

Where Do They Go?



Short film made from research findings screened

A short film scripted from the finding of a research was screened at BRAC Centre in Dhaka on March 4. The Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and

Reproductive Health Rights (CGSRHR) at JPGSPH under the the BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) produced the film.

This film has been produced based on the research findings of a project titled 'Accessibility of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Services for Single Working Women in Urban Bangladesh.'

The aim of this project was to collect stories from single, working women in urban Dhaka to understand the choices they make in order to navigate their lives in a society that often overlooks their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). The project was funded by Share-Net International based in the Netherlands.

The screening was followed by a short Q&A session with research participants who were also featured in the short documentary. The participants included three women who live and work in Dhaka and shared their experiences about challenges navigating SRHR services in the country.

The floor was opened to audience members who asked the participants and the researchers questions about the film, their own lives, and what inspired them to take on this film project. Audience members asked those on stage how they cope with the challenges they face and share their own stories and how they try to overcome the challenges they face as women in Dhaka.

Dr Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean, BRAC JPGSPH said, "Although these [challenges] do not simply go away, there are still changes that allow us to cope in various ways, including what we are doing now – discussing it openly and challenging existing discourse around these issues."

The interactive session between the audience and panelists was followed by a theatrical performance by the group *Bonhishikha* which was also developed from the interviews.

Bonhishikha, also known as "Unlearn Gender" believes that gender stereotypes with roles, constrain the potential of individuals by holding them back. Their performances are based on real-life incidents and stories collected from women and girls from around Dhaka.

BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) of BRAC University was founded in 2004 in Dhaka to address the unmet public health challenges particular to Asia, Africa and South America. The school's institutional partners are BRAC and Icddr,b.

The Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (CGSRHR) at JPGSPH is dedicated more broadly to research, policy, advocacy and training activities in the arena of reproductive health rights in Bangladesh and in the wider region. The team undertakes a wide range of research, advocacy and programming towards expansion of knowledge, promotion of dialogue and exchange, network and partnership building, dissemination of information, advocacy for change, and capacity building.