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Unintended Pregnancy: Exploring the attitudes and behaviors among young Bangladeshi urban people

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Abstract

Bangladesh has one of the largest youth populations in the world and about 30% of the country's total population are within the age group 15-24. People of this age group are at risk of early pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases etc. which remains hidden because of traditional socio-cultural and discriminatory gender norms and practices. Considering this, James P Grant School of Public Health of BRAC University and University of Amsterdam has partnered with Maya.com.bd to conduct a study named "Digital Sister for Urban Youth" which aims to use digital technology to understand the actual sexual and reproductive health information and needs of young people (15-24 years of age) in urban areas of Bangladesh. This is a partial analysis of the qualitative part of an ongoing mixed method study where data has been gathered from both the Maya apa online platform and field research. Findings show that girls are worried about their unintended pregnancy either for not using contraceptives or inconsistent and incorrect use of effective contraceptives after having sex with their male partners. Similarly, boys are also tensed about this fact as they do not want to have baby in this pre-marital stage of sex due to socio-cultural barriers. Also, married couples within this age group are wandering around for solutions to avoid unwanted pregnancy because the source of information is limited to them. In addition, most of the girls are concerned about their irregular menstruation which they think can lead them to pregnancy as they are used to take emergency pills on a regular basis after having sex. All these results prove that young people in Bangladesh have limited space to access SRH information, therefore, an easily accessible digital platform should be made for them.

Biography

Anindya Das is currently working with James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University as a Research Associate since September 2016 in "Digital Sister for Urban Youth" project. He previously worked with SAJIDA Foundation as a Research Associate in "Community Health" program. He has completed his graduation and post-graduation on Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology from University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Later on, he has completed his Master of Public Health (MPH) degree from James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University. Anindya Das has an extensive research background where his expertise is mainly on both qualitative and quantitative research and also life science laboratory research. In addition, he has acquired skills on monitoring and evaluation of public health programs.



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