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Bangladesh

The Knowledge Platform on
Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights



SRHR for Unmarried Adolescents and Young People in Bangladesh

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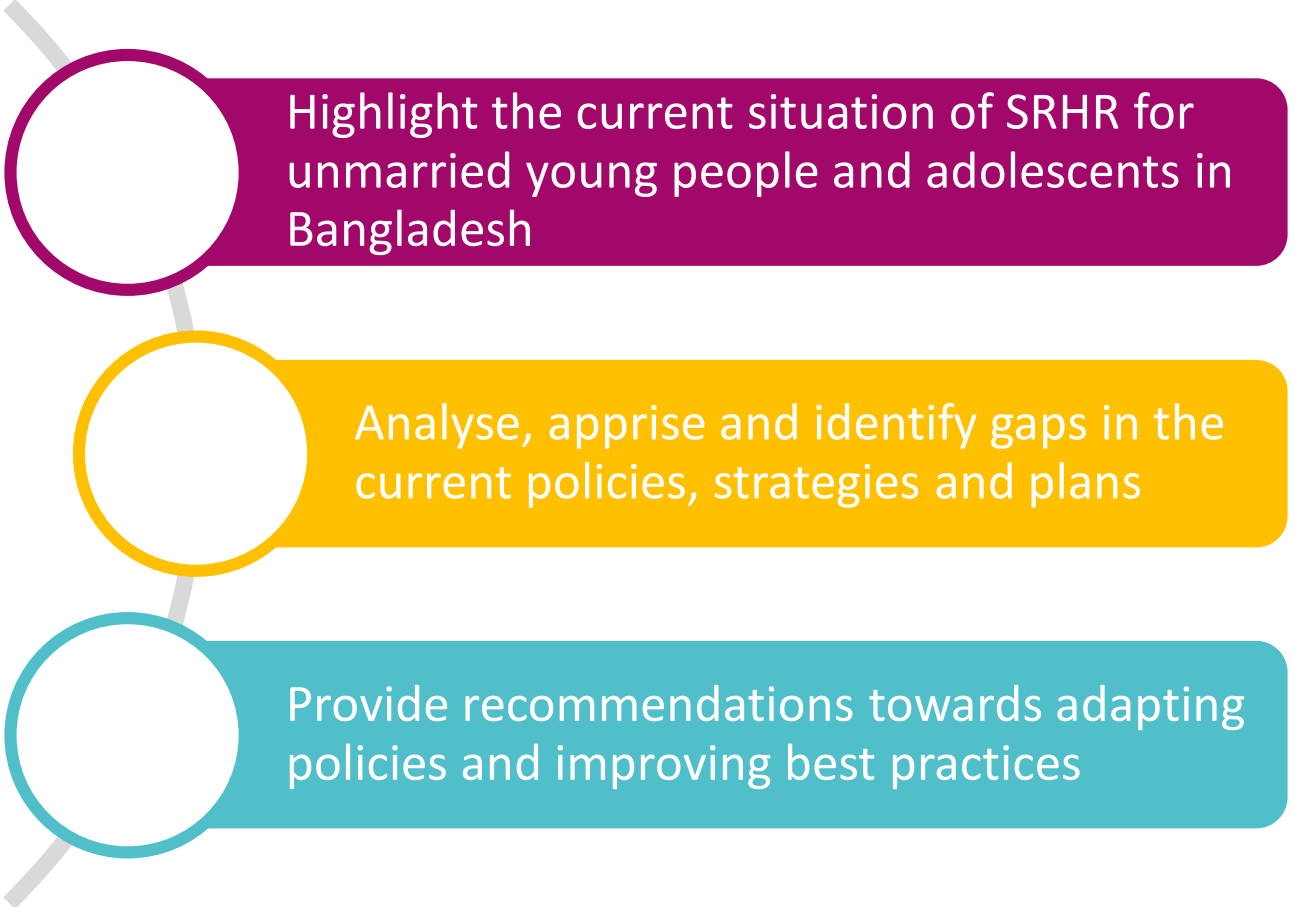
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Aim and objectives

Our aim is to offer a context based analysis of current policies, strategies and plans to support the GoB and development partners in adapting policies and improving the best practices.

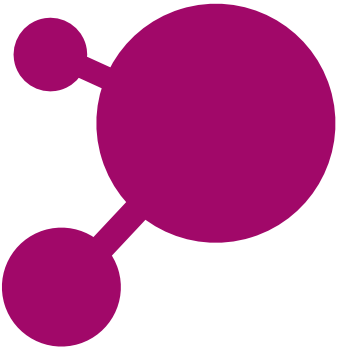


Highlight the current situation of SRHR for unmarried young people and adolescents in Bangladesh

Analyse, apprise and identify gaps in the current policies, strategies and plans

Provide recommendations towards adapting policies and improving best practices





Methodology

- Search terms were generated in a preliminary search approach and data were categorized in a secondary approach and code frame was developed using open coding approach. The search approach was based on the following criteria: 1) unmarried young people; 2) unmarried adolescents; 3) adolescent pregnancy among unmarried adolescents and young people and 4) SRHR services and information for unmarried adolescents and young people.
- Available in public domain, Web of Science, and Jstore.



Findings

Availability and accessibility

“Having sex without marriage is usually regarded as a crime and taboo”- Dr. Suchitra Dalvie

“There is a critical gap in SRHR information and services for unmarried adolescents, specially girls on using family planning contraceptives, MR, and MRM services in Bangladesh.” - Khaleda Yasmin

There current support for them

“Even university girls are unaware of their stoppage of menstruation (due to pregnancy) and then she goes to pharmacy. After taking medicine, she thinks problems are solved but in many cases things (foetal remains) remain inside which creates infection in future.”- Dr. Elvina Mustary

- Forced
- Suicide
- SGBV
- Unintended preg
- Unsafe

“You cannot progress in women right if you don't bring in the men, change their mindset and make them understand why it is needed that they attend the women rights”- Mushfiqua Zaman Satiar

“At the clinic level, there is a major problem. If unmarried girls come, they will misbehave with them. They don't welcome them”- Dr. Halima Hanum Akhter





Policy, strategies and plans analyses

National Strategy for Adolescent Health 2017-2030

- National Health Policy 2011 -> Focus on treating HIV/AIDS but not focusing on knowledge. No focus on other SRHR issues.
- National Health Policy 2011 -> Focus on health care for all, with special attention to gender equality, marginalised groups and people with disabilities. Focus on family planning, and less focus on overall SRH. No mention of youth and their health.
- Bangladesh Population Policy 2012 -> Introduced Adolescent Welfare Programme, focus more on awareness, not services. Mentions FP for eligible couples.
- National Education Policy 2010 -> Focus on health, raising and education where it discusses the needs of health awareness, availability of proper information, focus on strengthening the health sector, gender equality in medical curricula.
- National Women Development Policy 2011 -> Focus on preventing GBV, women empowerment, and equal rights to health care services. No focus on unmarried girls' access to the SRH services.
- National Children Policy 2011 -> Focus on including reproductive health, STDs and HIV/AIDS in its child health strategy as preventive measures





Recommendations

- IMPROVING THE KNOWLEDGE ON SRHR
- IMPROVING SRHR SERVICES
- STRENGTHENING EDUCATION
- STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNICATIONS EFFORT
- INVESTING ON THE SRHR NEEDS OF ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE
- YOUNG PEOPLE'S INVOLVEMENT IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT
- STRENGTHENING GO-NGO COLLABORATION





THANK YOU

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