

Terms of Reference (ToR)

Share-Net Bangladesh Research & Innovation Grant 2025

Theme:

SRHR Business for the Grassroots - Turning Knowledge into Business, Business into Impact

Background

Since 2017, **Share-Net Bangladesh (SNBD)**, the largest country hub of Share-Net International, has been organising the **Annual SRHR Knowledge Fair**, the **largest knowledge management platform in Bangladesh on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)**, bridging research, policy, practice, and communities. Each year, SNBD introduces the Young Researcher Fellowship Grant to promote youth-led knowledge generation and innovation.

For 2025, the **Research and Innovation Grant** aligns with the theme of the Knowledge Fair, **SRHR Business for the Grassroots**, at a time when global funding for development initiatives is steadily declining. This moment calls for a renewed commitment to sustainability: to build SRHR initiatives that sustain themselves, empower individuals to thrive, and create lasting impact for both communities and society. It is also a fitting opportunity to reinvigorate our **Young Researcher Fellowship Grant into the Research and Innovation Grant**, nurturing a new generation of innovators who see **SRHR not just as a cause or a cost, but as a business for change and a smart, sustainable investment with measurable returns**.

This year's grant moves beyond academic research to **inspire entrepreneurship, innovation, and enterprise creation** that connect and translate SRHR knowledge to sustainable (community) impact. The focus is on **transforming ideas into business models** that demonstrate how SRHR can drive both **social change and economic empowerment at the grassroots level**.

Objectives of the Grant

- **Bridge Knowledge and Business** – Strengthen the link between SRHR research, evidence and entrepreneurship by transforming knowledge into viable enterprise models and business solutions that can attract financing and scale.
- **Empower Young Leaders, Entrepreneurs and Practitioners** – Provide a platform for students, young professionals, grassroots practitioners and innovators to generate and test new SRHR business ideas, models or prototypes for the grassroots.
- **Promote Action-Research & Innovation** – Support action-research proposals and pilot projects that demonstrate how grassroots SRHR-based businesses yield tangible social and economic returns.
- **Influence Policy & Practice** – Generate evidence and innovations that can shape policy, financing, and community practices around SRHR.

- **Foster Sustainable SRHR Solutions** – Encourage financially viable, community-driven enterprises that sustain SRHR initiatives for the grassroots beyond donor dependency.

Thematic Focus Areas

Proposals may address (but are not limited to) the following **business and innovation themes**:

- **Social and Community Entrepreneurship in SRHR** – Empowering local communities and youth to create small-scale, community-owned enterprises that address SRHR gaps
Sample ideas:
 - Rural women's cooperatives producing or distributing affordable menstrual or maternal health products.
 - Youth-run micro-enterprises providing SRHR awareness and counselling through local events, peer sessions, or digital platforms.
 - Community-based franchises offering adolescent-friendly health corners in pharmacies, salons, or schools.
- **Inclusive SRHR Business Models** – Developing SRHR enterprises that promote inclusion, diversity, and equity in employment and service delivery
Sample ideas:
 - Gender-diverse or disability-inclusive businesses managing SRHR kiosks or digital hubs.
 - Producer cooperatives linking marginalised artisans to SRHR-focused value chains.
 - Design of accessible, gender-neutral, or eco-friendly SRHR products.
- **Digital and Tech-driven SRHR Solutions** – Leveraging technology to build scalable and sustainable SRHR enterprises
Sample ideas:
 - AI or chatbot-based SRHR counselling and referral services catering to the needs of the grassroots.
 - E-commerce or mobile marketplaces for SRHR products led by local women entrepreneurs.
 - Gamified SRHR learning apps offering incentives to youth for engagement.
 - Tele-counselling kiosks managed by trained community youth.
 - Smart vending or IoT-based solutions for SRHR product access.
- **Circular and Eco-friendly SRHR Solutions** – Encouraging green and sustainable SRHR business innovations
Sample ideas:
 - Production of biodegradable menstrual or hygiene products.
 - Menstrual waste recycling linking to community-led waste enterprises.
 - Eco-marketing approaches connecting SRHR awareness with environmental leadership.
- **Knowledge-to-Business Translation** – Transforming SRHR research and evidence into viable business services, products, or training modules.
Sample ideas:
 - Developing SRHR toolkits or online courses that can be licensed by universities, NGOs, etc.
 - Converting research outcomes into market-ready social products.
 - Creating social franchising models for proven SRHR interventions.
- **Youth-led SRHR Innovation Hubs** – Incubating, testing, and scaling youth-driven SRHR business ideas.
Sample ideas:
 - Innovation labs offering mentorship and seed support to youth entrepreneurs.
 - Community maker spaces developing SRHR prototypes and digital tools.
 - Adolescent clubs creating market-oriented SRHR communication products.

Share-Net Bangladesh calls for proposals that **advance and promote SRHR-focused business ideas and initiatives** designed to benefit communities and strengthen local impact, **for the grassroots**, led by individuals, youth organisations, or innovators. **Ideas emerging directly from the grassroots are especially encouraged**, as they often reflect lived experiences and locally grounded solutions. The listed themes and examples are only indicative; applicants are strongly encouraged to propose **new, innovative, practical, scalable and context-driven ideas or models** that serve community needs and seek to strengthen SRHR outcomes. Proposals may present entirely fresh,

creative concepts or build upon existing initiatives, as long as they **contribute to sustainable and inclusive SRHR solutions for the grassroots.**

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must be **Bangladeshi nationals**, aged **18–35** (as of 31 December 2025).
- Eligible applicants include:
 - University students (3rd/4th year undergraduate, Master's, PhD)
 - Young professionals and early-career practitioners
 - Grassroots innovators, entrepreneurs, and start-ups working on SRHR business solutions
 - Individuals or Teams (maximum 3–4 members)
- Applicants must be **registered members of Share-Net Bangladesh** ([register here](#))

Grant and Duration

- **Total Grant Size:** BDT 200,000 (including VAT and tax)
- **Number of Grants:** 2–3
- **Duration:** December 2025 – June 2026

Disbursement Schedule:

- 30% upon contract signing
- 40% after submission of mid-progress report/prototype
- 30% after submission of final deliverables

Proposal Requirements

Each application must include:

- Title and Executive Summary
- Background, problem statement, and rationale (context and need)
- Business/innovation plan and model description (with expected beneficiaries)
- Expected social, behavioural, and economic impact
- Implementation plan, timeline, and key milestones
- Detailed budget breakdown and justification
- Motivation (why this idea matters to the applicant/team)
- Dissemination, scalability, and sustainability plan
- Risk assessment and mitigation strategy
- Monitoring and evaluation approach (can include how success will be measured)

Proposal Format & Pitch Deck Guidelines

To ensure consistency, clarity, and creativity in submissions, applicants are required to follow the formats outlined below:

Written Proposal

Each applicant or team must submit a **written proposal** as the primary document.

- **Length:** Maximum **10 pages** (including cover page, or references, and excluding annexes)
- **Format:** PDF or Word document (A4, Calibri 11 pt, 1 spacing)
- **Structure:** Must follow the outline provided under Proposal Requirements
- **Purpose:** To demonstrate the conceptual clarity, relevance, feasibility, and sustainability of the SRHR business idea

The written proposal should provide sufficient detail for reviewers to understand:

- The problem being addressed
- The proposed SRHR business model or innovation
- Its potential social and economic impact
- How it aligns with the theme *“SRHR Business for the Grassroots”*

Pitch Deck

Shortlisted applicants will also be asked to prepare and present a **pitch deck** during the review and interview phase.

- **Length:** Maximum 5–10 slides (including cover page, or references, and excluding annexes)
- **Format:** PowerPoint or PDF presentation
- **Purpose:** To visually communicate the core idea, highlight innovation, and demonstrate how the proposal can translate into a viable and sustainable SRHR enterprise

Suggested Pitch Deck Structure:

- Project title, team introduction, and thematic alignment
- Problem and opportunity analysis
- Proposed solution or innovation concept
- Business model and value proposition
- Target beneficiaries and expected impact
- Sustainability and scalability strategy
- Key milestones and implementation timeline

Applicants are encouraged to make the deck **clear, visual, and impactful**, using simple graphics or icons to tell the story.

Deliverables

- Progress report and presentation to SNBD Secretariat and wider community
- Final paper or innovation documentation
- Demonstration of business model and prototype
- Demonstration of implementation of the business using the grant
- One-page **SRHR Business Brief** for advocacy
- Presentations at the **SRHR Knowledge Fair 2025 and 2026**

- Dissemination through SNBD platforms

Grantees are expected to complete the outputs over the course of the grant period (December 2025 – June 2026). Detailed deliverables across the inception, implementation, and final phases, including reporting formats, timelines, and milestones, will be co-designed and agreed upon with the grantees during the contract signing and planning stage to ensure clarity, feasibility, and shared accountability.

Timeline (Tentative)

Activity	Date
Announcement of Call	08 November 2025
Proposal Submission Deadline	17 November 2025
Shortlisting & Announcement	22 November 2025
Presentation/Interview Sessions	25 & 26 November 2025
Winners Announced	29 November 2025
Orientation	1 December 2025
Presentation Prep	2-4 December 2025
Knowledge Fair & Grant Award	08 December 2025
Contract Signing	December 2025
Implementation Period	December 2025 – June 2026
Mid-Progress Presentation & Report Submission	March 2026
Final Presentation, Documentation & Dissemination	June 2026

After the contract signing, Grantees will begin working on their SRHR business models, implementing their proposed ideas. They will later share their progress, outcomes, and learnings with the Share-Net Bangladesh Secretariat and wider community. A detailed timeline for implementation, dissemination, and reporting will be co-developed collaboratively to ensure alignment and effective delivery.

Application Requirements

Applicants must submit the following documents through the official online submission form (link available on the SNBD website and Facebook page):

- **Submission via the online form** (link on SNBD website and facebook page)

- **Completed Application Form** (Filling up the Google Form with required information is mandatory)
- **Completed Proposal** (Word Document/PDF, max 10 MB)
- **Copy of NID/Passport** (PDF/JPG) – for each team member.
- **Recommendation Letter** (from a supervisor, employer, mentor, or community leader).
- **Dissemination and Sustainability Plan** – describing how outcomes or business models will be shared and sustained after the grant period.
- **Supporting materials** such as concept notes, visuals, product sketches, or pitch decks that strengthen your proposal as annexes.
- Applications may be submitted **individually or as a team** (maximum 3–4 members). The lead applicant must complete and submit the form on behalf of the team.

Note: Incomplete applications or those received after the deadline will not be considered. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted for the next phase.

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed based on the following:

- **Relevance to the theme** SRHR Business for the Grassroots
- **Innovation** and **practicality** of the business model
- Potential for **social** and **economic impact**
- **Feasibility** within timeframe and budget
- **Sustainability** and **scalability** potential
- **Clarity** and **quality** of proposal

Copyright and Dissemination

SNBD reserves the right to publish and disseminate the funded projects. Without written consent, grantees may not present, pitch or publish externally before SNBD dissemination.

Queries:

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