

Terms of Reference (ToR)

Share-Net Bangladesh Young Researcher Fellowship Grant 2023

Research Focusing on “Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Education”

Share-Net Bangladesh Young Researcher Fellowship Grant

Share-Net Bangladesh is the country hub of Share-Net International, a Knowledge Platform focusing on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). It aims to build a vibrant SRHR community connecting practitioners, activists, policymakers, social and medical researchers, development practitioners, government officials, students, and young people. As part of the knowledge generation and capacity development initiative, each year SNBD provides two special grants for Young Researchers in the form of a fellowship. SNBD encourages Bangladeshi students of Masters's or PhD programmes to apply for this grant. In 2023, the focus of SNBD is **‘Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Education’**. **More specifically, educating young people, especially girls on SRHR and improving policy and practice** in this area. Keeping this objective in mind, SNBD is asking for research proposals from Bangladeshi students for a Young Researcher Fellowship Grant.

Theme breakdown: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Education

Education is always the basic need, an instrument for creating a literate citizen. Though Bangladesh has made tremendous progress in literacy rate, SRHR is barely considered a necessary element of inclusion in education. Holding SRHR a taboo subject in Bangladesh, talking about SRHR issues is very difficult for many who should talk about it such as parents, teachers, medical service providers, policymakers and researchers, and government officials. There is a little urge to introduce the terminology CSE or Comprehensive Sexuality Education among youths in Bangladesh.

Each Government has a responsibility to improve public health and educate the people on how prevention is better than cure, on how to indulge in a healthy lifestyle. Due to the unavailability of the right and quality education on family planning, contraceptives, sexuality and sexual rights for instance many young girls get unwanted early pregnancies. People in both urban and rural areas including youth and adolescents in Bangladesh face problems such as child marriage, early pregnancy, dropping out of school, illegal abortion, maternal health problems, such as fistula, mental health problems etc. In other words, proper and accessible knowledge of SRHR issues could bring men, women, girls and boys positive, healthy and happy lives.

- **SRHR education for adolescents**

Bangladesh has approximately 52 million adolescents and youth population, amounting to one-third of the country's total population. They are often deprived of Comprehensive Sexuality Education and SRHR while they desperately need it. Bangladesh has the highest adolescent fertility rate in South Asia. After independence mother and child health were for a long time a critical focus area of the government, related to the eradication of poverty, and the improvement of women's and child's health. The focus was on ensuring married women's rights over their bodies by providing them contraceptives and family-planning information, as well as ante- and post-natal care and menstrual regulation services. The country's socio-cultural value system ignores and prohibits premarital sex. Therefore, unmarried adolescents are neglected in SRHR services and have no access to contraceptives, while we all know that premarital sex does exist in our society. But SRHR education is a need for all irrespective of married status, age and gender. Sexuality education, and access to sexual health and rights services, remain taboo and are rarely taught in educational institutions, while some progress has been made. Among others, the Ministry of Education recently included comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) at the SSC level.

- **The need for quality education on SRHR**

It has been found that the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) has recently brought revolutionary changes to the textbook by including Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Sexual & Reproductive Health and Rights issues in the Science Investigative Reading for the students of class 6. But it only covers SRHR content from classes 6 to 10 and there is no mention of it before that. SRHR education is not for any classified group of people but for all. Another problem is the shame and discomfort among teachers and students to discuss SRHR issues, which points towards teacher training programs. Education also depends on the methods of teaching CSE by the teachers. On the other hand, unmarried adolescents are neglected in SRHR services and have no knowledge on sexuality education, and access to contraceptives.

- **The wide audience we want to reach**

For the previous Knowledge Fairs, the audience has originated from both urban organizations and rural participants. This time it will include young people from urban and rural areas because SRHR education is strategically in nowhere. It needs to be accommodated in textbooks, the teachers need to be skilled to teach, and there's a lot to change in behavior towards SRHR.

Quality education on SRHR is a crucial need for people, in particular young people in urban as well as rural areas. This need should be addressed properly in the first place by the Ministry of Education and also by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It is because education and health are related. But also traditional media such as Newspapers, television shows and websites should feel responsible for the accuracy of their information. They could make difficult situations and concepts understandable to a wide audience and provide a stage for different opinions and open debates.

Objectives of the research

- to find evidence connecting 'SRHR and education' and its significance in Bangladesh and set out recommendations for the improvement of policy and practice.

- Promote young researchers to be involved in hard-core research and to contribute to the work of knowledge through evidence.

Thematic topics for proposals

The theme 'SRHR and Education' has a broad perspective, however, for the 2023 Young Researcher Fellowship Grant, we are requesting young students to submit innovative proposals connecting the above thematic areas. The following thematic topics are mentioned as examples and we encourage young researchers to submit new ideas that we could address as a knowledge gap.

1. The quality of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (formal, informal, online, religious)
2. Inclusion in SRHR Education (Language, Disability, LGBTQI+, inequality etc)

Conditions to be applied

The to-be-submitted proposal must follow the conditions given below:

- You may apply as an individual, or as a team (maximum 4 researchers in a team)
- The Proposal must be connected to the above-mentioned thematic topics
- The Research method must be based on **primary data collection (the qualitative method is preferred)**
- The Proposal must include a dissemination plan of the research findings.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants (and team members) have to meet the following eligibility criteria:

- You Must be a Bangladeshi national
- Your Age must be 30 years or less by 31st December 2022
- You Must be currently pursuing Masters's or PhD or have completed this not more than one year ago, in areas such as Social Science/Public Health/Development Studies/Gender Studies/Anthropology/Education or any relevant discipline from any university in Bangladesh
- All applicants (and team members) must be a member of Share-Net Bangladesh. [Click here](#) to become a member.

Research Grant and Duration

Share-Net Bangladesh will fund two proposals for the period of May 2023 - July 2023. Each grant is limited to 2,00,000 BDT (including VAT and TAX).

30% payment will be made upon signing the contract.

20% payment will be made upon receiving the first draft research paper.

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

Deliverables

The following are the deliverables:

- The young researchers submit a first progress report after collecting data
- The young researchers present the draft paper to the Share-Net Bangladesh secretariat

- The young researchers deliver the final paper after incorporating feedback from Share-Net Bangladesh secretariat and the main report should be not more than 30 pages excluding annexes
- The young researchers submit the final report including a one-pager summary
- The young researchers present the paper during the Knowledge Fair 2023 in September
- The young researchers must disseminate their findings (presentation/publication)

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

Timeline

- The last date to submit the proposal is on **25 April 2023**.
- Share-Net Bangladesh will announce and contact the winner on **4 May 2023**.
- The final research report must be delivered by **30 July 2023**.

Requirements for application submission

- Completed application form (proposal) in a pdf format ([click here](#) to download the form)
- Scan copy of national ID card (NID) or passport in pdf or jpg format
- Recommendation letter from your supervisor or head of the department

Submission and Contact details

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

For any queries, please contact

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