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Bangladesh

The Knowledge Platform on  
Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights



Knowledge Fair 2020

## SRHR: Youths and Adolescents

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# Sexuality, Rights and Gender

## 4<sup>th</sup> World Women Conference, Beijing 1995 - Platform for Action

'The human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence. Equal relationships between women and men in matters of sexual relations and reproduction, including full respect for the integrity of the person, require mutual respect, **consent and shared responsibility** for sexual behaviour and its consequences.'

**Therefore Sexuality** is a **central aspect** of being human throughout our life and includes sex, gender identities and roles, sexual orientation, pleasure, intimacy, reproduction and happiness.

Sexuality is **experienced and expressed** in thoughts, fantasies, desires, proverbs, attitudes, values, behaviours, practices, roles, responsibilities and relationships. Sexuality is **influenced by** stereotypes thinking and practices. **Interaction of sexuality** is biological, psychological, social, economic, political, cultural, ethical, legal, historical, religious.

## Right to Know, Choose & Decide

- ✓ Right to have access to the information, resources, services
- ✓ Right of Bodily integrity, privacy
- ✓ Right to understand re Sexuality, sexual orientation and gender identity and expressions & risk factors from unsafe behaviors, mental health
- ✓ Safe and pleasurable sexual experiences
- ✓ Choose sexual partners, timing, whether or not, & when, and whom to marry or not
- ✓ Decide whether, when, and by what means to have a child or not, and how many, interval period, etc.
- ✓ Achieve all the above with free from discrimination, coercion, exploitation, violence & sexual Harassment.
- ✓ Equal relationships between women and men in matters of sexual relations and reproduction, including full respect for the integrity of the person
- ✓ require **mutual respect, consent and shared responsibility** for sexual behaviour and its consequences.'



# SRHR in SDGs

- **Goal 3:** Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.

**Target -** By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the **integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes**

- **Goal 4:** Quality Education
- **Goal 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

**Target -** Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences



# SRHR in the National policy and strategies

- The Bangladesh Constitution: **Right to healthcare and medical treatment for all its citizens, irrespective of age, sex, caste, creed and colour**
- National health policy 2011 focusing on gender equality
- National Strategy for Adolescent Health 2017-2030- **HOW MEN SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE IN ACHIEVING THE GOAL**
- Health, Nutrition, And Population Strategic Investment Plan 2016-2021 – **no mention - MH&H services and info for G&W, MH facilities at school**
- National Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Strategy Bangladesh, 2020 (Draft)
  - **UNDERSTANDING SEXUALITY, GENDER & RIGHTS ARE ABSENT , NO mentioned OF BOYS & MENS responsibility**



# Few Relevant Statistics

- 22% population in the country are adolescents, amongst 13.8 million are girls.
- 63% of girls, in the age group of 15-19 suffer from early marriage, 31% of them get pregnant within a year of marriage
- In 2020, Bangladesh had the **highest** number of births/1000 adolescent (15-19) with approximately 82.96 births per thousand
- 40% girls miss school during menstruation for a median of 3 days a month.
- Among menstruating girls and women, old cloth is considered a predominant menstruation management material (82-86%)
- MHM is yet unknown to maximum and stereotyped not challenged
- In disaster situation (flood, Cyclone, **water logging**, etc.) G & W suffers with poorest MHM
- In 2019 rape & G Rape of children increased 1&1/2 times more than 2018.
- COVID19 VAWGC is even higher



# How to take Inclusive & positive approach to sexuality

- Recognizes the importance of sexuality
- Build strength for inclusive sexual rights movements, through supporting alliances and at the same time challenging the gender and other inequalities within and between these groups.
- Draw inspiration from and connect with the exciting initiatives already happening
- All young people, men, service providers, policy & decision makers to be responsive to address sexuality & gender discriminations and to learn how to challenge stereotypes, taboos & social gender constructions to change
- Teachers, Parents & Communities includes persons with disabilities, other gender, different religions, people of marginalised sectors to be Involved in policy & action plan making, implementing and monitoring too
- MHM policies to be placed in schools, shopping places, religious & entertainments centres, hospitals, libraries, clubs, sports complex, etc. with better access to toilets, access of PWD, and develop a community-centered follow-up mechanism





Thank you  
for being with us  
Q & Q are  
welcome 😊

