Exploring the Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Needs and Concerns of Young Bangladeshi Urban People

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Abstract

Background: 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.[1] These young people face a number of traditional socio-cultural and discriminatory gender norms and practices, for which they are deprived of their needs and access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information.[2,3,4,5] 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 SRH information and needs of young people (15-24 years of age) in urban areas of Bangladesh. Methods: 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. Results: Both young male and female were concerned about their reproductive organs, like boys were more concerned regarding the size and shape of their penis, itching around penis or testes, whether girls were worried about the same thing regarding their breasts or vaginas. Besides, most of the boys expressed their interest on masturbation and wet dream while some were worried about its health consequences. Some boys also showed their concern on premature ejaculation and erectile dysfunction in relation to their sexual act or performance. Most of the girls were worried about their pregnancy related to irregular menstruation and also the use of emergency contraceptives for safe sex. Conclusion: Young people in Bangladesh have a huge demand on sexual and reproductive health information, but still there is little space for them to access those. Recommendation: There should be a digital communication platform for this youth group that can be easily accessible for SRH knowledge and information.

Recent Publications

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2. Das, A. K., & Roy, S. (2015). "Unheard narratives of sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) of adolescent girls of the Holy Cross College, Dhaka, Bangladesh." *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science, 21*(2), 1-8. Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Sajal_Roy5/publication/295072926_Unheard_Narrativesof_Sexual_and_Reproductive_Health_RightsSRHR_of_Adolescent_Girls_of_the_Holy_Cross_College_Dhaka_Bangladesh/links/56c6b62d08ae408dfe4d715b.pdf

3. Amin, S. (ed.). (2015). "Urban Adolescents Needs Assessment Survey in Bangladesh". *BIED, BRACU, & Population Council, Dhaka*. Retrieved from http://www.popcouncil.org/uploads/pdfs/2015PGY_BRAC-AdolSurveyReport.pdf

4. Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE). (2015, September 17). "Snapshots-Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) among Young Adults: A Socio Cultural Mapping". Retrieved from http://bangladesh.nlembassy.org/binaries/content/assets/postenweb/b/bangladesh/netherlands-embassy-in-dhaka/import/srhr/snapshots--srhr-among-young-adults---a-socio-cultural-mapping.pdf

5. Braeken, D., & Rondinelli, I. (2012). "Sexual and reproductive health needs of young people: matching needs with systems". *International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics, 119*, S60-S63. Retrieved from http://ippf.org.w01.ippf.cloud.ec/sites/default/files/matching_needs_with_systems.pdf



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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Notes/Comments: