

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

SHARE-NET BANGLADESH YOUNG RESEARCHER FELLOWSHIP GRANT 2024

Research Focus on “Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”

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Share-Net Bangladesh (SNBD) 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 or PhD programmes to apply for this grant.

In 2024, the focus of SNBD will be ‘**Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**’. Keeping this objective in mind, SNBD is asking for research proposals from Bangladeshi students for a Young Researcher Fellowship Grant.

THEME BREAKDOWN: INTERLINKING SRHR AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The chosen theme for the Share-Net Bangladesh Young Researcher Fellowship Grant 2024, "Advancing SRHR for Sustainable Development: Interlinking SRHR and SDGs," serves as a compass guiding researchers to delve into the complex relationship between Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This theme is a call to action, emphasising the pivotal role SRHR plays in achieving a broader sustainability of the SDG objectives.

Definition of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

Sexual and reproductive health and rights refer to the well-being of individuals in all aspects related to their sexuality and reproduction. This includes physical, emotional, mental, and social aspects, promoting a positive approach that values pleasurable sexual relationships, trust, and communication, enhancing self-esteem and overall well-being. Individuals have the right to make decisions about their bodies and access services that support these rights.

This encompasses bodily integrity, privacy, autonomy, and the freedom to define one's sexuality, choose sexual partners, and make decisions about sexual activity, marriage, and childbearing. Access to information, resources, and services necessary for achieving these rights is essential, free from discrimination, coercion, exploitation, and violence. [Proposed by the Guttmacher–Lancet Commission]

SRHR integrated into the SDGs:

The theme of the Knowledge Fair 2024 recognises that SRHR is intricately linked with attaining the SDGs. It acknowledges that progress in SRHR is a strategic imperative for achieving sustainable development for the people in Bangladesh, their communities, cities and districts as well as for the whole world.

By focusing on the interlinkages between SRHR and SDGs, the theme encourages a holistic approach to research. It challenges researchers to move beyond siloed perspectives, acknowledging that improvements in SRHR contribute significantly to addressing a multitude of societal challenges encapsulated within the SDG framework.

Fellowship Objectives:

1. To delve into the connections between SRHR and each of the 17 SDGs, exploring how advancements in SRHR can positively influence areas like health, education, gender equality, climate change, and economic well-being.
2. To foster collaboration among stakeholders, including the private sector, encouraging integrated efforts to embed SRHR into the SDGs for enhanced global well-being and improved quality of life.

Key Areas of Focus:

1. The theme encourages researchers to investigate and propose comprehensive SRHR initiatives that go beyond traditional approaches. This could include strategies that incorporate family planning, reproductive healthcare, and comprehensive knowledge to address the multifaceted aspects of SRHR.
2. Researchers are expected to identify and articulate the specific ways in which SRHR aligns with each SDG. This could involve exploring how advancements in SRHR contribute to **Improved Health Outcomes (SDG 3), Quality Education (SDG 4), Gender Equality (SDG 5), Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10), Controllable Climate Change** and other relevant SDGs.

The wide audience we want to reach:

1. The research undertaken within this theme could provide insights that inform evidence-based policymaking. By understanding the intricate connections between SRHR and SDGs, policymakers can craft more effective, integrated strategies for sustainable development.
2. The research could contribute to the development of frameworks for collaboration between the public and private sectors. This includes identifying best practices, challenges, and opportunities for fostering meaningful partnerships that contribute to SRHR and SDG objectives.

THEME BREAKDOWN: SDG ALIGNMENT FOR SRHR MOVEMENT

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) stand as a universal roadmap, addressing a spectrum of humanity's interconnected challenges. Amid this intricate web of global aspirations, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) emerge as a pivotal cross-cutting theme, intricately linked with multiple SDGs. Understanding the interplay between SRHR and specific SDGs is essential for unveiling the intricate connections that contribute to broader sustainable development objectives.

The research will explore how SRHR aligns with the 17 SDGs, uncovering its multifaceted contributions to sustainable development. It will assess both the positive impacts and potential barriers, analysing policies and initiatives that integrate SRHR with each SDG. By critically examining existing programs and identifying gaps, the study aims to understand SRHR's role as a catalyst for achieving SDGs. This research seeks to inform evidence-based policies and interventions that address global challenges, fostering a more equitable and sustainable future for Bangladesh.

THEMATIC TOPICS FOR PROPOSALS

The theme 'SRHR and SDGs' has a broad perspective. However, for the 2024 Young Researcher Fellowship Grant, we are requesting young students to submit innovative proposals connecting SRHR with the three above-stated thematic areas: people-centred innovation and intervention, engaging environments for social equity, and holistic improvement of norms & attitudes at a global scale. 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.

- Bridging the Gap: Promoting Decent Work and Economic Growth through SRHR Interventions
- Sustainable Futures: Advancing Climate Action through Comprehensive SRHR Initiatives
- Social Justice and SRHR: Navigating the Promotion of Social Justice and Sexual Health
- Partnerships for Progress: Fostering Collaboration between Public and Private Sectors for SRHR and SDG Alignment

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 2024
- You Must be currently pursuing Master's or PhD or have completed this not more than one year ago, in areas such as Sociology/Public Health/Development Studies/Gender Studies/Anthropology/Education or any other relevant discipline from any reputed university in Bangladesh
- All applicants (and team members) must be members 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 2024 - August 2024. 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 the Share-Net Bangladesh secretariat, and **the main report should not be 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 Annual SRHR Knowledge Fair 2024.
- The young researchers must disseminate their findings (presentation/publication)
- **The researchers will be guided and supervised by the Share-Net Bangladesh secretariat.**

TIMELINE

- Pre-submission meeting - **25 April, 2024**
- Last date to submit the proposal - **10 May, 2024**
- Winner announcement - **20 May, 2024**
- Contract Signing and Topic Discussion - **26 May, 2024**
- **The final research report MUST be delivered by 30 August, 2024**

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

Ruhan Shama

Coordinator, Share-Net Bangladesh

shama@redorange.com

Or,

Israt Jahan Mumu

Share-Net Officer, Share-Net Bangladesh

mumu@redorange.com

** 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 on any national or international platform or conference.