2022

Co-Creation

Conference

DELIBERATIVE DIALOGUES

Share-Net International Co-Creation Conference

Share-Net
International

INTRODUCTION

This document is based on the focus groups discussions conducted with experts and participants of the Communities of Practice (COP) of each of the Share-Net hubs and the international CoP, as well as key actors involved in the formulation of policies or working directly with society to protect and guarantee Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights" (SRHR)

The main objective was to explore different opinions, perspectives, beliefs, agreements and disagreements on the access to quality information in different countries (Castro, 2016) in order to identify the principal subtopics, as well as the proposed products to work on during the third Share-Net International Co-Creation Conference. This conference will take place in Colombia in July 2022, and its central theme will be "Access to quality information on SRHR".

PROPOSED TOPICS:

Focus Groups Discussions, a narrative review and national and international recommendations delivered by the Share-Net CoPs, led this research to choose five common topics for all countries. In addition, under some topics, specific population groups were identified who, given geographical, and economic, social and cultural determinants, are more at risk and require more and special attention to to reduce their vulnerabilities.

1. Translation of knowledge to culturally sensitive information:

Even while the dissemination of SRHR information has been improving and becoming more democratic, reaching, all the communities despite the barriers and attending their specifics characteristics and communication needs stay difficult. Important factors to take into account to make SRHR information more accessible voiced in the focus group discussions include the use of local languages for ethnic communities, the communications skills for people with disabilities and the learning dynamics and cultural traditions involved in the knowledge translation; which is the main objective of this subtopic.

- Access to quality information is restricted not only by failures on the information process and low standards in the process, but also by the use of major languages in the generation and dissemination of this information.

- There is a large amount of information produced and disseminated in English. However, translation to different languages (including local languages) is needed to reach out to different communities and people.

- It is needed to create new ways to disseminate information which go beyond written documents and take the cultural and social factors of the indigenous and ethnic groups into account (Meijers, y otros, 2022).

- ✔ **What can we do?** Identify specific needs on the access to information on SRHR of specific communities, and define strategies adjusted to particular social contexts and population groups. Elaboration of communication pieces, like infographics and guides, as well as communication strategies that involve the generation of different contents for radio, social media, television, podcasts and commercials or

advertisements, so the information can reach any kind of group despite their local or geographic location.

An example can be the production and distribution of books or primers with braille language, and podcasts with SRHR contents so people with visual disabilities can access information.

2. Sensitive SRHR topics - cultural and religious beliefs and/or customs

A strong relationship between religious institutions and state, and the intervention of religious leaders in the formulation of public policies, were the most frequent dynamics referenced in focus group discussions. As participants mentioned, countries that historically and traditionally have maintained a strong relationship between religious institutions and state, are the ones that have more difficulties in the implementation of processes to guarantee access to information on SRHR.

- "Talking about sexual and reproductive rights is a taboo" (Share-Net Bangladesh, 2022), shows the common belief that denies the social character and the importance of including rights in the socialization process of population groups and societies.

- Sexuality is not conceived as a right but as a private matter, ignoring its role in political and social dynamics, as well as the ways in which sexuality is assumed: how bodies and gender identity are socially constructed, relationships between women and men, love manifestations and bonding, care and selfcare, masturbation, sexual pleasure, and bodies social presentation and representation (Share-Net International, 2022).

- In many places in the world, even when there is not a strong regulation against LGBTIQ+ people, hate crimes and persecutions are frequent and persist, sometimes with the authority's permission and institutions' negligence.

- Given the strong traditions that cause child marriage and abortions, there is a fundamental need to guarantee full access to sexual and reproductive health services for affected children. It is very important to involve children and teenagers in the development of quality SRHR information (Share-Net Burkina Faso, 2022).

● Child marriages and abortion are related to gender inequities, since girls, one of the most vulnerable groups, are traded as an object and part of a social transaction between communities. After marriage, girls often abandon school, get pregnant, and are victims of gender-based violence, increasing the gaps and barriers to achieve their full potential (UNFPA, 2022).

● Child marriage interrupts the experience of childhood, and these girls are suddenly at a high-risk of violence against women, sexual violence and femicides as mentioned in the focus group discussions.

✔ ***What can we do?*** Involvement of religious leaders who are in favor of SRHR in the development and implementation of programs and development and dissemination of messages.

Afroféminas is an excellent example, being a Spanish, black feminist, anti-racist communication social media, "they have very successful channels within social networks such as TikTok (with more than 11 million followers) where they share videos that reach millions and thousands of views." (Share-Net Colombia, 2022).

It is also proposed to create support networks of healthcare professionals for sexual and reproductive rights in order to provide medical and psychological services to people in each country. An example of such a network is "La communauté d'Action pour la Promotion de la Santé Sexuelle et Reproductive – CAPSSR-BF" from Burkina Faso. It was created in 2015 as a coalition of 35 organizations that promotes Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights by combating gender-based violence and ensuring Voluntary Interruption of pregnancy under conditions provided by law (Share-Net Burkina Faso, 2022).

3. Translation of public policies and social accountability

Legal and political development in countries that have signed Sustainable Development Goals has been extensive. However, more efforts are needed for implement themat local, regional and national levels, through specific regulations and solid public policies, especially in contexts that are vulnerable due to social and civil conflicts, humanitarian crises, and extreme poverty.

● "While knowledge is more than evidence generated by research, knowledge translation strategies can harness the power of scientific evidence and leadership in guiding, transforming or developing policies and practices as the use of knowledge is the safest way to develop such policies despite continued calls to promote and apply research" (Share-Net Jordan, 2022).

● Often, laws and policies are developed in a centralized bureaucratic way by governmental institutios. There is a need to include more target populations in these processes. "The bureaucratic nature of policy-making and tendency to centralization of decision-making and deepen a policy-making culture that attaches little importance to evidence-based research" (Share-Net Jordan, 2022).

✔ ***What can we do?*** "Lobby and advocacy with policymakers and community leaders, involving religious leaders: next to direct lobbying efforts, policy briefs and round tables could serve as tools to support advocacy efforts. The objective is better implementation of laws and policies, including more youth-sensitive approaches and including youth in the formulation of laws and policies" (Share-Net International, 2022).

4. Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE)

Although sexual and reproductive rights have been included more in education, it still represents one of the biggest challenges all over the world. It is necessary to understand, recognize and redefine sexual and reproductive rights. In the focus groups, education was proposed as a crucial element in order to access and disseminate rights-based information (Share-Net Jordan, 2022).

● Although comprehensive guidelines on sexuality education are available, enabling countries to provide sexuality education in schools, freedom of education allowed schools to decide which information to provide. "We cannot ignore that we've been having a major development of sexual and reproductive rights laws and policymaking. There are countries where SRHR are taught, but due to academic freedom, private schools choose which information provide according to their interests".

- Education infrastructure is not always adequate, there are many rural areas where schools and education are less accessible. Indigenous and ethnic communities are the most directly affected (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 2021). School dropout rates in the world are high. Not all children and young people go to school, and many others study under complex conditions such as walking for hours from home and not having the basic infrastructure (Internet and technology) (UNESCO, 2020).In addition, school dropout rates in the world are high. Not all children and young people go to school, and many others study under complex conditions such as walking for hours from home and not having the basic infrastructure (Internet and technology) (UNESCO, 2020).

- ✔ ***What can we do?*** It is necessary to provide an comprehensive education in schools, sexual and reproductive health and rights are needed to be explained, defined and understood by students (Share-Net Jordan, 2022). Guidelines for comprehensive sexuality education can be used to develop school curriculums.

5. Access to technology and innovative approaches to accessing SRHR information

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- There is a strong relationship between barriers to access information on the Internet, and access to technology. Older adults, people with a low income and ethnic communities are the most left-behind population groups (Passey, y otros, 2018).

- Access to technology has increased (ex. access to cell phones) and digital platforms have fastened the circulation of information around the world in an effective and instant way, connecting cultures and processes, and reaching large and diverse communities (Aguilar, 2020). However, there is not enough education about how to use it. In addition, cell phones can be a luxury in some contexts as mentioned during the focus group discussions.

6. SRHR for those left behind

As mentioned in this paper, everyone should have access to quality information on SRHR, however, there are some groups that are more vulnerable and do not have access to enough and appropriate information. These groups do not have, in most cases, services designed to meet their needs (Share-Net Burkina Faso, 2022).

- People with disabilities: There is an inadequacy of official communication channels such as schools, universities, newspapers, or the media in their awareness role in announcing the availability of reproductive health services for people with disabilities and their families (Share-Net Jordan, 2022).

- LGBTIQ+: Prejudices and exclusion are common situations this community faces. The LGBTIQ+ community requires a particular approach not only in access to information on SRHR but also in access to services. They frequently experience hate crimes and persecution due to their identity (Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), 2022).

- Youth and adolescents: "Adolescents hardly get any information service about SRHR in Bangladesh" or related subjects. "Parents often hesitate to discuss these issues with their children, they lack knowledge on SRHR and it deprives them from visiting health service centers. This happens due to the traditional socio-cultural norms and practices" (Share-Net Bangladesh, 2022).

- Women: Access to information on SRHR is particularly complex for women with low incomes or from ethnic communities, migrants, refugees, sex workers, imprisoned women, or women in rural communities. It is well known that people in those situations typically do not have the resources to access communication. They are most likely to become victims of sexual violence and drug use (Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), 2011).

- Older Adults: Older adults are almost invisible and rarely prioritized when working on SRHR. There are no strategies at this stage of life, because it is assumed that sexuality almost disappears in an advanced age as mentioned in the focus group discussion.

PROPOSED SUBTOPICS

International Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Co-Creation Conference "Engaging in knowledge translation together"

1. Translation of knowledge to culturally sensitive information

2. Sensitive SRHR topics: Cultural/religious beliefs and/or customs

3. Translation of public policies and social accountability

4. Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE)

5. Access to technology and Innovative approaches to access SRHR

6. SRHR for those left behind

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