

CALL FOR INNOVATIONS

National Conference 2023: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Bangladesh | Showcasing Research through Ideas, Ingenuity and Innovations

Organised by | **Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (AdSEARCH) by icddr,b**

Submission Deadline | **23 March 2023**

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) are essential for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) because of their links to gender equality and women's wellbeing, their impact on maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health, and their roles in shaping future socio-economic development and environmental sustainability within an inclusive sexual, gender and human rights framework. While Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in improving SRHR in the last two decades, this has not been consistent across different areas of SRHR and is not uniform across different geographic regions or population groups. The achievements have been further challenged in recent times by the COVID-19 pandemic that disproportionately affected various population groups – women and children and populations with special needs, in particular. The pandemic had the potential to reverse the progress towards universal access to SRHR that has been made over the last decades.

Against this background in March 2021, the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) supported a cross-divisional, multi-year research project titled “Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights” (AdSEARCH) by icddr,b, which aims to improve sexual and reproductive health (SRH) outcomes and realisation of rights among different population groups with distinct SRH need in Bangladesh. In 2023, icddr,b is organising the **National Conference 2023: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Bangladesh | Showcasing Research through Ideas, Ingenuity and Innovations** to facilitate, debate, and document the collective knowledge and ideas nationally on selective SRHR issues. The conference aims to impact a wider audience regarding SRHR by collaborating with policymakers, youth and practitioners. In light of this, icddr,b is opening this call to find young minds from any discipline who have the potential to be international research leaders in the field of public health for improving sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in Bangladesh. icddr,b is committed towards an inclusive and supportive environment to nurture young researchers, working in science and therefore, to prepare them for positions of leadership in the SRHR-related field. The innovation proposal needs to be under the following sub-themes:

Health of Adolescents and Young People: Menstrual Hygiene, Sexuality and Sexual Health, Child Marriage and Unintended Pregnancy and Family Planning.

Fertility: Family planning (Fertility preferences, Choice and use of different methods, method switching and discontinuation, method mix, unmet need for family planning, postpartum family planning (PPFP)), Unintended pregnancy, Pregnancy Loss: Abortion, Miscarriage and MR, Post-abortion care (PAC) and Infertility.

Maternal and Newborn Health: Pregnancy complications (Anemia, Jaundice, GDM, HTN Disorder including eclampsia and pre-eclampsia, Ectopic Pregnancy and Recurrent Pregnancy Loss); Delivery-related complications

(PROM, Prolonged Labor, Obstructed Labor, Prolapse, Fistula and C-section), Maternal Health Services (ANC, PNC, BEmONC and CEmONC), Pre-term birth and low-birth weight, Stillbirth and Neonatal Mortality).

Gynaecological Issues and Sexual Health: Sexual Behavior, STI/RTI/UTI; Reproductive Cancer, Menstrual Disorder and Menopause.

Sexual and Reproductive Health of Key Population (KPs): Sexuality, sexual behaviours and sexual concerns, Structural challenges surrounding SRHR, Co-morbidities relating to SRHR (e.g. STIs, HPV, RTIs, mental health, etc.); Transgender health and rights, Sexualised drug use and its implications, SRHR interventions, innovations, and access to services.

Nutrition among Adolescents and Pregnant Women: Adolescent nutrition, Pregnancy weight gain, Low Birth Weight, Dietary Diversity and Water-sanitation-hygiene and enteropathy.

For the aforementioned SRHR themes we are expecting proposals focusing on one or more of the following topics:

- **Burden, Risk Factors, Context** (awareness, social stigma, vulnerability), care seeking (availability, accessibility, and affordability)
- **Service Availability, Readiness and Provision and Experience of care; Gender Equity and Equality and Rights** (Gender roles, norms and gender disparities in SRHR, Women's empowerment and SRHR, Gender-based violence and SRHR, Gender and rights of the key populations)
- **Male Engagement and Involvement**
- **Mental Health**
- **COVID-19.**

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Candidates must apply through the online portal according to the instructions provided.
2. One is allowed to submit more than one proposal and one can be awarded for multiple proposals.
3. Within 300 words, write down your proposal, including:
 - What is the Idea?
 - How is your idea novel and relevant to SRHR?
 - What is the tentative timeline?
4. Uploaded file size no more than **10 MB** and the file needs to be renamed accordingly.
 - Renaming Format: Innovation Showcasing_Name_No of the Proposal.
Example: Innovation Showcasing_Taslima Raza_01
5. Eligible candidates must apply for the call by maintaining the following formatting procedure:
 - Any open-source font, 11-point size
 - Single-spaced
6. The selection process will follow a blinded review and rigorous assessment process by a Scientific Review Committee with eminent scientists and public health experts from relevant areas.
7. Graphs and Tables:

- A maximum of 3 tables of up to 10 rows x 10 columns can be included per innovation.
- Graphs and images: A maximum of 3 images can be included per innovation and this is an exclusion of word count.

REVIEW & AWARD DECISIONS

Innovations are subject to blinded review by more than one member of the Scientific Review Committee for inclusion in the conference and for oral presentation/stall exhibition. The best three innovations will be awarded and awardees will be offered mentorship through experts at icddr,b. In addition, the awardees will receive a seed grant to develop their innovation(s). Selected participants will receive a Certificate of Participation and will have free registration for the conference.

IMPORTANT DATES

Deadline for Submission of Proposal: **23 March 2023**

Proposal Acceptance Declaration: **6 April 2023**

Submit via Link: <http://adsearch.icddrb.org/>

Contact via E-Mail: adsearch_official@icddrb.org