

Safe MR Service to Marginalized Women in Rural Areas in Bangladesh (SAAF)

Background:

The provision of induced abortion in Bangladesh is legally restrictive with a Menstruation Regulation (MR) programme that allows menstrual regulation when there is amenorrhea up to 10 weeks. Despite government and NGO efforts multiple barriers remain in accessing MR services. These are social, religious and cultural barriers, poor knowledge and awareness among adolescent people about MR services and inadequate government MR facilities. The project seeks to increase uptake of MR services particularly among young people at the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) clinics in seven rural districts in Bangladesh. FPAB will adopt diverse strategies in increasing uptake of MR services with particular emphasis on reaching out to young people. These are community based strategies in reaching out to women, youth and other gatekeepers through FPAB's existing Reproductive Health Workers (RHPs), engaging in school and out of school young people on MR issues through the youth networks of FPAB and providing MR services in FPAB clinics.

Goal:

To enhance access to safe MR service to marginalized women in rural areas in Bangladesh

Specific Object:

1. Increase Community awareness about availability of safe comprehensive Menstrual Regulation (MR) services.
2. Create awareness on safe menstrual Regulation (MR) and contraceptives services to prevent unwanted pregnancies among adolescents

Implementation Area:

Chittagong, Comilla, Faridpur, Jessore, Khulna, Rangpur and Tangail

Activities:

- Capacity building of grass root level workers for raising awareness on MR
- Organize court yard group meeting for married & unmarried men /women to raise awareness to prevent unwanted pregnancies and safe abortion.
- Organize awareness session for opinion leaders including religious leaders on preventing unwanted pregnancies.
- Organize awareness session for youth and adolescent for promotion of safe M R

Duration of the Project: April 2014 to March 2017.

Donor: IPPF