

TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR)

Individual Consultant

Youth Share-Net Project | Supported by RedOrange

Research Title	AI for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV): Opportunities, Risks, and Youth Perspectives in Bangladesh
Organization	DALIT
Project	Youth Share-Net Project, supported by RedOrange, and AmplifyChange
Location	Khulna City, Bangladesh (in-person fieldwork)

1. Background and Rationale

Young people in Bangladesh increasingly use smartphones, social media and AI tools such as chatbots to find information, including on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). These tools offer fast, private and non-judgmental access to information, but also carry risks: misinformation, privacy violations, algorithmic bias and barriers to reaching reliable services.

At the same time, technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) is an emerging concern. It includes online harassment, cyberstalking, non-consensual sharing of intimate images, impersonation and AI-generated sexualized deepfakes, and it can harm young people's safety, dignity, mental well-being and participation in digital life. Experiences differ by gender, age, disability, socioeconomic status and marginalization.

Research grounded in young people's own perspectives and the Bangladesh context remains limited. DALIT is therefore commissioning a small-scale, ethically sensitive, youth-led study to generate practical recommendations for safer and more inclusive access to SRHR information and digital spaces.

2. About DALIT and the Youth Share-Net Project

DALIT is a non-governmental, non-profit organization founded in 1998 by young Dalit people to promote the rights, dignity and well-being of Dalit and other marginalized communities in Bangladesh. Through the Youth Share-Net Project, supported by RedOrange, and AmplifyChange, DALIT strengthens knowledge sharing and amplifies the voices of marginalized youth through evidence-based research and advocacy. This assignment forms part of that research component and will be carried out in Khulna City.

3. Purpose and Objectives

To understand how AI-enabled tools and digital technologies shape young people's access to reliable SRHR information and services, and to examine the risks of TFGBV, so that DALIT, RedOrange, youth networks and other stakeholders can design safer, gender-responsive, rights-based digital SRHR initiatives.

The study will:

- Describe how young people use AI platforms, chatbots, social media and other digital tools to seek SRHR information and support.
- Identify the perceived benefits, limitations and risks of AI-generated and online SRHR information, including misinformation, privacy, algorithmic bias and barriers to trustworthy services.
- Document young people's awareness and perceptions of TFGBV (including online harassment, cyberstalking, image-based abuse, impersonation and AI-generated sexualized deepfakes) and, only where participants choose to share, their general observations.
- Explore how gender, age, disability, socioeconomic status and marginalization influence digital experiences and vulnerability to online abuse.
- Identify young people's needs, coping strategies, sources of support and awareness of reporting and referral mechanisms.
- Formulate practical, youth-informed recommendations for safer, inclusive, gender-responsive and rights-based AI and digital SRHR initiatives.

4. Key Research Questions

- RQ1. Which AI tools, platforms and digital channels do young people use to find SRHR information, and for what purposes?
- RQ2. How do young people judge the credibility, accessibility, confidentiality and inclusiveness of AI-generated SRHR information?
- RQ3. What risks (misinformation, discrimination, data misuse, privacy violations) do young people and experts associate with AI and digital SRHR sources?
- RQ4. How aware are young people of the forms of TFGBV, including deepfakes, and how do they perceive its impact on safety, dignity, mental well-being and participation?
- RQ5. How do gender, age, disability, socioeconomic status and marginalization shape digital access, digital literacy and exposure to online abuse?
- RQ6. What coping strategies, support systems and reporting or referral options do young people know of and use, and what barriers do they face?
- RQ7. What do young people, SRHR practitioners and digital rights experts recommend for NGOs, youth networks, policymakers and technology providers?

5. Scope of the Study

- **Thematic:** AI-enabled and other digital sources of SRHR information; credibility, accessibility, confidentiality and inclusiveness of AI-generated health information; misinformation, discrimination, data misuse and privacy; TFGBV and its effects; digital literacy, consent, online safety and awareness of support services; and recommendations for NGOs, youth networks, practitioners, policymakers and technology providers.
- **Geographic:** Khulna City, focusing on Khulna University (KU), Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (KUET), Govt. Brajalal (B.L.) College and other education institutions.
- **Population:** Young people aged 18 to 29 enrolled in the participating institutions, plus key informants (practitioners, experts, service providers).

- **Boundaries:** The study will not collect or circulate intimate images or explicit content, will not require participants to disclose personal experiences of violence, and will not evaluate individual AI products. AI tools are examined as information sources, not as substitutes for qualified SRHR or psychosocial services. Findings reflect the study sample and are not nationally representative.

6. Methodology

A primarily qualitative design with a short survey, using participatory methods suited to a youth-led assignment. The methods below are indicative and will be finalized with DALIT in the inception phase.

Component	Approach
Desk review	Review of literature, policies and research on AI, SRHR, digital safety and TFGBV, prioritizing credible Bangladesh-relevant evidence, UN publications and recognized SRHR and digital rights organizations. All sources cited.
Key informant interviews (KIIs)	6 to 8 interviews with SRHR practitioners, youth representatives, digital rights experts, university counselling or student welfare focal points and service providers.
Focus group discussions (FGDs)	4 to 6 FGDs of 6 to 8 participants each, organized to promote comfort and safety (for example, by gender), and including youth with disabilities or from marginalized backgrounds where feasible.
Short survey	Brief, anonymous, non-intrusive questionnaire with about 120 young respondents on AI and digital tool use, perceived information quality, awareness of TFGBV and awareness of support services.
Youth validation consultation	Presentation of preliminary findings to youth network members and stakeholders to validate findings and refine recommendations.

7. Ethical Considerations and Safeguarding

The Youth Researcher must follow DALIT's safeguarding policies and the principles below. Ethical practice takes priority over data collection targets.

- **Informed, voluntary consent:** Participants are told the purpose, topics and risks, and may skip questions or withdraw at any time without consequence. Consent is documented in a way that protects anonymity.
- **Confidentiality and data security:** No names or identifying details in reports. Data is stored in secure, password-protected, access-controlled locations, shared only with authorized persons and deleted according to DALIT's guidance.
- **Vulnerable participants and survivors:** Safe, private, non-judgmental settings, with attention to power dynamics, gender and disability access needs. Participants will be given information on available support and referral services.
- **Responsible use of AI:** Any use of AI tools in the assignment must be disclosed and verified against credible sources. Confidential or identifying participant data must never be entered into public AI tools.

8. Role and Responsibilities

One Youth Researcher will be engaged with sector level expert as a team. The Youth Researcher works under the supervision of DALIT's Youth Share-Net project team:

- Conduct the desk review; develop the research framework, inception report and data collection tools.
- Coordinate with the project team to arrange KIIs, FGDs, the survey and consultations in the selected institutions.
- Collect data ethically and sensitively, in line with the safeguarding requirements above.
- Manage, secure and analyze data, ensuring accuracy and quality of records.
- Draft and finalize the research report, a policy brief or youth-friendly summary, and a presentation of findings.
- Report progress, challenges and risks to the supervisor regularly and promptly.
- Uphold confidentiality, gender equality, inclusion and respect for all participants.

9. Deliverables and Timeline

The assignment spans 45 working days. The start date will be confirmed with the selected candidate; final deliverables and dates are agreed with DALIT.

Phase	Activities	Working days	Deliverable
1	Orientation, desk review, tool development and approval	Days 1 - 10	Inception report; literature review and research framework; approved tools
2	Pre-testing, institutional coordination, data collection (KIIs, FGDs, survey)	Days 11 - 25	Completed, ethically collected dataset
3	Data analysis and drafting	Days 26 - 35	Draft research report
4	Youth validation consultation, feedback, finalization	Days 36 - 42	Final report; policy brief or youth-friendly summary
5	Presentation and handover	Days 43 - 45	Presentation of findings; handover of files and data

10. Qualifications and Competencies

Open to current students, recent graduates, early-career researchers and youth activists with a demonstrated interest in SRHR, gender equality, digital rights, and AI or youth development. No minimum or maximum age applies.

Required

- Demonstrated interest in SRHR, gender equality, digital rights, AI or youth development.
- Basic understanding of qualitative or quantitative research methods.
- Strong analytical, communication and writing skills in English; fluency in Bangla for fieldwork.
- Ability to work in a team and meet deadlines.
- Commitment to research ethics, confidentiality, gender equality and inclusion.
- Ability to be based in Khulna City for the fieldwork period.

DALIT strongly encourages applications from young women, persons with disabilities and youth from marginalized communities.

11. How to Apply

Send the following in a single email to **career.dalit@gmail.com** with the subject line **“Application: Youth Researcher (AI, SRHR and TFGBV)”**:

- A current CV (maximum 2 pages).
- Technical and Financial Proposal (*maximum 5 pages, including financial and technical proposal*)
- A sample of academic or research writing. Applicants without prior research experience are not disadvantaged by omitting it.

Deadline: 27 October 2026. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted. DALIT is committed to safeguarding, equal opportunity and non-discrimination.

12. Contact Information

Organization	DALIT
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Project	Youth Share-Net Supported by RedOrange