

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) of Adolescents in Bangladesh



31M Adolescents in Bangladesh


One-fifth of the country's total population

Child Marriage

50%
of the women aged 20–24 married before the age of 18

25%
of girls marry by the age of 16

Family Planning

15% of married girls aged 15–19 years have unmet family planning needs




Adolescent Pregnancy

24% of girls aged 15–19 years start child-bearing



Violence against Adolescents

 One-third of unmarried female adolescents (15–19 years) experience sexual harassment at least once a year

17% of ever-married (15–19 years) adolescents experience sexual harassment at least once a year


Mental Health


15% of ever married female adolescents suffer from major depressive disorders


One in ten unmarried female adolescents (15–19) suffer from major depressive disorder


*Defining Adolescents and Youths:


 **Adolescents** (10–19 years)

 **Early Adolescents** (10–14 years)

 **Late Adolescents** (15–19 years)

 **Youth** (15–24 years)

 **Young People** (10–24 years)

 **Young Adulthood** (20–24 years)

Major Gaps & Barriers:

Limited evidence on sexual behavior, and prevalence of menstrual problems, unintended pregnancy, abortion, and STIs among unmarried adolescents

Limited knowledge of the relationship between Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and other cross-cutting issues e.g. nutrition, mental health, connectedness, and how these impact health outcomes over time

Lack of research, programmes, and initiatives targeting early adolescents, adolescent boys, and marginalised adolescents

Inadequate programmatic attention to involving adolescents in design and gate-keepers to create a supportive environment for adolescents

Lack of strong monitoring and evaluation system of the existing programme

Investing in adolescent health brings triple benefits!

ONE Healthy adolescent population now

TWO Future healthy adult workforce

THREE Healthy next generations of children

Recommendations:

- Evidence generation on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) knowledge and practice of unmarried adolescents, specially young adolescents and adolescent boys
- Strengthening knowledge base for SRH-related cross-cutting issues with its temporal effect
- Conduct research and identify strategies to address social stigma related to adolescent SRHR
- Devising age-appropriate innovative and inclusive programs
- Ensure multi-sectoral collaboration, comprehensive M&E system, and involvement of adolescents and gate-keepers in programme design and evaluation

Based on the 'Situation Analysis Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) of Adolescents in Bangladesh'



Scan the QR code for detailed report