

Terms of Reference (ToR)

Share-Net Bangladesh Young Researcher Fellowship Grant

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

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Share-Net Bangladesh (SNBD) is the largest knowledge and networking platform for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Bangladesh. It aims to build a vibrant SRHR community connecting practitioners, activists, policy makers, 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 the Young Researcher in the form of fellowship. SNBD encourages the Bangladeshi students of Masters or PhD programmes to apply for this grant. In 2021, the focus of SNBD is **SRHR and climate change in Bangladesh** to find the interconnection accordingly. Keeping this objective in mind, SNBD is asking for research proposals from Bangladeshi students for the Young Researcher Fellowship Grant.

Connection between SRHR and Climate Change in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is intrinsically vulnerable to the effects of climate change due to its unique geographical location as a low lying river delta¹. Changing precipitation patterns, such as drought and shorter but more intense rainfall, can have negative direct and indirect impacts on health and can contribute to desertification and flooding, food insecurity, internal and external migration, and increased conflict. Marginal populations, poor and socially disadvantaged individuals, women, adolescents, children and people with disabilities are often most affected². Knowing that natural disasters can exacerbate pressures for child marriage, response efforts should specifically include provisions to protect and provide opportunities for vulnerable women and adolescent girls. This includes primarily safe sanitation, clean water, hygiene, and health services, and at the same time secondarily accessible education and income generation opportunities³.

While growing evidence proves that climate change issues are not gender neutral, there remain considerable gaps in related gender-disaggregated data and gender analyses in this space. More

¹ Rahman, M. M., Ahmad, S., Mahmud, A. S., Hassan-uz-Zaman, M., Nahian, M. A., Ahmed, A., ... & Streatfield, P. K. (2019). Health consequences of climate change in Bangladesh: An overview of the evidence, knowledge gaps and challenges. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change*, 10(5), e601.

² McLeod, C., Barr, H., & Rall, K. (2019). Does Climate Change Increase the Risk of Child Marriage: A Look at What We Know-And What We Don't-With Lessons from Bangladesh and Mozambique. *Colum. J. Gender & L.*, 38, 96.

³ Brides, G. N. ICRW. "Taking Action to Address Child Marriage: the Role of Different Sectors. Food Security & Nutrition Brief." 2016.

specifically, the linkages between climate change and SRHR have received little attention to-date. However, recognizing these links is key to creating an effective adaptive response to climate change, while also improving gender equality and access to SRHR services.

Over the years, researchers are establishing the significant connection between climate change and demeaning SRHR. According to the researchers, in Bangladesh while discriminatory gender roles, power relationships and social norms systematically create gender inequality, climate change and its consequences further intensifies women's and girls' social vulnerability causing more child marriage, violence. That is why it is time that we focus on the impact of climate change in the practice of SRHR.

Thematic topics

Climate change and SRHR has a broad perspective, however for the 2021 Young Researcher Fellowship Grant, we are requesting to submit proposals connecting one of the following thematic topics -

1. *Climate change induced gender-based violence*
2. *Child marriage and climate change*
3. *Relation of infertility with climate change*

Objectives

- The objective is to conduct research to find evidence connecting SRHR and climate change 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.

Conditions to be applied

Submitted proposal must follow the conditions given below -

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

Eligibility Criteria

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

- Must be a Bangladeshi national
- Age must be 30 years or less by 31st December 2021
- Must be currently pursuing Masters or PhD in areas such as Social Science/Public Health/Development Studies/Gender Studies/Anthropology 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 2021 - September 2021. 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 progress report.
50% payment will be made upon receiving the final research paper and the report.

Deliverables

Following are the deliverables:

- The young researchers to submit the first progress report after collecting data
- The young researchers to present the draft paper to Share-Net Bangladesh secretariat
- The young researchers to deliver the final paper after incorporating feedback from Share-Net Bangladesh secretariat (main report should be not more than 30 pages excluding annexes)
- The young researchers to submit the final report including a one-pager summary
- The young researchers to present the paper during the Knowledge Fair 2021
- 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 the 15th May, 2021.
- Share-Net Bangladesh will announce and contact the winner on 25th May, 2021.
- The contract will be signed by 31st May, 2021.
- The final research report must be delivered by 30th September, 2021.

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 query please contact (before 30th April, 2021)

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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.