

Meaning given to Adolescents' Reproductive Health in Bangladesh

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Abstrak

Adolescents ranging in age from 10 to 19 years constitute a large population group in the world. Their number is over one billion and the number is increasing. Since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo 1994 a radical development has marked the field of adolescents' reproductive health. Today population studies are centred more on an individual's rights, needs, and ambitions than on demographic targets. The present paper is an attempt to study the socio-cultural and gender aspects of adolescents' reproductive health in Bangladesh from a process-context approach. This means that the adolescents' reproductive health behavior is seen as the outcome of a process involving a series of individual decisions and actions occurring within social, economic, ecological, cultural and political contexts. Therefore, the needs and aspirations of adolescents are not only determined by biological and behavioral factors, but through socio-cultural and gender attitudes. Culture specific researches, policies, and programs can help adolescents to meet their fresh demands, flourish their innovative ideas, thoughts and equip them with the kind of education, shifts, and outlook they need in a changing environment.