

## CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR GENDER, SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (CGSRHR)

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Established in 2008, The Centre aims to promote a broader understanding of gender, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in Bangladesh and in the region through research, policy, advocacy and training activities. Using both academic and action-based research, the Centre generates knowledge and translates it into advocacy-based action for social change. Research topics under the Centre include HIV/AIDS, reproductive health service, gender-based violence, child marriage, digital tools for SRHR, bodily rights and behaviour change communication.

To promote SRHR, the Centre organises and conducts short trainings and courses that aim to stimulate critical thinking and reflections among practitioners. The Centre also facilitates advocacy efforts with various partners and networks to bring about greater awareness on relevant areas of SRHR work. Recent advocacy efforts have addressed SRHR and law, masculinity and men's sexual health, and rights-based issues of minorities and disadvantaged communities.

### RESEARCH PROJECTS IN 2019

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#### - **RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW (RHRN)**

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator:

- Kuhel Islam, Senior Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Tasfiyah Jalil, Senior Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Rituja Shome, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: July 2017 - October 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To create a world where everyone is able to access quality and youth-friendly health services. To ensure that no one is afraid to openly express who they are and who they love

Methodology: Evidence-based Advocacy and Capacity Strengthening

Donor: Rutgers

Partners:

- BRAC Education Programme, BRAC
- RHSTEP
- Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu)
- Naripokkho
- SERAC-Bangladesh
- Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB)

- Oboyob
- BLAST
- United for Body Rights (UBR) Alliance
- Bangladesh Mahila Parishad
- Dance4Life
- ARROW
- HiVOS

- **WHERE DO THEY GO? DOCUMENTARY ON ACCESSIBILITY OF SRHR SERVICES FOR SINGLE WORKING WOMEN IN URBAN BANGLADESH**

PI: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: July 2018 - February 2019

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: This documentary aims at breaking the silence and knowledge gap around the SRHR needs of single/unmarried young women in Bangladesh.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: Share-Net International

Partner: Bohnishikha-Unlearn Gender

- **STRENGTHENING VOICES AND CAPACITIES FOR ADDRESSING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE WITH BLAST**

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator:

- Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Md. Mostafizur Rahman, Assistant Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: November 2018 - December 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To address the overarching goal of reducing gender-based violence (GBV) prevalent in Bangladesh's society; to address the erosion of gender objectives within development, and in the current context of shrinking civic space.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: Creating Resources for Empowerment and Action (CREA)

Partner: Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)

- **A STUDY OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR) OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDS) IN BANGLADESH**

PI: Dr Md. Tanvir Hasan, Associate Professor and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator: Irin Akhter, Deputy Project Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: December 2018 - May 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To understand SRHR needs, knowledge about SRHR, SRH sufferings, perception around sex and sexuality and barriers in accessing SRH services for PWDs in Bangladesh through primary research; secondary review of existing interventions and/or services relevant to SRHR of PWDs, identify gaps in currently implementing interventions and/or services and recommend strategies to improve delivery of efficacious interventions and/or services; review existing laws and policies relevant to SRHR and disability in Bangladesh and explore barriers to the implementation of laws and policies and recommend strategies for improvement.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: Embassy of the Royal Kingdom of Netherlands

Partner:

- Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of the People Republic of Bangladesh.

- **MALE YOUTH AND THEIR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR) IN BANGLADESH: A MIXED-METHODS NATIONWIDE STUDY**

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinated by: Dr Farzana A. Misha, Assistant Professor, BRAC JPGSPH

Qualitative Lead: Subas Chandra Biswas, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: December 2018 - December 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To explore the SRH needs of male youth (aged 15-24) in Bangladesh by exploring existing SRH interventions; identify the gaps and challenges to improve SRH interventions and/or services; identify the barriers of implementation and recommendations for policy advocacy.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: Embassy of the Royal Kingdom of the Netherlands

- **PROMOTING RIGHTS THROUGH INCLUSION AND EMPOWERMENT (PRITIE)**

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator:

- Ashfique Rizwan, Deputy Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Md. Mostafizur Rahman, Assistant Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Tasfiah Jalil, Senior Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: January 2019 – September 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To address discriminatory laws, policies and practices related to marriage and sexual violence in the context of Bangladesh and international human rights standards; to create platforms for university students and young professionals in the project area to express their views and experiences on their freedom to express, choose, and consent to matters related to their own lives, and strengthen their knowledge and understanding and increase their participation in ensuring their rights; to enhance the capacity of service providers on SRHR.

Methodology: Capacity Strengthening and Advocacy

Donor: Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU)

Partner: Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)

- **MATERNAL MORTALITY AND EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC CARE (EMOC) FACILITIES IN BRAC HEALTH NUTRITION POPULATION PROGRAMME (HNPP) AREAS IN RURAL BANGLADESH**

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI: Saira Parveen Jolly, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: March 2019 - Ongoing

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To identify the areas with high maternal deaths in BRAC health, nutrition and population programme (HNPP) areas in Bangladesh; to examine the density of Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC) facilities in BRAC HNPP areas across Bangladesh; to explore knowledge, perception, practice, barrier and challenges in the communities with high MMR in Bangladesh, in access to formal healthcare facilities for utilisation of antenatal, delivery and postnatal care.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Partner: BRAC Health Nutrition and Population Programme (HNPP)

### - **MIGRATION PASSAGES AND SRH NEEDS OF RURAL TO URBAN MIGRANT WOMEN IN BANGLADESH**

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator: Syeda Seama Mowri, Senior Project Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: March 2019 - February 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To understand access to information and services that meet the sexual and reproductive healthcare needs of rural-urban migrant women in Dhaka; to understand the push-pull factors that contributed to the decision to migrate.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: Georgetown University

Partner: Georgetown University

### - **SOCIAL INCLUSION THROUGH SKILL DEVELOPMENT: EXPLORING THE LIVED REALITIES OF BRAC SDP GRADUATES THROUGH PHOTO NARRATIVE**

PI: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI: Wafa Alam, Assistant Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator:

- Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH;

- Wafa Alam, Assistant Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: September 2019 - August 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To explore the experiences of women in non-conventional trade, transgender individuals and persons with disabilities after graduation from SDP training programmes; to understand their need for support after graduation in order to ensure a sustainable social inclusion; to understand experiences of SDP graduates during COVID-19 pandemic through follow up phone interviews.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: BRAC Skills Development Programme (SDP)

Partner: BRAC Skills Development Programme (SDP)

- **EXPLORING THE FEASIBILITY OF COLLECTING A CORE SET OF INDICATORS FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATING SEXUAL, REPRODUCTIVE, MATERNAL, NEWBORN, CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH SERVICES AND OUTCOMES IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS**

PI: Dr Md. Tanvir Hasan, Associate Professor and Co-Director, CUEH, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI: Bachera Aktar, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator: Nadia Farnaz, Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: September 2019 - April 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To assess the feasibility of collecting data on a core set of indicators for monitoring and evaluating SRMNCAH in settings affected by humanitarian crises.

Methodology: Mixed Methods

Partners: Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Ottawa (Canada); Cambridge Reproductive Health Consultants (USA)

Donor: World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva

- **COUNTERING BACKLASH AND RECLAIMING GENDER JUSTICE**

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator:

- Ishrat Jahan, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH

- Aisha Siddika, Senior Researcher, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: October 2019 - 2024

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: Understanding the backlash against women's rights and gender justice; addressing the erosion of gender agendas, their co-option and its stereotyping effects; advancing new opportunities for women's movements and rights defenders to reclaim gender justice; enhance the understanding and capacities needed – and identify opportunities – for women's rights organisations and other gender justice defenders.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

Partner: Leading institute - Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex

Partner countries/ regions - India, Brazil, UK, Kenya, Uganda and Middle East regions.

#### - **CAPTURING BEST PRACTICES OF BRAC'S ENGAGING MEN (EMB) PROJECT**

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: October 2019 - May 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: Capture and document evidence/learnings and best practices of successful and unsuccessful strategies and approaches (what has worked best and what has not worked) used for mobilising men and boys in support of gender equality.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: BRAC

Partner: BRAC GJD, CEP & IDP

#### - **A MIXED-METHODS CLUSTER RANDOMISED CONTROLLED TRIAL OF BIOMETRICALLY ENABLED MHEALTH SYSTEM OF BRAC COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMME**

PI: Dr Md. Tanvir Hasan, Associate Professor and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH

Co- PI: Professor Zahidul Quayyum, Co-Director Reserch and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH

Focal person: Adrita Kaiser, Assistant Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: October 2019 - December 2020

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To evaluate the impact of a biometrically enabled mHealth (Simprints) system on selected maternal and child health outcomes in 36 districts of Bangladesh; to examine the cost-effectiveness of the biometrically enabled mHealth system in improving maternal and child health outcomes in the 36 selected districts. In addition, to determine whether benefits exceed costs (cost-benefit analysis); to explore, if the “Simprints” system contributes to an efficiency gain in overall management of health care and Management Information System (MIS) in providing maternal and child health services in 36 districts of Bangladesh; to explore perceptions and understandings of the beneficiaries about potential benefits (if there is any) of the biometrically enabled mHealth system.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: Simprint; BRAC Health, Nutrition and Population Programme (HNPP)

Partner: BRAC Health, Nutrition and Population Programme (HNPP)

- **MOBILISING FOR A RESEARCH REVOLUTION TO ENSURE LGBTIQ INCLUSION IN ASIA: A HIGH-IMPACT, TRANSFORMATIVE INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP (MFARR-ASIA)**

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH; Professor Peter A. Newman, Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto

Co-PI: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH; Selima Sara Kabir, Assistant Research Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH; Md. Maruf Rahman, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Md. Maruf Rahman, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: November 2019 – March 2024

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To generate a shared understanding of characteristics and priorities of LGBTIQ inclusion in six sectors: education, employment, family, violence/security, health and political participation; to measure and monitor LGBTIQ inclusion in four countries (India, Thailand, Bangladesh and Hong Kong) over time; to identify model programs and initiatives, and good practices to support LGBTIQ inclusion; to increase access to and use of knowledge by community-based organisation (CBO) and intergovernmental organisation (IGO) partners through innovative knowledge mobilisation, including participatory video.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Partners:

- Oboyob: Diversity Circle
- Bandhu Social Welfare Society



- **BRAC - DISRUPTING CROSS BORDER TRAFFICKING NETWORKS IN JASHORE, BANGLADESH**

PI: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI: Dr Md. Tanvir Hasan, Associate Professor and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator: Sophia Kaufman, Project Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH

Technical Advisor: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Focal: Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: November 2019 - April 2021

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Objective: To conduct formative research during inception to understand the gaps and barriers that might inhibit effective CBT programming in Jashore;

- To conduct operational research (in close coordination with monitoring teams and the digital monitoring system) to understand how and why the project is able to achieve objectives or not, and inform fast adaptations and improvements on how to move to scale effectively;
- To conduct baseline and end line surveys and evaluation reports to understand project performance against the project results framework.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: Children Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), UK

Partner: Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)