

# Understanding Youth Perspectives on Reproductive Health in Urban Bangladesh

*Shohal Hossain*, Department of Public Health, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Email: shohal.h@example.com

## Abstract:

This study explores youth perspectives on reproductive health in urban Dhaka. Using a cross-sectional survey (n=384), we assessed knowledge, attitude, and practices regarding sexual and reproductive health (SRH). Results revealed limited access to services and significant knowledge gaps among adolescents. Findings suggest a need for targeted SRH interventions and inclusive education programs.

**Keywords:** Youth, Reproductive Health, Urban Bangladesh, SRH, Adolescent Health

## Introduction

In Bangladesh, reproductive health challenges among adolescents remain a public concern (UNFPA, 2021). Despite growing urbanization, awareness and access to youth-friendly services are low. This study aims to understand the knowledge and practices related to SRH among urban youth to inform policy and education interventions.

## 4. Literature Review (optional or merged with Introduction)

- Discuss previous research
- Identify gaps
- Justify the need for your study

## Methodology

A cross-sectional study was conducted in Dhaka from March to June 2024. A structured questionnaire was administered to 384 adolescents aged 15–24. Data were analyzed using SPSS v26, including descriptive statistics and logistic regression. Ethical clearance was obtained from the Dhaka University Ethics Committee.

## Results

The mean age was 19.3 years; 56% were female. Only 42% had adequate knowledge of contraception. Logistic regression revealed that education level was significantly associated with SRH knowledge (AOR = 2.46; 95% CI = 1.32–4.61;  $p = 0.004$ ).

## Discussion

The findings align with WHO (2020) data showing similar SRH knowledge gaps in low-income urban settings. The low awareness may reflect inadequate school-based SRH education. However, the cross-sectional nature of this study limits causal inference.

## Conclusion

This study highlights the urgent need for comprehensive, youth-friendly SRH services in urban Dhaka. Strengthening school curricula and community-based interventions may improve outcomes.

## References

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