



Mohammad Ponir Hossain

# LIFE IN THE TIMES OF CORONAVIRUS: A GENDERED PERSPECTIVE

## Timeline:

This is a six-month long project. Duration of the project is July 15, 2020 to December 15, 2020.

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**OBJECTIVE(S) AND OUTCOME(S):** The objectives of this project is to capture and curate the life stories and experiences of men and women in both rural and urban Bangladesh during the times of the novel coronavirus global pandemic. Building on the national non-profit organization Manusher Jonno Foundation's (MJF) existing nation-wide research on violence against women, BRAC James P. Grant School of Public Health (BRAC JPGSPH) will develop qualitative action research that aims to understand the gendered nature of the pandemic. The qualitative research will look at both health and socio-economic aspects and how they affect men and women either differently or similarly during this crisis situation. The findings will be the basis for two important outcomes – (a.) an initial draft process of a much-needed gender and SRHR policy in crisis times in Bangladesh, and (b.) a high-quality podcast series (maximum 20 episodes)/audio-capturing method that will function as both an advocacy tool for the findings as well as operate as an innovative way of capturing data during times of lockdowns and social distancing.

**ACTIVITIES:** This project will work towards initiating the policy drafting process. Policies must be anchored with the government for them to translate into national initiatives. This project will assist the government to start thinking and drafting the policy on SRHR in crisis times. Both the research and podcast parts of the project will be activities to support the policy drafting exercise, as well as standalone deliverables of the project. The qualitative research will be based on the on-going action research on violence against women by MJF that will extend into overall gendered experience of the pandemic. The podcast will be developed with the information/data from the research part. It will also serve as a data capturing and advocacy tool to take the issue of SRHR and specifically the policy dialogue further.

**TARGET COUNTRIES AND AUDIENCE:** This particular project is designed for Bangladesh. The qualitative research will be carried out with community members of MJF's extensive NGO network throughout the nation. While the project is specifically on and for Bangladesh, the lessons learnt from carrying out the project as well as the research and podcast outcomes will be of critical value to the global SRH sector for future planning and programming since outbreaks like COVID 19 are predicted to be the "new normal".

**Grant Amount:** Euros 19,970. | **Donor:** Share-Net International

## Partners:

- Center for Gender, Sexual, Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR), BRAC JPGSPH
- Manusher Jonno Foundation's (MJF)
- Share-Net International.