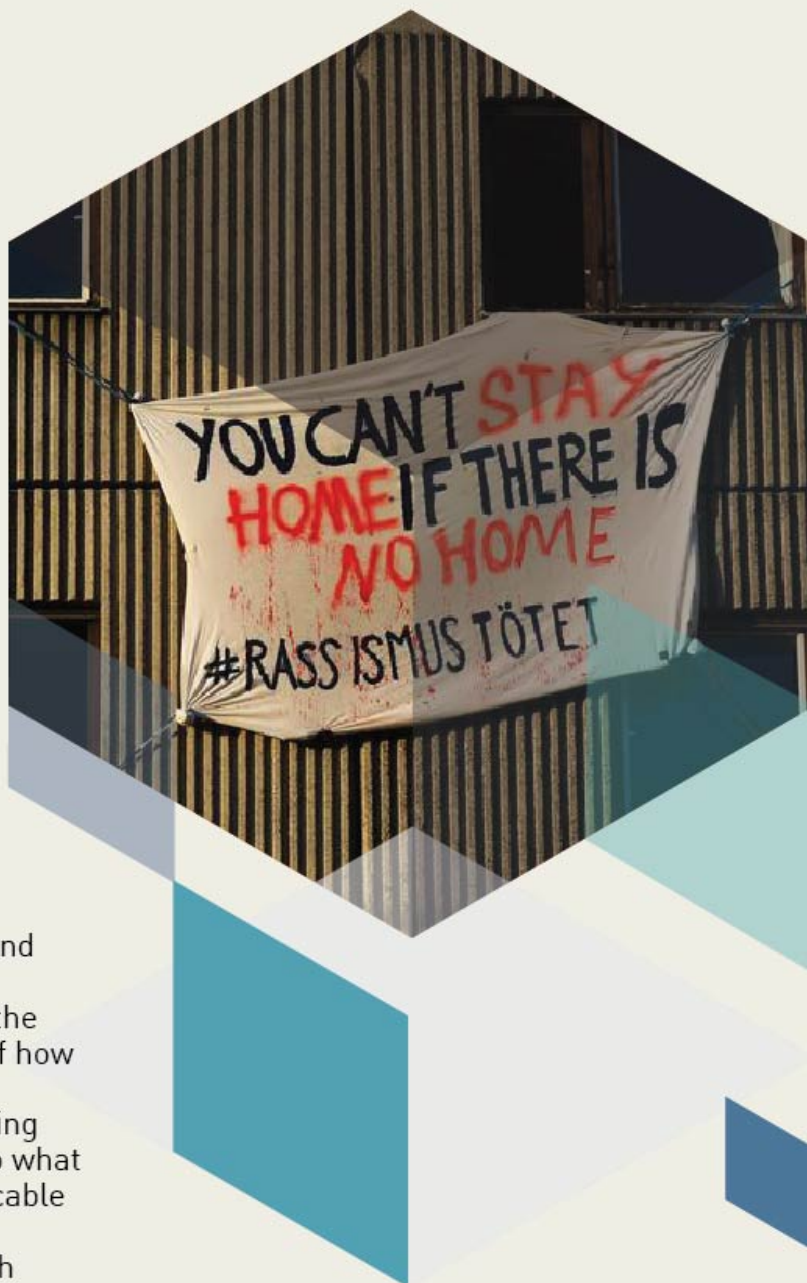


# IMPACTS CONSEQUENCES AND RESPONSES TO COVID-19 IN BANGLADESH : A HUMAN SECURITY APPROACH



## Background

In Bangladesh we have one policy and one strategy; national strategy for adolescent reproductive health for the country, but there is no indication of how that would be maintained in an emergency. We have universal guiding principles in our strategy, though to what extent they are pragmatic or practicable is not clear. This pandemic has intensified adolescent mental health effects and is predicted by many that these effects will continue.



“ COVID-19 AND THE  
GENERATIONAL  
DIVIDE

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## COVID-19 AND THE GENERATIONAL DIVIDE

### CORONA-DRIVEN ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING: A RAPID ASSESSMENT



#### Challenges

- Increasing clash of expectations between parents and children
- Rising dissociation: Parents worry about child and adolescents' behavior. They seem to struggle to understand them
- Families that are unable to afford spacious residences struggle more to maintain bowel health. Adolescents tend to occupy common family toilets
- Increase in substance abuse
- Frequent disagreements between parents' and children's opinions due to lockdown; with globalization and Internet, youth are getting more exposed to inclusive conversations, e.g., that of homosexuality or global politics, which sometimes are sensitive issues for parents who may struggle to have similar opinions
- Parents report their concern over children's ill exposure to inappropriate online content such as pornography
- Parents report the never-before-seen extent and magnitude of adolescent emotions, i.e., rage and anger, lying, secretiveness, mood swings, sleep deprivation, lack of taste/appetite, digital gaming addiction, overwhelming screen time, procrastination, inattention/lack of focus, hyper-emotionalism, blaming-mindedness, bad associations online, deterioration in reading and writing skills, and self-harming tendencies
- National adolescent policies and strategies lean more to girls' reproductive health, and less on mental health, especially emergency management (i.e., pandemic)
- Sharing common workspace challenges guardian-adolescent privacy, and privacy-seeking adolescents tend to maintain distance from the guardians. Such an interactional divide causes many children to feel neglected and left out



#### Recommendations

- National priorities toward GDP growth put adolescents into lesser focus and passive priority on national health planning. They do not qualify for safety-net support either
- 'Be Apart Together' is a Corona-time principle that deserves to be applied among adolescents and parents in the Bangladesh context as well
- Bangladesh needs to consider developing an interactive/ bridging model to narrow the gaps between generations
- Bangladesh has success stories of social behavioral change communication. However, the COVID-19 experience suggests a need for the introduction of an emergency behavior change communication intervention model