shah Shovon  
BURP, MDS, Khulna University  
Email: md.benozirshah@gmail.com  
Cell: +8801729-994666

**Acknowledgements:** I owe a debt of gratitude to all the slum dwellers who shared their perspectives and information during focus group discussions (FGDs) and interviews conducted as part of this study. Adolescents from the community who had received the training on qualitative research and were engaged as facilitators and note-takers during data collection- played vital roles in carrying out the research.

I am also very grateful to ARBAN for having given me the privilege to conduct this research. Furthermore, I want to thank Mr Mongchingsha Marma, Project coordinator of ARBAN for his vibrant communication and supervision at the field level. Finally, a special thanks to Ms Iole Valentina Lucchese, country representative in Bangladesh, Terre des Hommes Italia. I thank for her valuable comment and recommendations.

However, none of the individuals or organizations mentioned above are responsible for any flaws in this study.

**Md.Be-Nozir Shah Shovon**

22 August 2021.

**Introduction:** Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) related issues are not openly discussed in Bangladesh. Especially in the slum area, these issues are dealt with fun or shame. There is not enough research conducted on these topics. SRHR issues are not usually discussed over the media. Lack of proper knowledge, insufficient source of knowledge, space of conversation are the main barriers against for fulfilling people SRHR. More research in informal settlement areas at urban level may help unfolding the main challenges, at knowledge and practice level, related to SRHR for low-income communities living in slum. Because slum area is vulnerable against this issue.

This report refers to the findings of a qualitative research on SRHR knowledge and practice among different groups (adolescents, adults and transgender community) residing in Baunya-Badh slum, Dhaka, carried out by 10 adolescent girls and boys, engaged in ARBAN adolescents' empowerment program. The research has been conducted within the framework of the project -'Cholo Kotha Boli- youth to youth podcast' funded by Share- Net International and aiming at producing and airing ten episodes of a podcast on SRHR issues as knowledge products. The research served the purpose to provide the main contents for the podcast's episodes.

**Objective:**

- To understand the knowledge and practice of SRHR among different sectors of the population living in the Baunya- Badh slum
- To chalk out the gaps related to SRHR knowledge with a view to bridge the information gaps.

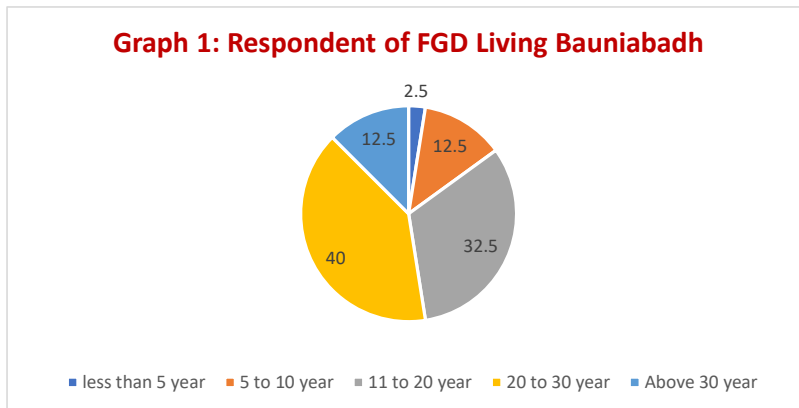
**Methodology:**

This research has followed a proper and specific guideline to chalk out the main Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Related issues in Baunya-Badh slum area. Real scenario has been portrayed here through this research which was impossible from secondary data. The respondents shared their views and practice related to SRHR issues frankly, because people from the same community were engaged as data collectors.

**Facilitators:** Some adolescents had received a training under the project named-'Cholo Kotha Boli- youth to youth podcast'. After receiving the training, they had been engaged in this research as Note taker and facilitator. For this they had a clear concept over SRHR issues and hailing from the same community they could have relate the discussion of the participants easily with the research.

**Checklist preparation:** First, the research team had identified the SRHR components from the literature review. Then, after consultation with the field person of ARBAN, the research team prepared a data mapping (*see in annex 1*). This data mapping played a vital role to understand what types of topics would be appropriate for the different categories of people. Finally, checklist had been prepared for Focus group discussion (FGD) and Interview (*see in annex 2*).

**Data collection (Participants and procedure):** The research team applied qualitative methods (Focus group discussion and interview) which is more appropriate for this kind of research. The team conducted 4 FGDs with adolescent boys and girls as well as with men and women. Each FGD included on average 8-10 participants. Besides these FGDs, four separate interviews had also been carried out with selected individuals from the same participants of the FGDs. These individual interviews allowed for sensitive issues to emerge which could have not been shared in a group. Two different interviews were organized with adolescents from the transsexual community over the same topic. For this group the method of questioning and pattern of their answering were quite different from the other categories of respondents. These separate interviews were planned to allow for a safe space of sharing.



Graph 1 shows that only 2.5% of respondents have been living in the area for less than five years. So, most of the participants (97.5%) have been living in that area for more than five years. They can clearly talk about the SRHR issues in the area of intervention.

**Data analysis:** Once the facilitators had completed the data collection, then the data have been further analyzed across all focus groups and organized into themes/key findings by the consultants. These themes or key findings had helped to determine the gaps related to awareness and will be the basis for developing the 10 episodes podcast scripts.

## Key Findings

**Key findings 1: Puberty is not generally accepted by adolescent boys and girls, and their peers make the whole situation difficult for them.**

Adolescent girls had shared that puberty was one of the critical periods in their lifecycle. In this period, they experience some changes (Breast “buds” continue to grow and expand, Fat begins to accumulate in the hips and thighs.) in their bodies, and their families put many restrictions on them. For example, don't go outside during your menstruation time, don't gossip with the boys during this time. So, adolescent girls feel they don't have any freedom and sometimes they also feel themselves as a guilty person in that time.

"When I was passing that time (menstruation), I feel that I am the real guilty person. I had to stay in isolation. Nobody was there to help me at that time. I felt that I was in the karagar (Jail)"

As noted by a woman who participated in one FGD:

Similarly, an adolescent in that interview had also acknowledged:

"Before that time, my life was wonderful, but when my menstruation started, then I heard from my mother only one word, and that was – No. Like- you can't eat fish then it will create nuisance during the menstruation times. You don't know as a Bengali how much I liked eating fish. Besides that, don't go outside to play. So, in one word- all my favorite foods and hobby had been banned. It was very irritating for me."

So, most of the adolescent girls don't get proper support from their family, but it was coming out that nowadays someone gets some good advice from their elder sisters or their friends. So, it seems that this generation gets some advice from their peers, but the peers sometimes don't want to talk about the issue because of shame.

Adolescent boys shared that they also face many problems. The first problem they reported was that they fall into an identity crisis. From the inside, they feel that they have become men, but other people treat them as a child, and even if they say something, elders say: 'this boy is a beyadob (arrogant)'. So, most of the time they become introvert.

One boy spoke about his earlier experience when he faced the puberty stage:

"From my childhood, I am very talkative and always share my opinion, but during adolescence, I had recognized myself as a beyadob (arrogant) because all of my senior, friends, my father, told me that. So, I had started not to say anything. So, day after day, I became an introvert."

Another problem is wet dreams (A wet dream occurs when you have a sexually stimulating dream while sleeping and your body discharges semen through ejaculation). Sometimes, when these things started happening, they discussed them with their friends and peers, but they didn't understand why. Even some misconception had also come. For example- you are sick, an evil woman catches you, etc. Another important thing was that they don't know how many days in a month it could have happened. These were very anxious times for them. Even sometimes, they wanted to discuss with their father but couldn't tell due to shyness.

One adolescent boy shared the experiences from his upbringing:

"Every morning, I wake up and see my pant became wet and, in the night, I dreamt things related to sex. I had discussed that issue with one of my senior brothers, and he told me that a pori (witch/evil woman) gave an evil eye on me. I was petrified, and then I went to one of the Huzur (religious leaders), he confirmed my elder brother theory, and my fear grew even bigger."

Another thing which came out was about the desire of masturbate themselves. However, they didn't know it was good or bad or how many days in a month it could be done. Some of their friends and peers had told them to take less food so that wet dreams would not come.

So, misconceptions exist about the puberty of girls and boys in our society. The adolescent is not usually mentally prepared about seeing the changes for the puberty and they face many challenges regarding this. Moreover, the peers can't help but create difficult situations for the adolescents.

Highlighted findings	Recommendations for giving awareness
<p><b>Girls</b></p> <p>Adolescents feel bad because they lose their freedom due to many families' restrictions</p> <p>Some misconception exists, many restrictions related to food is given as a result they feel sick</p> <p>Seniors don't want to give proper guideline because of shame</p>	<p>Giving a proper message to the adolescent girl as well as to their family about the puberty</p> <p>In the puberty period, the importance of taking proper food needs to be understood by the adolescent and their parents</p> <p>Give a clear concept to all that's why each one can think that it's a normal process in their lives</p>
<p><b>Boys</b></p> <p>Boys fall into identity crisis and don't have clear message over body changes.</p>	<p>Giving a proper message to adolescent boys about the puberty</p>

A misconception exists about wet dreams and masturbation.	Give proper guidelines so that they can handle this changing situation rather feeling shy.
---	--

**Key finding 2: Women vulnerability starts from early marriage and coupled with the problem of not ensuring the protection of girl**

Focus group participants (Man and Woman) were asked to speak about why early marriage had happened in the slums even though the parents knew the worst consequence of it. The main reasons are portrayed below-

- 1) Due to the poverty father of an adolescent wants to shift the responsibility as soon as possible
- 2) Sometimes neighbor also puts pressure and tell: 'Your girl has become enough matured for marrying
- 3) Sometimes, rumors are also created about girls having love affairs. Then immediately their father wants to arrange a marriage even these girls are young.

"I was an outstanding student in my childhood, and up to class 7, I stood 2nd in my class. I had a wish to become a doctor but at that time my father got sick. Then my elder brother said that he couldn't bear the expense of my food and education. So, I did not have ground to argue with my family and my father arranged a marriage for me. I didn't have any option in my hands."

As noted by a woman who had participated in one group:

Another thing is that if the marriage happens at an earlier stage, proper family planning could ensure the mental and physical protection of the girls. Here, the main findings from the discussion were that women don't have any saying about family planning. The research also tried to find out why women don't have any decision-making power in family planning. The main reason from the FGD and interviews are as follows-

- 1) In the earlier stage of life, girls don't know about family planning
- 2) Some girls know it but can't share their opinion with husband because of not having enough courage
- 3) Very few girls share their opinion, but their husbands don't accept it positively
- 4) In laws family of a newly married girl think becoming mother is the main target of a girl after marriage
- 5) Neighbor of a newly married girl also interfere in the family planning issue

6) Girl's family don't want to stay beside their daughter about family planning issue after marriage in the fear of creating family collision

So, it was evident that only the husband and the wife's mother-in-law hold the power to take the decision.

"My father married me off at an earlier age. I can't exactly remember the age but maybe 13/14. I knew a little bit about family planning from an NGO that was working in our community. So, I had told my husband and luckily, he had listened to my voice. However, my father and mother-in-law had created the problem. After two years of marriage, when there were no children, they told my husband: "your wife is Baja (infertile woman). Divorce her!". Then, we decided to have a child."

One woman spoke about her experience when her husband and mother-in-law abused her-

Protection measure after marriage of the girl is not ensured because of two reasons. Firstly, husband generally make the decision and want to have children as soon as possible. Secondly, there is peer pressure to have children to avoid social pressure. Otherwise, it is a complete discredit of women. Women are also not focusing on their protection but want to give birth and get rid of the discredit.

Highlighted findings	Recommendations for giving awareness
<p><b>Early Marriage</b> The girl's family consider marriage as a solution to get rid of the responsibility towards daughters. Even, there is no career plan for that girls.</p> <p>Girl's safety and health risk are not taken seriously in their family.</p>	<p>Showcase the example of recent days about how girls are doing good in different professions. So, then the girl and their family can understand the value of education.</p> <p>Negative consequences, of the early marriage should be given in the message. Like- physical vulnerability of the married girl, probability of having a malnourished/sick child.</p>
<p><b>Family planning</b> In the earlier stage, girls don't know about family planning, even if they know they don't have the power to convince their in-laws family.</p>	<p>Provide a clear idea about family planning to the younger girls so that they can take proper initiatives in time.</p>

<p>Society thinks that if a baby is not born after 4-5 years of marriage, the girl is infertile.</p>	<p>Finally, a girl should have both courage and considerations to convince her in-laws family. In-laws' family should be involved with the concern raising campaign.</p> <p>Give a clear message on the legal and standard age for a woman to become a mother. Health hazards for both adolescent mothers and their babies should be introduced clearly to the society.</p>
--	---

**Key findings 3: Adolescents face a lot of problem in the time of menstruation because a lot of misconception and malpractice exists in the society.**

From the FGDs and interviews, it was evident that 90% of adolescent girls feel bad at that time and 50% of them cannot do their regular jobs. The main reasons are as follows-

- 1) They don't get sanitary pads because their family can't afford them. Even some families think that pads are bad.
- 2) Their families arrange the ripped and unused cloth pads for them which are very unhygienic
- 3) Adolescents cannot dry their cloth pads under the sun because their family always tells them to hide it from all. Therefore, an adolescent cannot ensure the hygiene of the cloth pad.
- 4) Adolescents are also confused for how long cloth pads can be used during their period.
- 5) They don't know how to clean properly the cloth pads and use the same cloth pads for many years.

Adolescents said their families couldn't afford pads because of increasing family's expenditure. So, the purchase of these items is not considered a priority. One adolescent shared -

"My mother said that this is a complete wastage of money and our grandmother, mother all were using cloth. So, why do we need this? Is it fashion? It is not so necessary and even I can buy some necessary utensils by the amount of money instead of buying pads."

Another interesting finding is that some families think disposable pads smell badly. The main reason is that some adolescents use the same pad for two days to ensure the maximum utilization of the pads, while they can use the pads for six hours maximum. That's why the pad becomes smelly. One adolescent

"Two years ago, I bought a pad, and I found it comfortable for the first couple of hours. However, when I used it on the second day, it was not user-friendly for me. So, after that, I always use clothes."



said that-

Moreover, when adolescents use the cloth pads instead of the disposable ones, it is another horrible experience for them. Firstly, the families give them the worst clothes to use for this purpose and sometimes they are filthy; sometimes synthetic cloth is given instead of cotton. Secondly, adolescents cannot maintain hygiene because their family tells them to dry it in such way that nobody can see it.

Eventually, adolescents can't dry it under the sun. Even they cannot clean it properly that's why proper hygiene is not ensured. They are informed strictly that the cloth is a matter of shame. One of the

"This cloth is a matter of lozza (shame), so it will be better for you if nobody can see this. Keeping remember if someone can see this, it isn't very reassuring for you. I always obey to mother, but I don't have any place where I can dry this, so sometimes I use wet clothes also."

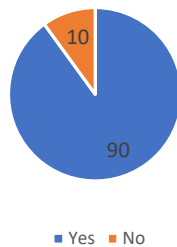
adolescent shared-

Highlighted findings	Recommendations for giving awareness
<p>Some people think that disposable pad is terrible because odor comes from it. However, the main reason is that they don't know within how many hours the pad needs to be changed.</p> <p>Some families cannot afford the cost of disposable pads.</p> <p>Family arranges the ripped and unused cloth to them for menstruation, which is very unhygienic.</p> <p>Cleaning and drying cloth in front of anyone is a matter of shame, and that's why adolescents cannot ensure the hygiene</p>	<p>Give a clear guideline on how to use a pad in a hygienic way.</p> <p>Tell the community where they can get the pads at a low cost.</p> <p>Give a clear idea of which type of cloth is good and hygienic in this period.</p> <p>Give a clear idea about the importance of proper cleaning and drying of the cloth for minimizing health risk.</p>

#### Key findings 4: A myriad of barriers exist to stop Gender-based violence

Generally, there seems to be a high level of abuse, sexual harassment, and sexual violence in Bauniabadh slum. Graph 2 shows that 90 % of the people see/heard about sexual abuse or harassment in Bauniabadh slum.

**Graph 2: People see/heard about sexual abuse or harassment in Bauniaabdh Slum**



As per the findings, the reasons behind these phenomena are as follows -

Adolescent girls don't have proper knowledge of how-to respond to violence. So, when an eve teaser starts irritating her, she doesn't say anything and the level of harassment increased. Sometimes, the victim girl tells their family that those boy/boys are disturbing her. Most of the family members blame the girl for being abused.

"I was in class 9. At that time, one boy loved me and proposed to me several times with his friends in front of my school. I said to myself – "I do not love him but who cares!". Even his friends used to call me me vabi (wife of his friends). I did not want to go to school then, and I told my father and mother. They started abusing me by saying that there were other girls in my class, but this happened only to me. They told me: "What did you do wrong for the boy to fall in love with you? Tell us the truth."

One girl shared her experience -

Moreover, family members don't understand sexual abuse. Some of the adolescents girls said that when they were 10/11 years old, some of their neighbors and distant family members touched them in their intimate body parts. They were very shocked at that time, they told their parents, and their parents said that you are child enough to realize the love. Many participants told they didn't know what good and bad touch was and that nobody had ever explained it to them. Boys also had the same

"When I was 10, one day my fathers' cousin came from our village and one day he put his hand on my breast. I was very shocked, and I had told my mother. The reply from my mother was after watching movies on TV, and you became ichore paka (early matured). So from now, watch less TV, because you got negative information from the TV."

experience as revealed by an adolescent boy during an interview.

Moreover, even if the victims' families raise a complaint, the community culture doesn't support them because there is some misconception. Society takes adolescent's voice lightly. They even don't want to pay heed to them because of their ego.

During a FGD, it came out that adolescent boys said that in most cases girls are to be blamed for the harassment they face. The way they dress, their body gesture and posture, and the way they talk is

"If you keep your food (rice) open, then obviously fly will come."

provoking for the boys as well as adults. One of adolescent believed and expressed his opinion in a FGD-

"Why girls need to wear palazzo (one of pajama) in the market? Is the bazar (market area) is water logged?"

Another boy added-

So, when the family of a girl who has survived violence report the case to elite members, ultimately proper justice is not ensured because of the mindset of the society. Moreover, from the answer of the respondents it is clear that families don't want to refer such cases to formal institutions because they think this will make the situation worst and they do not feel brave enough to go against the society. In addition, some families don't know where to go and they think that it will be very costly.

Domestic violence is another widespread phenomenon justified mainly by dowry. Even some time mothers-in-law are those who perpetrate the torture. Women said that they don't have any recognition for doing the household works if the dowry is not given properly.

One of the women said that-

"To keep my mother-in-law satisfied is just like walking on the water of the Bay of Bengal because I have one fault that my father can't give all the dowry money."

Moreover, it surfaced that women face a lot of physical and mental torture by their husband and members of the in-law's house.

Highlighted findings	Recommendations for giving awareness
After the harassment, generally family don't give proper support to the victim.	Giving message to the family about giving mental and legal support to their family member in these serious circumstances.

<p>Family don't have a good understanding of abuse, and girls cannot also make them understand.</p> <p>Boys, men and other society members think that women are being harassed, basically for their wrong dress and attitude.</p> <p>Girls don't know what to do during the time of harassment and from where they can get the justice</p> <p>Dowry is the reason for domestic violence</p>	<p>Give a clear guideline about abuse, sexual harassment, sexual violence, and gender-based violence.</p> <p>In addition to that, good touch and bad touch concept needs to be understood by the community people. Adolescents should also be conscious about this topic from childhood.</p> <p>Make everyone understand who is the perpetrator here and about the freedom of women.</p> <p>Giving a guideline about the helpline and the service providers who are there to provide them proper legal service</p> <p>Punishment of dowry according to law should be given as a message</p>
---	---

#### Key findings 5: Sexual risk-taking exists in few cases

From the interview of the adolescent girls and boys, it seems that 1% of adolescents in their community is sexually active. Young people start having sex from 15-16 years. One of the crucial factors is that love affairs among boys and girls along with dating is prohibited in the community. So, the adolescent sometimes starts doing virtual sex and sometimes it's a trap from their boyfriend. He stores all the videos and then blackmails his girlfriend. That's why sometimes girlfriends bound to do physical intercourse with their boyfriends.

"My friend Bani (not real name) was a very naive girl and she loved one of his boyfriends who looked like a hero. Firstly, they did a video chat. One day, I found Bani crying and asked her why she was crying. Bani said that her boyfriend cheated her because she was not a virgin anymore. So I asked her why she accepted to have sex with him. She replied that if she would have not done it, her boyfriend would leak it (the video) publicly on Facebook."

One of the adolescents told her friend's story-

Another thing is that sometimes boys also convince girls by saying things like: "You are my bride to be" and sometimes they ask- "so you don't trust me?". Therefore, to keep the relationship, sometimes girls have sexual intercourse.

One of the adolescents shared her cousin's story-

"My cousin's boyfriend said: "I swear on my dead father that you will be my future wife and if now you don't trust me it means that you don't love me". So, to continue the relationship, my cousin had sex with her boyfriend."

Nowadays, in most cases, adolescents use contraceptives as protection and avoid sexual risks. However, in very few instances, contraceptive is not used because adolescents feel shy to buy condoms from the pharmacy. If they go to the pharmacy, the shopkeeper may ask: "you are not married, so why do you need this?". The consequences of it are very bad sometimes. If any unmarried adolescent girl becomes pregnant in the community, then the adolescent girl's family suffers in various ways. For example, society keeps them isolated, and nobody maintains social relationship with them.

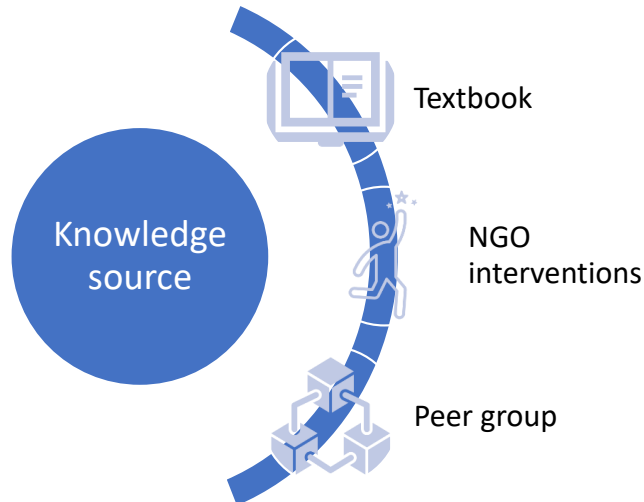
Another thing is that people consider adolescent girls the main culprit in such cases. Often, in these circumstances adolescent girls commit suicide to free themselves from this sense of guilt. If the girl's family gives her support and she can avail services from the hospital, like menstrual regulation, then her life can be saved. Still, the problem is that not a single entity (family, neighbor, community people) help the victim.

Highlighted findings	Recommendations for giving awareness
Boyfriends create various traps to have sex with their girlfriend	Give some lessons on how girls can ensure their protection and not fall into these traps. For example-Information technology related knowledge and where to go to get legal help for online harassment.
Girl do not know where to go for legal protection if they are under trap	Giving the knowledge to girls how they can protect themselves if they are under trap
Protection is not used few times, and therefore, girls mainly fall in danger	Giving a message to adolescents to use contraceptives all the time and also tell what the negative effect is of not using it
If the girl becomes pregnant, all the fault goes to the girl's shoulder, and she doesn't receive any medical service (menstrual regulation)	Giving awareness to girls, parents, neighbors, and community people to make them understand that it's not a girl's fault and saving the girl's life is the prime concern.

**Key Findings 6: Knowledge source about learning sexual and reproductive health is not functioning.**

In Baunya-Badh there is a huge lack of getting proper knowledge over SRHR issues. Proper sources are not functioning well and why the sources are not functioning well are portrayed below:

Generally, the findings of this research point to three sources of information on sexual and reproductive health and they are textbook, NGO interventions and peer groups.



However, these three sources are not properly functioning. The reasons are described below-

**Why adolescents cannot learn from their school's textbook?**

In the textbook of the adolescents, (from class 6 to class 10 in the physical exercise and home economics book) there is a chapter on puberty and sexual and reproductive health. The data revealed that when this chapter comes in the class routine, the teacher invite the students to read it by themselves at home. If the teacher is a male, sometimes he reads something from the chapter otherwise, if the teacher is a female, she skips these issues in most of the cases. As a consequence, adolescents take this chapter as fun and don't give so much attention to it; perhaps it becomes the topic of their internal discussion, but they have no one who can respond to their questions and confusions, thus misconceptions are raised.

Another important thing is that the illiterate adolescent who doesn't go to school, so they have no access to this textbook. As a result doesn't have any concept regarding the SRHR.

It was coming out from the discussion- it was understood that mainly the science background students receive the proper education related to sexual and reproductive health from the textbook. Still, the percentages of a student from science background are very few. Arts and commerce background students don't get access to this issue at all. Due to shyness and not getting this issue seriously they never share this kind of knowledge properly in peer group. So, awareness over SRHR issue cannot be spread among the adolescent.

#### **Why can't information from NGOs reach to all walks of people in slum?**

Adolescents indeed receive many SRHR information from NGOs. However, few gaps were noted by the respondents -

- 1) The NGOs which provide health services do not advertise them enough. So, people are not going there.
- 2) The NGOs which are giving SRHR information are not providing direct health services. So, people cannot follow up on the information in case they need to access services.

One important thing is that ARBAN in collaboration with Terre des Hommes Italia has introduced an App-named Jukta hoye Mukta (JHM) Apps, based virtual network where there is a team (including team leaders and normal phone holders) in the community who can provide information on the services (health, legal, etc.) available in the community and refer cases of violence to the proper channels. Although this network is robust in Baunya-Badh A and C blocks, it is not enough strong in other blocks (B, D and E).

- 3) Sometimes, NGOs give information only to adolescents, but their fathers and mothers are not receiving any kind of information over SRHR. So, when a family decision needs to be taken, only the adolescent can't convince her father and mother. Their voice and concept are taken lightly in family as well as in the community.

#### **Why are peer groups not giving information?**

The peer group is not giving information because of the shyness. It was also found out from the discussion that sometimes peer group people, particularly seniors, don't have in-depth knowledge on SRHR. That's why they cannot give a holistic solution to their juniors.

One of the adolescents told in her interview that-

"when my menstruation started, I went to the elder sister of one of my friends, and she told me:  
"please stop taking fish; otherwise, it may create odor and nuisances."

So, senior people of the adolescent also have some in built misconception Even when they have accurate information, they do not disclose it because of shame.

Highlighted findings	Recommendations for giving awareness
<p>Adolescents cannot learn from their textbooks because the teacher feels shy to take the lesson openly.</p>	<p>Encourage learners to get proper lessons from here. Besides that, the learnings from the textbook can also be delivered as an audio episode. So that literate and illiterate both adolescents can be benefitted from it.</p>
<p>All the community people cannot get the information from where they can receive services.</p>	<p>Make a promotion of the JHM Apps. So that all level of community people in Baunya-Badh get the information about it.</p>
<p>NGOs are not giving blanket coverage. So, sometimes fathers and mothers don't understand the detail of the problem and what kind of decision should be taken</p>	<p>Some messages are needed to be given to parents about SRHR. So, besides adolescents, they can also understand.</p>
<p>Seniors don't want to share their knowledge because of shame, and it is not considered as a serious issue.</p>	<p>Make everyone understand that it is helpful information and not a matter of shame. So, the more they talk, the better they know. It will be beneficial to the future generation.</p>

**Key findings 7: Most people believe women are responsible for not having children, and in some cases, women don't get proper support during pregnancy.**

Most women and men in the FGDs reported that they didn't have any clear understanding over infertility. However, they had heard from the community people that women with a bad character would be made infertile by God, the Almighty. They believed this was the main reason for not having children.

One of the man mentioned during his interview -

"If 4/5 years after the marriage, a couple can't give birth to a child, so there is a simple remedy, and that is changing the woman because if the gach (tree) is not fertile then the fol (fruit) will not come and women are the tree in giving birth."



So, changing wife is the main solution in most cases. That's why many people don't go to visit a doctor and when they do, they visit a kobiraj (herbal medicine specialist). These so-called specialists are not able to give proper treatment to them. Generally, they think that going to a Kobiraj is less expensive than going to a doctor. Doctors use to prescribe many medical tests, which are a wastage of money and time.

Here the lack of knowledge is the leading term of impediment. Moreover, if a couple wants to go to a doctor, they don't know where to go. Because of the social stigma, they cannot ask anyone who can help in this regard.

Highlighted findings	Recommendations for giving awareness
Community people thinks that women can only be infertile, men are always healthy.	Providing sufficient information that both men and women can be infertile. So, they need to go medical checkup.
The community people go to quack doctor.	The beneficiary should go to a specialist doctor to save life of a woman.
People feel shy to ask to the seniors where they will go, if they face problem related to infertility.	Senior people/ who know about infertility must circulate the message to others who don't know about this

For the pregnancy issue, the situation now is quiet improving compared to 10-15 years ago. From the FGDs and interviews with women and men emerged that now women are going to hospital/clinic (Radda, Surjer Hasi and Marie Stopes). Nonetheless, still some portions of the community are not interested in going to visit a doctor from the eve of the pregnancy, rather they go to the nearest pharmacy and take medicine as per their suggestions. So, in this way they are deprived of getting proper service during the pregnancy. Another social stigma in here is that it should be female doctor who will do the checkup. In front of male doctor, they don't want to share their problems properly.

Some women said that they were going to doctor from the earlier stage of pregnancy and doctor told them to come at least one time every monthbut it was very challenging for them to regularly go to the doctor. They consider it as wastage of money because they didn't have severe problems. Family also discourages them to regularly go to the doctor. They think it is a discredit to go to doctor during pregnancy.

“When I was pregnant, I went to Surjer Hashi clinic and the doctor told me to checkup every month. She had also given me a food chart and told me to take some additional food. I thought the suggestions were good but I felt shame to take food like-eggs because I thought my mother in law might laugh! They could take it as a burden for family.”

One of the women from FGD said -

So even those women who are going to doctor during the pregnancy, still struggle to implement the doctors’ advice. It is also noteworthy that few women said that when she was pregnant their mother in law took extra care.

Highlighted findings	Recommendations for giving awareness
Women go to pharmacy/quack doctor from the eve of the pregnancy, rather going to MBBS doctor	Make everyone understand that it is important to go to a doctor from the beginning of the pregnancy
Women are not going regularly to do the health checkup	Make them understand about that health checkups are necessary
Women feel shy to maintain overall doctor’s guidelines. For example, taking more foods	Give the message about how important it is to maintain the guidelines of doctor for a healthy mother and child.

**Key findings 8: Transgender community is very vulnerable because they do not know SRHR and the mainstream community harasses them in many ways.**

The transgender community had claimed that the mainstream community had sexually abused them by calling them bad names. One of the adolescents from the transgender community stated that-

“ I was born in this area and loved this area, but I started to hate the people of this area because they called me in different bad names, like-half ladies, maigna, chokka”

The most challenging time in their life is puberty. Sometimes they develop male voices in female bodies. Then, they understand that they are not the same as other people. In addition to that, other community people also bully them heavily and it is very challenging for them to adapt to these situations.

“ My life was good before puberty. During puberty, I thought I had entered hell because I looked like a female and my voice was like a male. So people called me doachla (Shovon bhai, could you please put also the doachla meaning in English in there?). The saddest part was that even my father

The voice from one of the adolescents from the transgender community-

So, it is clear from the above stated cases that these people face some challenges. Society and family also make the total scenario more complex for them.

It had been found out from the interviews that the primary source of SRHR information is their peers because, in Baunya-Badh, no GO/NGO/organization was present to spread the information related to SRHR issues.

Another important thing that has been identified is that a big percentage of the adolescents from transgender community are sexually active. It was evident that the percentage was 90 and sometimes they used contraceptives. However, often they couldn't use it, because when they went to a pharmacy and asked for contraceptives, then mainstream community harassed them a lot.

Me and my partner both love each other very much. One day we were in a romantic mood, and we decided to have sexual intercourse. I went to the pharmacy and the pharmacy shopkeeper asked 'why a half lady needs a condom? Are you able to do anything?'

One of the adolescents from the transgender community stated that-

Sometimes they also think that they don't need contraceptives because they will not become pregnant. So, as the contraceptive is not accessible to adolescents, there is a huge danger of sexually transmitted disease.

Even, it is evident that they can not avail good health services. When they go to the hospital/clinic, they face bullying from the service providers. Sometimes doctors behave well with them, but the bullying of other people is intolerable there. So, sometimes they don't want to go to the hospital even when they need it.

**Highlighted findings**

**Recommendations for giving awareness**

<p>Sexually abused by the mainstream community</p> <p>The puberty period is challenging as they are not like others.</p> <p>Transgender adolescents are sexually active but not using contraceptives in many cases. They also think that they will not get pregnant so they think they do not need to use it.</p> <p>Transgender people don't want to go to the hospital because of bullying</p>	<p>Giving the mainstream community a message, that transgender people are also a creature of God. So why do people provide suffering to them? And it is an offence.</p> <p>Provide a clear idea to transgender adolescents on how they can respond during the bullying time.</p> <p>Provide a clear guideline to the transgender adolescents about how they can adapt to the situations.</p> <p>Provide information from where they can get contraceptives and what are the negative consequences of not using contraceptives.</p> <p>Encourage them to go to the hospital as and when needed. Besides that, also provide the information about where they can receive health related services. For example- Bondhu welfare society.</p>
--	--

**Comment [A1]:** I think it would be Bandhu Social Welfare Society.

**Key findings 9: Some people have some misconceptions about family planning and many people have a misconception about menstrual regulation.**

FGDs with fathers and mothers revealed that currently more people were using contraceptives than previous days. However still, no one wanted to do Birth Control and Sterilization. What are the reasons behind it are portrayed below-?

- 1) There is a strong rumor in the community that states those who take a sterilization (Birth Control) they will lose their sex power.
- 2) Other health problems can come from it.
- 3) From a religious perspective, it is banned to use contraceptives

It has been found from the FGDs that people of the Baunya-Badh community strongly believe in some

“ I have 2 daughters and 1 son. Buying condoms regularly is an extra expense for me and I have heard that I can take the permanent solution if I go to the hospital. When I shared about this with a friend, he told me : “why you want to be khasi (infertile)? Then your wife will kick you out because your sex power will be totally reduced.”

misconception. For example, one of the men said that -

So, this is one of the reasons why people don't take any birth control service (Sterilization) and only rely on contraceptives. Sometimes they don't have contraceptives in their hand and are driven by their emotions. They have sexual intercourse and as a result, unwanted pregnancy comes.

Another rumor is that when they take a permanent and temporary solution, other health hazards like diabetics and blood pressure may come. It is a myth, but no service provider provide any awareness on this, so these myths exist.

The most potent barrier is the religious concept. For example, most Muslim people think that family planning is banned in Islam. If they practice family planning, then it's an offense and God will punish them in the future. Without knowing the detail and proper instruction of religion they believe this. It is happening from a long period because actual guidelines related to family planning are not provided to them. Those people who are knowledge feel also shy to spread the message for others. They are not even interested to go any place from where this kind of proper information can easily be gathered.

“ I am Muslim and doing family planning is haram (prohibited). So why do I need to do this? Even, there is the negative effect on health”.

One of the man who participated in the FGD mentioned -

For the menstrual regulation (safe abortion), the main terms of impediment are the religious barriers. People think that it's killing and even if the mother's condition is in danger, they prefer to be fatalist here.

Moreover, sometimes community people go to a quack doctor because of having lack of knowledge and considering the medical cost. The consequences in many of the cases are very dangerous. Some women become infertile permanently and sometimes they die. Even sometimes infection comes after the treatment of the quack doctor.

One of the women had reported in the interview-

“My neighbor vabi (woman) had 4 children and one day she realized that she was pregnant again. Then she went to her mother's house where she knew a kabiraj (quack doctor). Abortion had been done there at a very cheap rate but after that, she became very sick because of some infections. At last she had to go to the doctor and receive treatment, huge money had been required for that treatment.”

So, sometimes they take the wrong services, and then the situation becomes more complex how they can respond how they can respond how they can respond. For example- becoming sick and need more money for the treatment.

Men in a FGD mentioned that if safe abortion is needed for their wife, they would permit it, but they didn't know from where they could avail the service at a low cost.

One of the vital things is that married women will get the opportunity for safe abortion, but if any unmarried girl becomes pregnant, nobody will support safe abortion for her. So, one father from FGD, when replying to the following question: 'what will you do if your unmarried daughter becomes pregnant?', replied - "Meyeke kete nodite fele dibo (I will cut my daughter into pieces and then throw them in the river). Otherwise, society would not allow me to live in this area." So, the life of his daughter is less important than society to him in this type of unwanted situation.

Highlighted findings	Recommendations for giving awareness
People strongly believe that permanent solution (Sterilization )taking in family planning will decrease the sex power	Provide accurate knowledge and give proper evidence to break the misconception
Religious and social barriers exist for family planning and safe abortion	Give the right message and tell the negative consequences of not using family planning and what is really written in the religious book and thus break the barrier
People don't know how they can avail low-cost services and sometimes avail informal and dangerous services	Provide the information about where the people can get proper and low-cost service  Spreading the negative health effect of improper service
If unmarried girls become pregnant nobody will give support	Telling about value of life and what to do in this situation.

**Key findings 10: People don't have any basic knowledge on signs and symptoms of sexually transmitted disease and other reproductive health related disease**

From the discussion with men, women, adolescent girls and boys from the interviews along with FGDs, it emerged that people don't properly know about sexually transmitted diseases. So, when they face any

genitals' problems, they can't understand what to do and do not share it with others because of shyness and shame. So, ultimately people suffer from it but don't take any action as remedy.

One of the men said that-

"Few years ago, during the urination time, I felt like my penis was burning. I discussed with my friend and he laughed at me by saying 'manusher hoy matha betha ar tor dhone betha? (people face pain in the head, and you got pain in penis? Peculiar!' But I couldn't tolerate it and after few months I went to the doctor. Then the doctor said it was gonorrhea and gave me a treatment. I did not know about this disease. But the doctor said 'you should come earlier.'

Women also feel shame if they face any problem to the cervix or breast. But both are the symptoms of cervical and breast cancer. Then sometimes, they go to Kabiraj (quack doctor) and these kabiraj generally give a long-term treatment and very often it can worsen the condition.

"My cousin had faced some problems related to her breast and she went to one of the kabiraj (quack doctor) of local area. He said that my cousin had to take medicine for a long time. The situation became worst after some months and then I told her to go to a nearby clinic named Rabeya. After the diagnosis, they had declared it was a tumor and it could turn into cancer. So finally, the operation had been successfully conducted."

One woman told her cousin's story-

So, it is clearly understood that people do some delays and sometimes the diseases become complex. Moreover, society thinks that diseases only affect those who did bad things. For example, they think that for men, having an intercourse with a sex worker is the main reason for getting Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD). For women, only those who have sex with many men will suffer from these diseases. So, people tend not to share about these health problems with others, triggering dangerous consequences.

One of the men from FGD said that-

"12 vatar jar, 12 rog tar (those women who go to 12 men for sex then she will be attacked by 12 diseases)."

Finally, people don't understand where they will go for which type of problem. They don't know where they can get the service properly. So, that's why they cannot take the decision in suitable time.

Highlighted findings	Recommendations for giving awareness
People don't have proper understanding about the signs and symptoms of STD	Give a clear message about the signs and symptoms of STD
Society thinks that only bad people are attacked by these	Giving community a right idea about STD (why it can happen and what are the protection)  Creating safe and friendly environment to share any kind of problem related to STD
People go the quack doctor and make the condition worse	Provide a clear guideline about how they can get proper service at a lower rate

#### Additional Finding

From the above key findings over SRHR issues in this research, another special case had also been discussed through FGD and interviews. Participants had cleared that SRHR services were very few available in Baunya-Badh area but in some cases they were not functioning well. In the time of natural disaster and pandemic like COVID-19, these services have become more valuable for the community people because some family planning related services were badly needed. Respondents don't know about these services and where they can get it. Unavailability of work and closing the educational institutions had made the total situation more complex to the adolescent because many domestic violence cases are occurred in the slum.

#### Conclusion

The research findings show that the respondents' knowledge on SRHR is filtered by wrong beliefs and misconceptions, and rigid societal prescriptions. Moreover, those who are more familiar with SRHR issues feel shy to share this information with others and are not aware about the services available in the community. We believe that the findings from this research will help identifying and minimizing the identified gaps. They will also provide the basics for developing the podcast's episodes and provide useful information for the Baunya-Badh community.

#### References

- Sexual health, human rights and the law. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2015
- Developing sexual health programmes: a framework for action. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2010.



## Annex 1 : Data Mapping

Topic	Category of Beneficiary	Data collection method	
Puberty- sub topics- reproductive function	Boys, Girls	FGD	-
Menstrual & hygiene	Boys, Girls	FGD	Interview
Family planning (Contraceptive methods)	Father, Mother	FGD	Interview
STD (Sexually Transmitted Disease)& STIs (sexually transmissible infections)	Boys, girls, Father, mother	-	Interview
sexual risk taking and prevention	Boys, Girls		Interview
Infertility	Father, mother	FGD	Interview
Safe motherhood	Father, mother	FGD	-
MR (Menstrual Regulation )	Father, mother	-	Interview
GBV	Boys, girls, Father, mother	FGD	Interview
Early Marriage	Boys, girls, father, mother	FGD	-
Gender diversity	TRANSGENDER	Interviews	-

## Annex 2: Checklist for data collection

### Category: Adolescent Girls: FGD

#### Topic: Puberty

Q: Please define puberty and the positive and negative aspects of this life stage

Q: How the other adolescent feel among her neighborhood?

	Out of 10 how many	Percentages
Good		
Moderate		
Bad		

Q: If the adolescent feel bad, then what are the reasons?

Q: where you can discuss the issue and if you get any solution from there? (prompt: with friends, parents)

Q: During this time how her parents/ peers tell about it?

Q: What she learnt about puberty and from where about the puberty stage? (prompt: what to do in this stage, is it normal?)

Q: Is there anything in the text book? And how she understood the matter?

**Topic: Menstrual maintenance**

Q: How an adolescent feel during the menstrual period? (prompt: feeling sick, bored, weak)

	Out of 10 how many	Percentages
Good		
Moderate		
Bad		

Q: In this time is the normal activity she can perform? (Prompt: going to school, do regular jobs)

Q: How many of the adolescents living in community can perform normal activity during this time?

	Out of 10 how many	Percentages
Yes doing normal activity		
No can not do normal activity		

Q :How an adolescent maintain menstrual hygiene related maintenance?

Q: Did she know how many hours a Pad can be used? What dot they think pad is good? Why?

Q: Do you use a disposable or a cloth pad? Why

Describe how you maintain proper hygiene during the menstrual period.

Do you easily share about menstruation with peers and family? If no, please explain what are the challenges in doing so

**Topic: Early Marriage**

Q: Out of 10 women, how many cases Early Marriage Happened?

Q: what are the bad effect of early marriage?

Q: why the early marriage happened?

Q: after early marriage, if the girl waits for becoming an adult or give birth in a earlier stage. Why? this is happening?

**Topic: Talking about sex with friends**

Q: Do young women of your age talk about sex with friends?

- Does this tend to be with male and/or female friends?

- With one person or in groups?

Q: How do women of your age talk about it?

Q: Do you think it's the same for men of your age?

- How are they similar?

- How are they different?

Q: Do you think men talk about sex like women do?

**Topic: School sex education**

Q: How do you feel about the sex education that is provided in school? (Prompt: Issues dealt with, Methods of teaching, Appropriateness of lessons, Quality of lessons)

Q: Was it useful?

Q: How could it be improved upon?

Q: What is your main source of information about sex?

**Topic: Gender**

Q: What do you think are the main differences between men and women of your age?

Q: Do men behave the same way with women as they do with other men?

Q: Are females treated differently from males?

Q: How do you feel about men in general? (Prompt: how they are good or bad)

**Topic: Sexual abuse and harassment**

How many of you see or heard that man is calling their partner in a bad name or don't take permission from women before having sex? (to understand Abuse)

	In your community (Out of 10 how many)	Percentages
Yes (seen or heard)		
No (seen or heard)		

Why this type of behavior exists? What do you think?

Q: How many of you see or hear that man is doing eve teasing? (to understand harassment)

	Out of 10 how many	Percentages
verbal		
Non-verbal		
Physical		
Not seen/heard		

Q: Why is this kind of harassment happened?

Q: How it can be minimized?

Q: What kind of awareness can be given to man?

Q: What kind of awareness can be given to woman? (prompt: Facebook related knowledge about privacy)

Q: How many of you see or heard that women were being raped? (to understand violence)

	Out of 10 ( in your community)	Percentages
Yes (seen or heard)		
Not seen/heard		

Q: Why is this kind of violence to women happened? (prompt: victims girls family don't give proper support)

Q: How it can be minimized?

Q: What kind of awareness can be given to man?

Q: What kind of awareness can be given to woman?

**Topic: Sex and reproductive health related knowledge**

Q: Is there any information available to adolescent about sex and reproductive health-related knowledge? (prompt: puberty, menstrual hygiene, reproductive organ)

	Out of 10 how many	percentage
Yes		
No		

Q: Where the information available?

Q: If the adolescent face any sexual and reproductive health related problem, what she do?

Q: Any challenge she face regarding this?

Q: How can she overcome the challenge?

**Topic: overall**

Q: If any organization give any awareness related message regarding sexual and reproductive health?

Q: What are the messages?

Q: Is it spreading all walks of people to the community? If not can be spread?

Q: If any adolescent feel sick regarding sexual and reproductive health related issue in your slum area? does she get proper service?

Status of getting services	Out of 10 people, how many?	In percentage
Get proper service		
Sometimes get service		
Not get service at all		

Q: where she/community face the challenge to get the services?

Q: Why she/community cannot overcome the challenge?

Q: Has access to these services been hampered by the pandemic? Please describe

Q: What kind of support is needed for her to overcome the challenge? And from whom?

What kind of support needed	From whom she gets the support

Q: What kind of awareness can bring positive factor to this problem?

What kind of awareness	To whom it needs to give

**Category (Adolescent girls): Interview**

**Topic: Menstrual maintenance**

Q: How do you usually feel when you have your period? (Prompt: feeling sick, bored, weak). Can you please tell any story of yours or your friends during this time?

Q: During this time of the month are you able to do the same things you do when you don't have your period? If not please explain why (Prompt: going to school, do regular jobs)

Q: What kind of pad you use during your menstruation (disposable, cloth). Why?

Q: Please explain how you maintain proper hygiene during your menstruation?

Q: Do you talk about your menstruation easily with your peers and family members? If no, please explain why

?

**Topic: Gender based violence**

Q: how a woman is treated in the community?

Q: is it equal to man?

Q: if women face the abuse and violence what are the reasons?

Q: if women become harassed who is guilty for these?

Q: did she listen any story where women face violence and tell it to us?

**Topic: Dating**

**Dating definition: Having a relationship and passing time with the couple.**

(Prompt: What is meant by dating, does it imply exclusivity, Expectations)

Q: At what age do young people start dating?

Q: How do young people select their partners?

Q: Is dating encouraged / discouraged or influenced in anyway, by anyone?

Q: What does dating involve? What do young people who are dating do together?

Q: What expectations are there when young people start dating? (Prompt: - Marriage)

**Topic: Commencement of sexual activity**

Q: What proportion of young men/women of your age do you think are sexually active?

Q: At what age would you say young people start having sex?

Q: What discussions/negotiations go on before sex takes place?

Q: Is it generally acceptable for young people to have sexual relations when they are not married?

Q: How do people react if a young woman becomes pregnant / a young man becomes a father?

**Topic: sexual risk taking and prevention**

*(probe: Pregnancy, STI, HIV/AIDS, Emotional risks, Reputational risks)*

Q: To what extent do you think that people of your age are pressured into sex by their friends?

Q: Do you know what is HIV/AIDS and how it could be prevented?

Q: What is Sexual Transmitted Infections? Can you give us an example? How these diseases can be prevented.

Q: Where you have learnt about this?

Q: Where would you go to procure some contraceptives

Q: To what extent do you think that people of your age take risks of any sort during sex?

- Why do they take these risks?

: To what extent do you think HIV/AIDS is a risk to young people of your age?

Q: Are young people more worried / concerned about pregnancy or HIV/AIDS and other STIs?

Q: Do you think people take the risks seriously?

Q: Who should be responsible for protecting against any risk during sex?

Q: Who is normally responsible for contraception and protection?

Q: What do people of your age expect to happen about contraception? Is it expected to be used?

Q: How do young people feel talking about contraception with partners?

Q: What kind of contraception they use and is it available?

**Topic: Reproductive tract infection (RTI)**

Q: Have you any understanding about Reproductive tract infection (RTI)?

Q: where the woman goes if she faces any difficulty in RTI?

Q: If the women face any challenge to take the service?

Q: Have you any understanding about breast cancer, cervical cancer?

Q: where the woman goes if she faces any difficulty in breast cancer, cervical cancer?

Q: If the women face any challenge to take the service?

Q: Has access to these services been hampered by the pandemic? Please describe

**Topic: knowledge of services**

**(Prompt: health center, adolescent clubs)**

Q: Can you list for me all the places and people young people are able to visit and talk to, to find out about sex, contraception, STIs?

Q: How do young men / women usually find out about services?

Q: Has access to these services been hampered by the pandemic? Please describe

**Topic: Young people's use of services**

(Prompt: Acceptability of young men and women visiting services, Triggers and reasons for attending) services

Q: Do young men and women of your age visit the local services for contraception and sexual health advice?

Q: Why do young men / women usually attend services?

Q: Is there anything that would stop young people from going?

Q: Has access to these services been hampered by the pandemic? Please describe

**Category: Adolescent Boys :FGD**

**Topic: Puberty**

Q: Please define puberty and the positive and negative aspects of this life stage

Q: How the other adolescent feel among his neighborhoods?

	Out of 10 how many	Percentages
Good		
Moderate		
Bad		

Q: If the adolescent feel bad, then what are the reasons? (Prompt: seniors say bad word)

Q: where you can discuss the issue and if you get any solution from there?

Q: During this time how his parents/ peers tell about it?

Q: What he learns and from where about the puberty stage?

Q: Is there anything in the textbook? And how she understood the matter?

**Topic: menstruation of female**

Q: If he knows about menstruation of female? What he thinks about this?

Q: how the other boys react during the chatting, is it acceptable that during the menstruation period girl can do normal work?

**Topic: Early Marriage**

Q: Out of 10 women, how many cases Early Marriage Happened?

Q: what are the bad effect of early marriage?



Q: why the early marriage happened?

Q: after early marriage, if the girl wait for becoming an adult or give birth in a earlier stage. Why? this is happening?

**Topic: Talking about sex with friends**

Q: Do young men of your age talk about sex with friends?

- Does this tend to be with male and/or female friends?

- With one person or in groups?

Q: How do women of your age talk about it?

Q: Do you think it's the same for women of your age?

- How are they similar?

- How are they different?

Q: Do you think women talk about sex like man do?

**Topic: School sex education**

Q: How do you feel about the sex education that is provided in school? (*Probe: Issues dealt with, Methods of teaching, Appropriateness of lessons, Quality of lessons*)

Q: Was it useful?

Q: How could it be improved upon?

What is your main source of information about sex?

**Topic: Gender**

Q: What do you think are the main differences between men and women of your age?

Q: Do men behave the same way with women as they do with other men?

Q: Do women behave the same way with men as they do with other women?

Q: Are females treated differently from males?

Q: How do you feel about women in general? ( prompt: how much value should be given, how they should be treated)

**Topic: Sexual abuse and harassment**

Q: How many of you see or heard that man is calling their partner in a bad name or don't take permission from women before having sex?

	In your community (Out of 10 how many)	Percentages
--	---	-------------

Yes (seen or heard)		
No (seen or heard)		

Q: Why this type of behavior exists? What do you think?

Q: How many of you see or hear that man is doing eve teasing?

	Out of 10 how many	Percentages
verbal		
Non-verbal		
Physical		
Not seen/heard		

Q: Why is this kind of harassment happened? (prompt: family don't play the role)

Q: How it can be minimized?

Q: What kind of awareness can be given to man?

Q: What kind of awareness can be given to woman? (Prompt: Facebook related knowledge about privacy)

Q:How many of you see or heard that women were being raped?

	Out of 10 ( in your community)	Percentages
Yes (seen or heard)		
Not seen/heard		

Q: Why is this kind of violence to women happened?

Q: How it can be minimized?

Q: What kind of awareness can be given to man?

Q: What kind of awareness can be given to woman?

**Topic: Sex and reproductive health related knowledge**

Q: Is there any information available to adolescent about sex and reproductive health-related knowledge?

	Out of 10 how many	percentage

Yes		
No		

Q: Where the information available?

Q: If the adolescent boy faces any sexual and reproductive health related problem, what he does?

Q: Any challenge he faces regarding this?

Q: How can he overcome the challenge?

**Topic: overall**

Q: If any organization give any awareness related message regarding this?

Q: What are the messages?

Q: Is it spreading all walks of people to the community? if not how can be spread?

Q: Among the above-mentioned topic how many get proper service regarding SRHR in your slum area?

Status of getting services	Out of 10 people, how many?	In percentage
Get proper service		
Sometimes get service		
Not get service at all		

Q: where he/community face the challenge to get the services?

Q: Why can he/community not overcome the challenge?

Q: Has access to these services been hampered by the pandemic? Please describe

Q: What kind of support is needed for him to overcome the challenge? And from whom?

What kind of support needed	From whom she gets the support

Q: What kind of awareness can bring positive factor to this problem?

What kind of awareness	To whom it needs to give

**Category: Adolescent boys : Interview**

**Topic: menstruation of female**

Q: If he knows about menstruation of female? What he thinks about this?

Q: how the other boys react during the chatting. Can he tell a real life example how they are chatting when one of their girlfriend don't come to school for some days, or going from school due to abdominal pain.

Q: is it acceptable that during the menstruation period girl can do normal work?

**Topic: Gender based violence**

Q: how a woman is treated in the community?

Q: is it equal to man?

Q: what do you think woman should give the equal opportunity to man for doing works? (prompt: woman should do some specific works not all the works)

Q: if women face the abuse and violence what are the reasons?

Q: if women become harassed who is guilty for these?

Q: did he listen any story where women face violence and tell it to us?

Q: what do he think that man can also be raped? Can she explain her answer?

**Topic: Dating**

(Prompt: What is meant by dating, does it imply exclusivity, Expectations)

Q:At what age do young people start dating?

Q:How do young people select their partners?

Q:Is dating encouraged / discouraged or influenced in anyway, by anyone?

Q:What does dating involve? What do young people who are dating do together?

Q: What expectations are there when young people start dating? (prompt: marriage)

**Topic: Commencement of sexual activity**

Q:What proportion of young men/women of your age do you think are sexually active?

Q:At what age would you say young people start having sex?

Q:What discussions/negotiations go on before sex takes place?

Q:Is it generally acceptable for young people to have sexual relations when they are not married?  
How do people react if a young woman becomes pregnant / a young man becomes a father?

**Topic: sexual risk taking and prevention**

*(probe: Pregnancy, STI,HIV/AIDS, Emotional risks, Reputational risks)*

To what extent do you think that people of your age are pressured into sex by their friends?

Q: Do you know what is HIV/AIDS and how it could be prevented?

Q: What is Sexual Transmitted Infections? Can you give us an example? How these diseases can be prevented.

Q: From where you have learnt about this?

Q: Where would you go to procure some contraceptives

To what extent do you think that people of your age take risks of any sort during sex?

Q: Do men and women take the same or different risks?

- Why do they take these risks?

Q: To what extent do you think HIV/AIDS is a risk to young people of your age?

Q: Are young people more worried / concerned about pregnancy or HIV/AIDS and other STIs?

Q: Do you think people take the risks seriously?

Q: Who should be responsible for protecting against any risk during sex?

Q: Who is normally responsible for contraception and protection?

Q: What do people of your age expect to happen about contraception? Is it expected to be used?

Q: How do young people feel talking about contraception with partners?

Q: What kind of contraception they use and is it available?

**Topic: Infection in the male reproductive tract**

Q: Have you any understanding about Infection in the male reproductive tract?

Q: where the man goes if he faces any difficulty regarding this?

Q: If the men face any challenge to take the service?

Q: If the women face any challenge to take the service?

Q: what do they think why woman also face reproductive tract infection?

Q: Has access to these services been hampered by the pandemic? Please describe

**Topic: knowledge of services**

**(Prompt: health center, adolescent clubs)**

Can you list for me all the places young people are able to visit and talk to, to find out about sex, contraception, STIs?

How do young men / women usually find out about services?

**Q: Has access to these services been hampered by the pandemic? Please describe**

**Topic: Young people's use of services**

(prompt: Acceptability of young men and women visiting services, Triggers and reasons for attending) services

Do young men and women of your age visit the local services for contraception and sexual health advice?

Why do young men / women usually attend SRHR related services?

Is there anything that would stop young people from going?

Q: Has access to these services been hampered by the pandemic? Please describe

**Category: Man (father): FGD**

**Topic: Early Marriage**

Q: Out of 10 women, how many cases Early Marriage Happened?

Q: what are the bad effect of early marriage?

Q: why the early marriage happened?

Q: after early marriage, if the girl wait for becoming an adult or give birth in a earlier stage. Why? this is happening?

Q: why many families are still practicing early marriage even if they know the negative effects it has on the life and health of their daughters?

**Topic: Family planning**

Q: In your cases did you follow any family planning issue?

Q: who is taking the decision, had you discussed with your wife?

**Topic: Menstrual Regulation**

Q: Do you know what is menstrual regulation and when it is used??

Q: Is it a good or bad things? Why you think like this?

Q: if your wife/daughter need this how you will support?

**Topic: Infertility**

Q: what he knows about infertility?

Q: what kind of medical services is available regarding this?

Q: Generally, what do you think that if children are not born after 4/5 years after marriage? whose problem is this?

Q: Has access to these services been hampered by the pandemic? Please describe

**Topic: Safe motherhood**

*Note: before asking the question try to understand that she is also father to a child*

Q: during the pregnancy time of your wife how you take care of her?

Q: did she go to regular medical checkup?

Q: Did your wife perform regular activity at that time?

**Topic: Gender based violence**

Q: how a women is treated in the community?

Q: is it equal to man?

Q: if women face the abuse and violence what are the reasons?

Q: if women become harassed who is guilty for these?

Q: did he listen any story where women face violence and tell it to us?

Q: what does he think that man can also be raped? Can he explain her answer?

**Topic: Infection in the male reproductive tract**

Q: Have you any understanding about Infection in the male reproductive tract?

Q: where the man goes if he faces any difficulty regarding this?

Q: If the women face any challenge to take the service?

Q: If the men face any challenge to take the service?

Q: what do they think why woman also face reproductive tract infection? Do the woman discuss this things with the husband?

Q: Has access to these services been hampered by the pandemic? Please describe

**Topic: Overall**

Q: DO you/other father have proper understanding on Sexual and reproductive health?(prompt: family planning, menstrual regulation, infertility)

	Out of 10 people, how many?	In percentage
--	-----------------------------	---------------

Yes		
No		

Q: Who have proper knowledge are they spreading it to their juniors?

Q: How many get proper service regarding male reproductive organs issues in your slum area?

Status of getting services	Out of 10 people, how many?	In percentage
Get proper service		
Sometimes get service		
Not get service at all		

Q: where he/community faces the challenge?

Q:Why cannot he/community overcome the challenge?

Q: Has access to these services been hampered by the pandemic? Please describe

Q:What kind of support is needed for him to overcome the challenge? And from whom?

What kind of support needed	From whom she gets the support

Q: What kind of awareness can bring positive factor to this problem?

What kind of awareness	To whom it needs to give



--	--

**Category: Father: Interview**

**Topic: Infection in the male reproductive tract**

Q: Have you any understanding about Infection in the male reproductive tract?

Q: where the man goes if he faces any difficulty regarding this?

Q: If the women face any challenge to take the service?

Q: If the men face any challenge to take the service?

Q: what do they think why woman also face reproductive tract infection? Do the woman discuss this things with the husband?

Q: Has access to these services been hampered by the pandemic? Please describe

**Topic: Menstrual Regulation**

Q: Do you know what Menstrual Regulation is and when is needed?

Q: Is it a good or bad things? Why you think like this?

Q: if your wife/daughter need this how you will support?

**Topic: Infertility**

Q: what he knows about infertility?

Q: what kind of medical services is available regarding this?

Q: Generally, what do you think that if children are not born after 4/5 years after marriage? whose problem is this?

Q: Has access to these services been hampered by the pandemic? Please describe

**Topic: Gender based violence**

Q: how a women is treated in the community?

Q: is it equal to man?

Q: if women face the abuse and violence what are the reasons?

Q: if women become harassed who is guilty for these?

Q: can she listen any story where women face violence and tell it to us?

Q: what do he think that man can also be raped? Can she explain her answer?

**Category: Women (mother): FGD**

**Topic: Early Marriage**

Q: Out of 10 women, how many cases Early Marriage Happened?

Q: what are the bad effect of early marriage?

Q: why the early marriage happened?

Q: after early marriage, if the girl wait for becoming an adult or give birth in a earlier stage. Why? this is happening?

Q: Why many families continue to marry their daughters off even if they are aware of the negative effects of early marriage in their daughters' life and health?

**Topic: Family planning**

Q: In your cases did you follow any family planning issue?

Q: who is taking the decision, have you any rights to speak here?

**Topic: Infertility**

Q: what she knows about infertility?

Q: what kind of medical services is available regarding this in your community?

Q: Generally what community people think if children are not born after 4/5 years after marriage?

Q: Has access to these services been hampered by the pandemic? Please describe

**Topic: Safe motherhood**

*Note: before asking the question try to understand that she is also mother to a child*

Q: before and during the pregnancy does the women go to doctor to visit?

Q: where they go?

Q: Does the women know where she can receive the service?

Q: Does the woman always perform the month wise checkups?

Q: other family member gives what kind of support during the pregnancy?

Q: Are the women face any challenge during the pregnancy?

Q: Has access to these services been hampered by the pandemic? Please describe

**Topic: Reproductive tract infection (RTI)**

Q: Have you any understanding about Reproductive tract infection (RTI)?

Q: where the woman goes if she faces any difficulty in RTI?

Q: If the women face any challenge to take the service?

Q: Have you any understanding about breast cancer, cervical cancer?

Q: where the woman goes if she faces any difficulty in breast cancer, cervical cancer?

Q: If the women face any challenge to take the service?

Q: Has access to these services been hampered by the pandemic? Please describe

**Topic: Gender based violence**

Q: how a women is treated in the community?

Q: is it equal to man?

Q: if women face the abuse and violence what are the reasons?

Q: if women become harassed who is guilty for these?

Q: Did she listen any story where women faces violence and tell it to us?

**Topic: Overall**

Q:Do you/other mother have proper understanding on Sexual and reproductive health (family planning, mother and child health, reproductive organs infections and diseases, sexuality?

	Out of 10 people, how many?	In percentage
Yes		
No		

Q: Who have proper knowledge are they spreading it to their juniors

Q:Among the above-mentioned topic how many get proper service regarding infertility, family planning in your slum area?

Status of getting services	Out of 10 people, how many?	In percentage
Get proper service		
Sometimes get service		
Not get service at all		

Q:where she/community faces the challenge?

Q: Has access to these services been hampered by the pandemic? Please describe

Q:Why cannot she/community overcome the challenge?

Q:What kind of support is needed for her to overcome the challenge? And from whom?

What kind of support needed	From whom she gets the support

Q: What kind of awareness can bring positive factor to this problem?

What kind of awareness	To whom it needs to give

**Category: mother: interview**

**Topic: Reproductive tract infection (RTI)**

Q: Have you any understanding about Reproductive tract infection (RTI)?

Q: where the woman goes if she faces any difficulty in RTI?

Q: If the women face any challenge to take the service?

Q: Have you any understanding about breast cancer, cervical cancer?

Q: where the woman goes if she faces any difficulty in breast cancer, cervical cancer?

Q: If the women face any challenge to take the service?

Q: Has access to these services been hampered by the pandemic? Please describe

**Topic: Infertility**

Q: what she knows about infertility?

Q: what kind of medical services is available regarding this?

Q: Generally what community people think if children are not born after 4/5 years after marriage?

Q: Has access to these services been hampered by the pandemic? Please describe

**Topic: Menstrual Regulation**

Q: Do you know what is Menstrual Regulation and for what is for?

Q: in your community how the people perceive this?

Q: is the service available to the married woman?

Q: is this service available to unmarried woman? If no why?

Q: How an adolescent take any decision, if she need support regarding menstrual regulation?

Q: Has access to these services been hampered by the pandemic? Please describe

**Topic: Gender based violence**

Q: how a woman is treated in the community?

Q: is it equal to man?

Q: if women face the abuse and violence what are the reasons?

Q: if women become harassed who is guilty for these?

Q: Did she listen any story where women face violence and tell it to us?

**Category: Transgender**

**Topic: Diversity**

Q: Did you come out about your sexual orientation? Meaning, did you share with your family members and friends about your sexual orientation? If no why?

Q: How other community people behave with them? (Prompt: behave badly, ferocious)

Q: Do you feel that compared to your hetero-sexual peers you are limited in your actions? Q: what kind of support they are expecting from the Bauniabadh community people?

**Topic: Puberty**

Q: Please define puberty and the positive and negative aspects of this life stage

How do an adolescent of your same sexual orientation feel during the puberty ?

	Out of 10 how many in your TRANSGENDER community	Percentages
Good		
Moderate		

Bad		
-----	--	--

Q: If they feel bad, then what are the reasons?

Q: Where you can discuss the issue and if you get any solution from there?

Q: During this time how their peers tell about it?

Q: What s/he learn and from where about the puberty stage?

**Sexual abuse and Harassment – for example calling bad names**

Q: Have you ever been sexually abused or harassed because of your sexual orientation?

Q: Can you tell little bit more about what are the bad names? Why are people doing so?

Q: Do you know anyone with your same sexual orientation being raped? Out of 10 people, how many it could be?

Q: DO they know what to do if are being abused?

Topic gender

Q: Please define gender.

Q: What is your gender?

Q: Do you think men and women are treated differently? Why?

Q: Is this fair?

Q: What can be done to reach equality?

**Topic: Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)**

Q: Have you have heard about sexually transmitted diseases? Can you give us an example?

Q: How can protect yourself from these diseases?

Q: What are the most common STDs among your peers? ?

Q: Where would you go to procure some contraceptives

Q: To what extent do you think that people of your age take risks of any sort during sex?

Q: Do men/boys and women/girls take the same or different risks?

Q: To what extent do you think they are aware of them?

- Why do they take these risks?

Q: To what extent do you think HIV/AIDS is a risk to young people of your age?

Q: Are young people more worried / concerned about pregnancy or HIV/AIDS and other STIs?

Q: Do you think people take the risks seriously?

Q: Who should be responsible for protecting against any risk during sex?

Q: Who is normally responsible for contraception and protection?

Q: What do people of your age expect to happen about contraception? Is it expected to be used?

Q: How do young people feel talking about contraception with partners?

Q: What kind of contraception they use and is it available?

Topic: Access to health services

Q: In case of any health issue related with the reproductive system, pregnancy or sexual problem, are services available in your community?

Q: Can you please list them?

Q: Would you use them? If no why?

Q: Has access to these services been hampered by the pandemic? Please describe

**Topic: source of knowledge**

Q: Did you get any information related to sexual health and sexuality at school? If yes, please explain

Q: Did you find it useful? If you didn't please explain.

Q: How could be improved?

Q: What is your main source of knowledge in terms of sexuality and sexual health (including family planning, contraceptives, pregnancy and sex).

**Topic: overall**

Q: If any organization give any awareness related message about puberty, sexually transmitted disease?

Q: What are the messages?

Q: Is it spreading all walks of people to the TRANSGENDER community? If not can be spread?

Q: Among the above-mentioned topic how many get proper service regarding SRHR in your slum area?

Status of getting services	Out of 10 people, how many?	In percentage
Get proper service		
Sometimes get service		
Not get service at all		

Q: where she/TRANSGENDERcommunity face the challenge to get the services?

Q: Why s/he / TRANSGENDERcommunity cannot overcome the challenge?

Q: Has access to these services been hampered by the pandemic? Please describe

Q: What kind of support is needed for her to overcome the challenge? And from whom?

What kind of support needed	From whom she gets the support

Q: What kind of awareness can bring positive factor to this problem?

What kind of awareness	To whom it needs to give

Topic: Dating for people of the same sexual orientation

(Prompt: What is meant by dating, does it imply exclusivity, Expectations)

Q: At what age do young people start dating?



Q: How do young people select their partners?

Q: Is dating encouraged / discouraged or influenced in anyway, by anyone?

Q: What does dating involve? What do young people who are dating do together?

Q: What expectations are there when young people start dating? (Prompt: - Marriage)

Topic: Commencement of sexual activity

Q: What proportion of young men/women of your age and your sexual orientation do you think are sexually active?

Q: At what age would you say young people start having sex?

Q: What discussions/negotiations go on before sex takes place?

Q: Is it generally acceptable for young people to have sexual relations when they are not married?