

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

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 2020

- EXPLORING THE OUTCOMES, SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES OF THE SOFT SKILL TRAINING COMPONENT OF BRAC SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (SDP)

PI: Dr Farzana A. Misha, Assistant Professor, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator: Muhammad Riaz Hossain, Assistant Project Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH

Timeline: January 2020- July 2020

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

Objective: To understand perceptions of beneficiaries and peer leaders regarding the soft skill training programme, exploring the effect of soft skills training programme on beneficiaries; explore the successes and challenges of the soft skill training programme to generate relevant recommendations for programme strengthening and scale up.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: BRAC Skills Development Programme (SDP)

- DOCUMENTARIES ON CONSENT AND SKIN COLOUR

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

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

Timeline: January 2020 - December 2020

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

Objective: To increase knowledge and conceptual clarity among young people on issues of consent and choice in the context of SRHR; to sensitised university students and young people on issues of choice in the context of early marriage, relationships, marital rape and cybercrimes; to explore the common perception of colorism in Bangladesh and collect narratives of those who have been discriminated against for darker skin tone; to examine the realities of how colorism can deeply affect all aspects of peoples' lives and the decision they make or opportunities they are given; to raise awareness regarding this social injustice which is otherwise 'normalised' in the society.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: International Republican Institute (IRI)

- RANA PLAZA COLLAPSE: BRAC'S EXPERIENCE AS A KEY PLAYER ON POST RANA PLAZA DISASTER

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Mrinmoy Samadder, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Other Researchers:

- Nicholas Turzo Mandol, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Raafat Hassan, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Nosin Nahian, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: February 2020 - October 2020

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

Objective: Holistic Support Package for Rana Plaza survivors, where they supported 50 survivors; assistance and support to the victims of Rana Plaza collapse and their families, where they supported 280 survivors; ensure long-term medical services and post-award livelihood support for 450 victims of Rana Plaza tragedy; to document BRAC's performance post Rana Plaza disaster and illustrate the ongoing physical, psychological and socio-economic conditions of the survivors.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor and Partner: BRAC

- **GENDER AND ADOLESCENCE: GLOBAL EVIDENCE (GAGE)**

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

Co-PI:

- Maheen Sultan, Head, Gender and Social Transformation Cluster, BRAC Institute for Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University.

Coordinated by:

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

- Md. Sajib Rana, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: March 2020 - November 2020

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

Objective: To address the transformative processes of adolescents in the face of discriminatory social norms and institutional barriers by generating data of their capabilities, changing the context of early adolescence through to adulthood and focusing on the dynamic interactions that shape adolescents' outcomes and life experiences in their world.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence Programme, Overseas Development Institute (GAGE ODI).

Partner: Gender and Social Transformation Cluster, BRAC Institute for Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University.

- **IMPACT EVALUATION DESIGN FOR EVALUATION OF ADOLESCENT STUDENT PROGRAMME (BANGLADESH)**

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

Co-PI: Maheen Sultan, Head, Gender and Social Transformation Cluster, BRAC Institute for Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University.

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

Timeline: March 2020 – December 2020

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

Objective: Evaluate the impact of various components of the Adolescent Student Programme (ASP) intervention at the school level, with the overall aim to improve adolescent well-being; to equip the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) with an evidence-based and cost-effective model before scaling-up

the ASP intervention; to understand the knowledge, perceptions, practices, challenges and coping mechanisms of adolescent boys and girls living in low-income settlements during the pandemic.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence Programme, Overseas Development Institute (GAGE ODI)

Partners:

- BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University;
- Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence Programme, Overseas Development Institute (GAGE ODI)

- A BASELINE STUDY OF THE CURRENT SITUATION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES (WGWDs) FACING VIOLENCE IN SELECTED AREAS OF BANGLADESH

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

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

Co-PI and Focal:

- Md. Uzzal Chowdhury, Senior Statistician, BRAC JPGSPH;
- Fatema Akter Bonny, Deputy Research Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: July 2020 - December 2020

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

Objective: To explore the knowledge & awareness about SRHR issues, level of violence experienced by the women & girls with disabilities (WGWDs); to explore the coping strategies adopted by women & girls with disabilities; identify the gaps in currently implementing interventions and/or services, and to recommend strategies to improve delivery of efficacious interventions and/or services.

Donor: UN Women funded through Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)

Methodology: Mixed method

Partners:

- The Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), Bangladesh.
- BRAC JPGSPH.

- **SUSTAINABILITY OF TELECOMMUNICATION MODEL IN SUPPORT OF PROMOTING PLAY BASED LEARNING AMONG CHILDREN**

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH.

Co-PI: Dr Anis Pervez, Senior Technical Advisor, BRAC JPGSPH.

Coordinator: Mrinimoy Samadder, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Other Researchers:

- Khandakar Mohymeen Layes, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH;

- Syeda Sayka Tabassum, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: September 2020 - November 2020

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

Objective: Understand the Sustainability of the telecommunication model for play-based learning.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor and Partner: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BRAC IED)

- **DOCUMENTING INTEGRATION OF ECD WITH MENTAL HEALTH**

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH

Co-PI: Dr Anis Pervez, Senior Technical Advisor, BRAC JPGSPH

Coordinator: Mrinimoy Samadder, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH.

Other Researchers:

- Khandakar Mohymeen Layes, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH;

- Syeda Sayka Tabassum, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH.

Timeline: December 2020 - February 2021

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

Objective: To document the process of integration of mental health into play-based model.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor and Partner: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BRAC IED)