Community-level Correlates of Physical Violence against Unmarried Female Adolescents in Bangladesh

Kristin VanderEnde, PhD, icddr,b

Ruchira Tabassum Naved, PhD, icddr,b

Sajeda Amin, PhD, Population Council

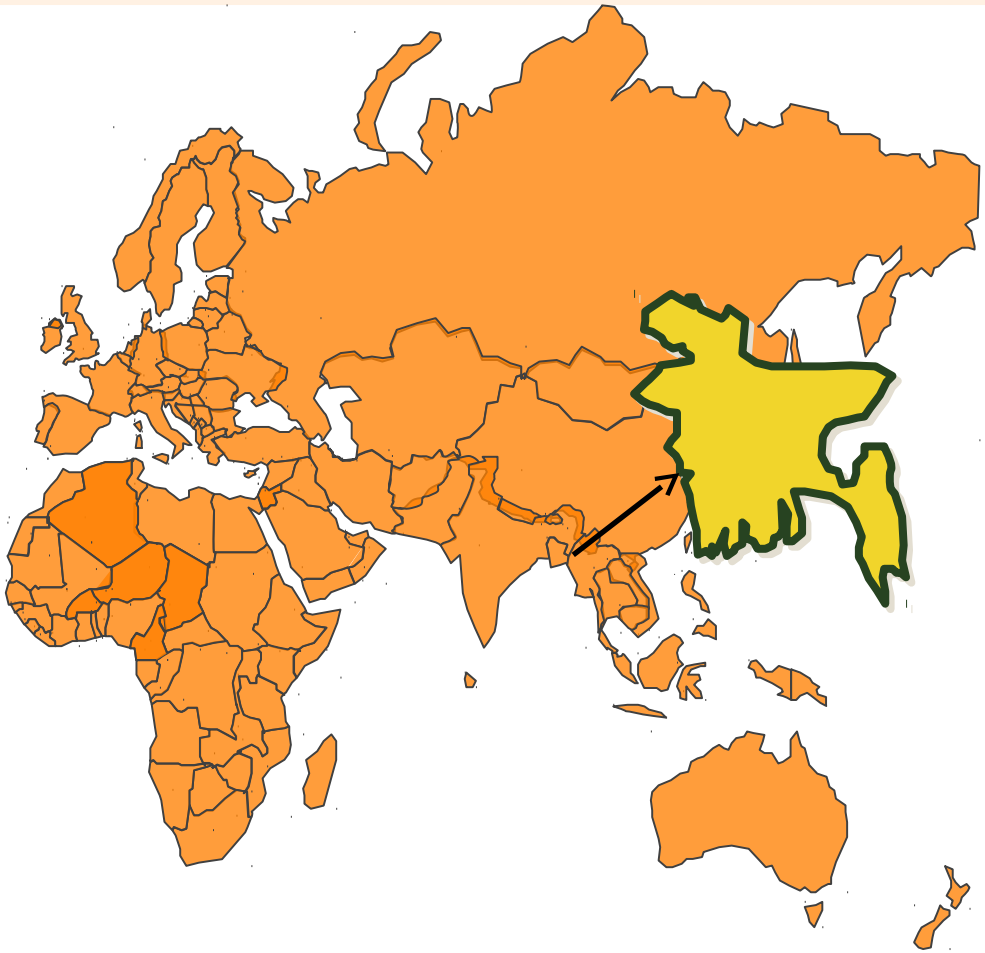
icddr,b

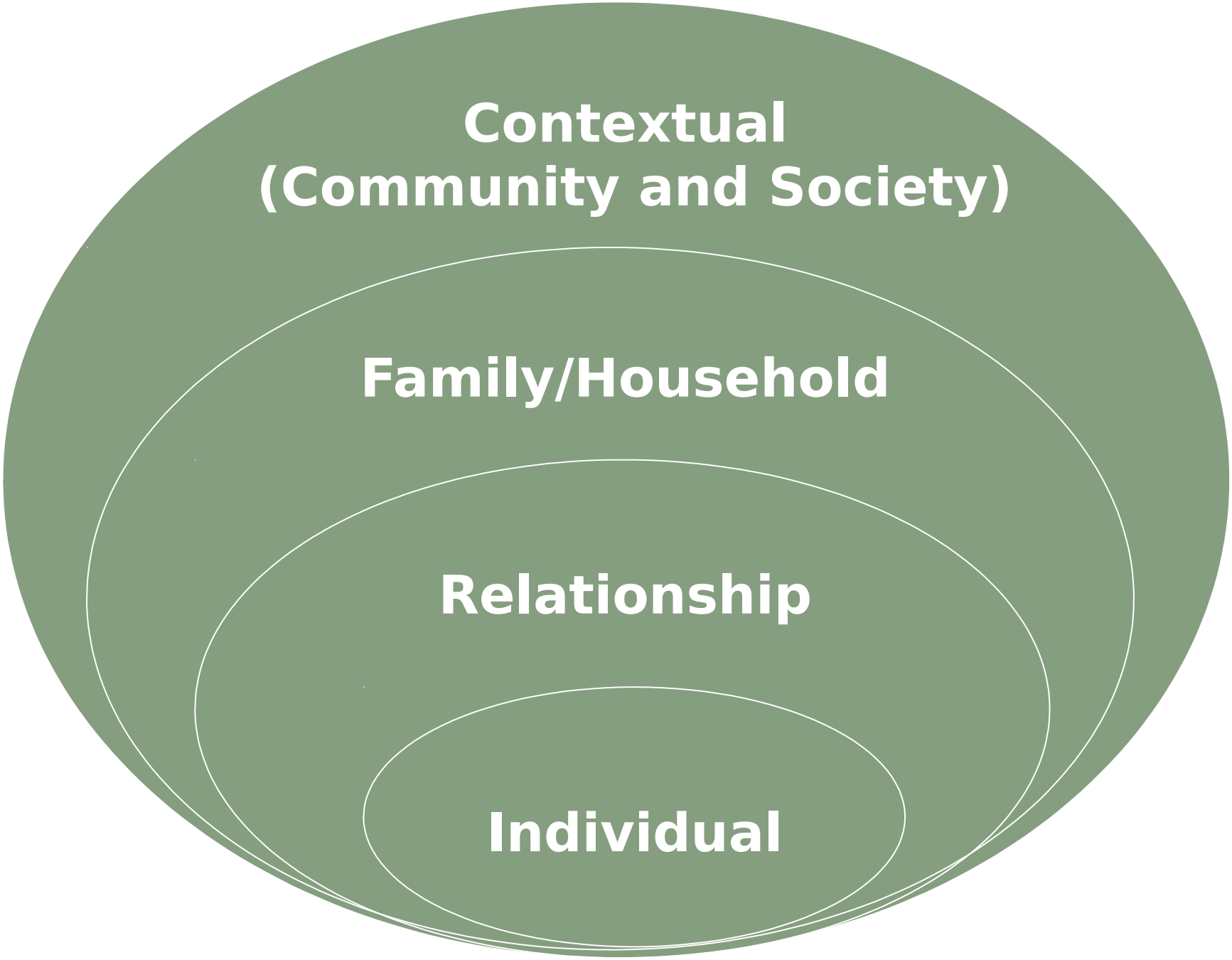
Population Council
RESEARCH THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

In Bangladesh,

violence against women and ***girls***

is common and has serious health consequences




Contextual
(Community and Society)
Family/Household
Relationship
Individual

Theoretical Perspectives on ***Community Context***

Social disorganization

Theoretical Perspectives on ***Community Context***

Community *gender norms*

Objectives

Examine ***community-level*** correlates of physical violence against unmarried female adolescents in Bangladesh

Assess the *community-level variability* in physical violence.

Compare these results with models for *unmarried adolescent males*.

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Data and Methods

Data source

2005 Nationally representative survey

Participants

Sex:	Female and males
Marital status:	Unmarried
Age:	10-24 years

Data and Methods

Sampling

- ***~20,000*** households were selected using systematic random sampling method from ***361*** Primary Sampling Units (PSU)

- One eligible person was randomly selected from each household for interview

Data and Methods

Sample size for the current analysis

This analysis includes a subset of the original sample aged 14-19 years and with no missing data

- Unmarried female adolescents: 4,370
- Unmarried male adolescents: 5,197

Data and Methods

Ethics of research

- Informed oral consent was sought from adolescents>18
- Informed oral consent was sought from the guardians of the minor (<18) participants
- Confidentiality of the data was strictly maintained
- This analysis used de-identified data

Measures

Physical violence

Any ***physical violence*** (yes=1, n=0) for any unmarried female adolescent aged 10-19 who reported an experience of physical beating in the past year.

Community-level Variables

Wealth ranking

Household wealth index was constructed using factor analysis.

At community-level,

compared ***poor*** (lowest 40% of communities) to ***non-poor*** (highest 60%)

Female literacy

Percentage of ***women*** (>19 years)

in each community who could ***read or write***.

Acceptance of physical punishment of adolescents

Percentage of unmarried adolescents aged 10-19 agreeing that children ages 12 and more "***should be beaten up when they do an offense, e.g. stealing, telling a lie, running away from school***."

Households belonging to an NGO

Percentage of households ***belonging to an NGO*** in each community.

Degree of urbanization

Urban or ***rural***

Analysis

Three-level logistic regression models

Analysis

Three-level logistic regression models

Following the survey design

(i.e., communities clustered within districts),

we accounted for ***variation between districts***.

We did not include any predictors

at the district level.

Analysis

Three-level logistic regression models

We employed ***three-level logistic regression*** models for predicting an adolescent's likelihood of experiencing ***past-year physical violence.***

Results

Selected *Characteristics* of the Sample

	Unmarried Females	Unmarried Males
	n=4377	n=5205
Past year physical violence (%)	37.9	51.9
Age, mean (SD)	13.3 (2.5)	13.8 (2.8)
Poor (lowest 40%)	38.8	38.4
Muslim (%)	86.1	87.3
NGO membership of household (%)	33.0	35.0

Community **level variation** (n=361)

	Range
Any past year physical violence (%)	
Unmarried female adolescents	0-100
Unmarried male adolescents	0-100
% literate (adult females)	5-92
% accepting physical punishment of adolescents	9-95
% households belonging to NGO	0-78

Community correlates of any *physical violence against unmarried female adolescents*

	OR (95% CI)
Intercept	0.50 (0.41-0.61)**
Community-level variables	
% literate (adult females)	0.68 (0.26-1.79)
% accepting physical punishment of adolescents	5.42 (2.52-11.64)**
% households belonging to NGO	1.99 (0.88-4.54)
Non-poor	1.28 (0.96-1.72)
Urban	0.98 (0.69-1.39)

† controlling for individual-, family-, and household variables

*p<0.05, **p<0.01

Community correlates of any *physical violence against unmarried male adolescents*

	OR (95% CI)
Intercept	1.09 (0.94-1.28)
Community-level variables	
% literate (adult females)	0.76 (0.33-1.77)
% accepting physical punishment of adolescents	1.20 (0.63-2.29)
% households belonging to NGO	2.23 (1.10-4.51)*
Non-poor	1.14 (0.88-1.47)
Urban	1.06 (0.78-1.45)

† controlling for individual-, family-, and household variables

* p<0.05, **p<0.01

Discussion

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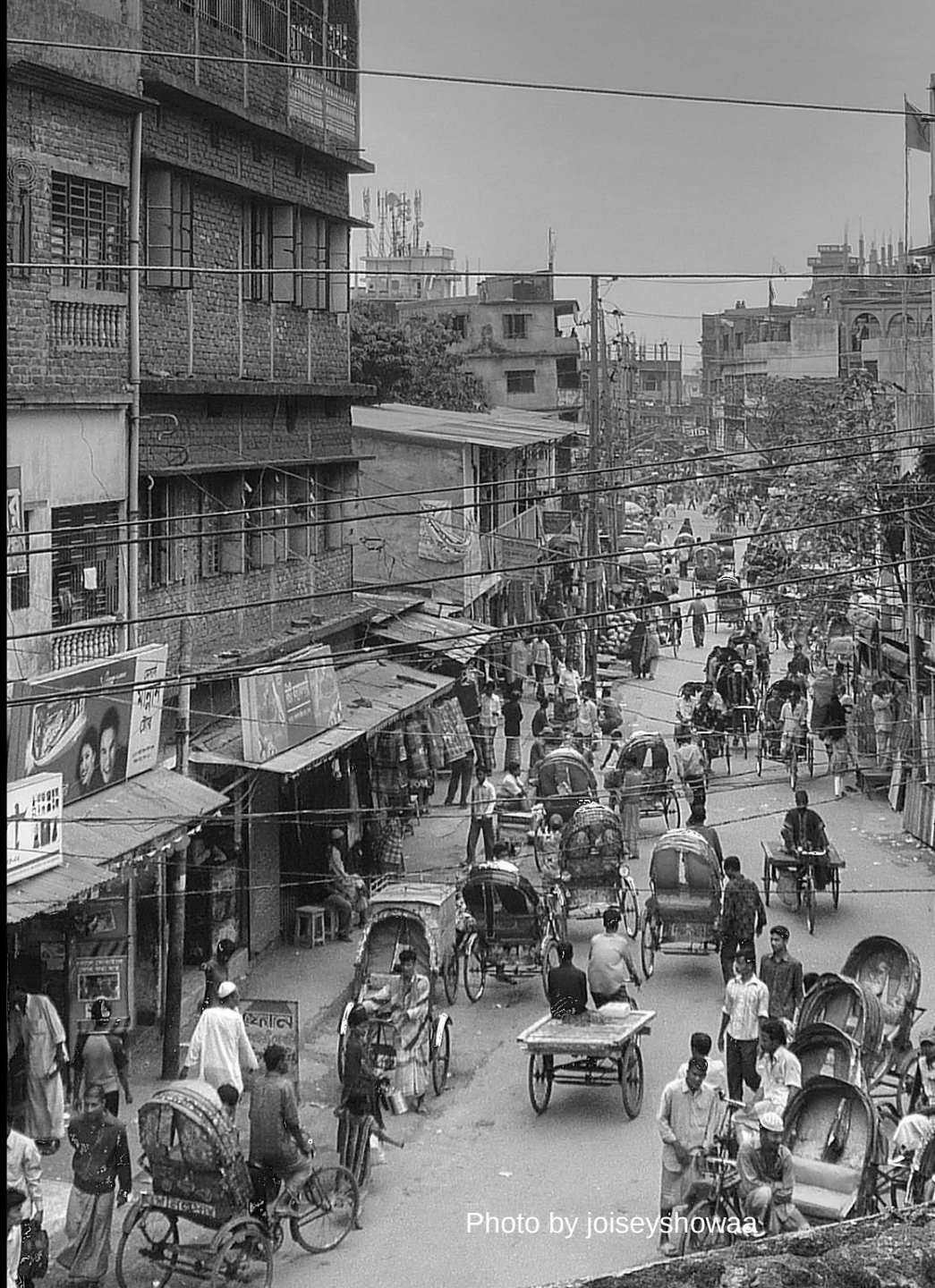
Community-level acceptance of physical violence



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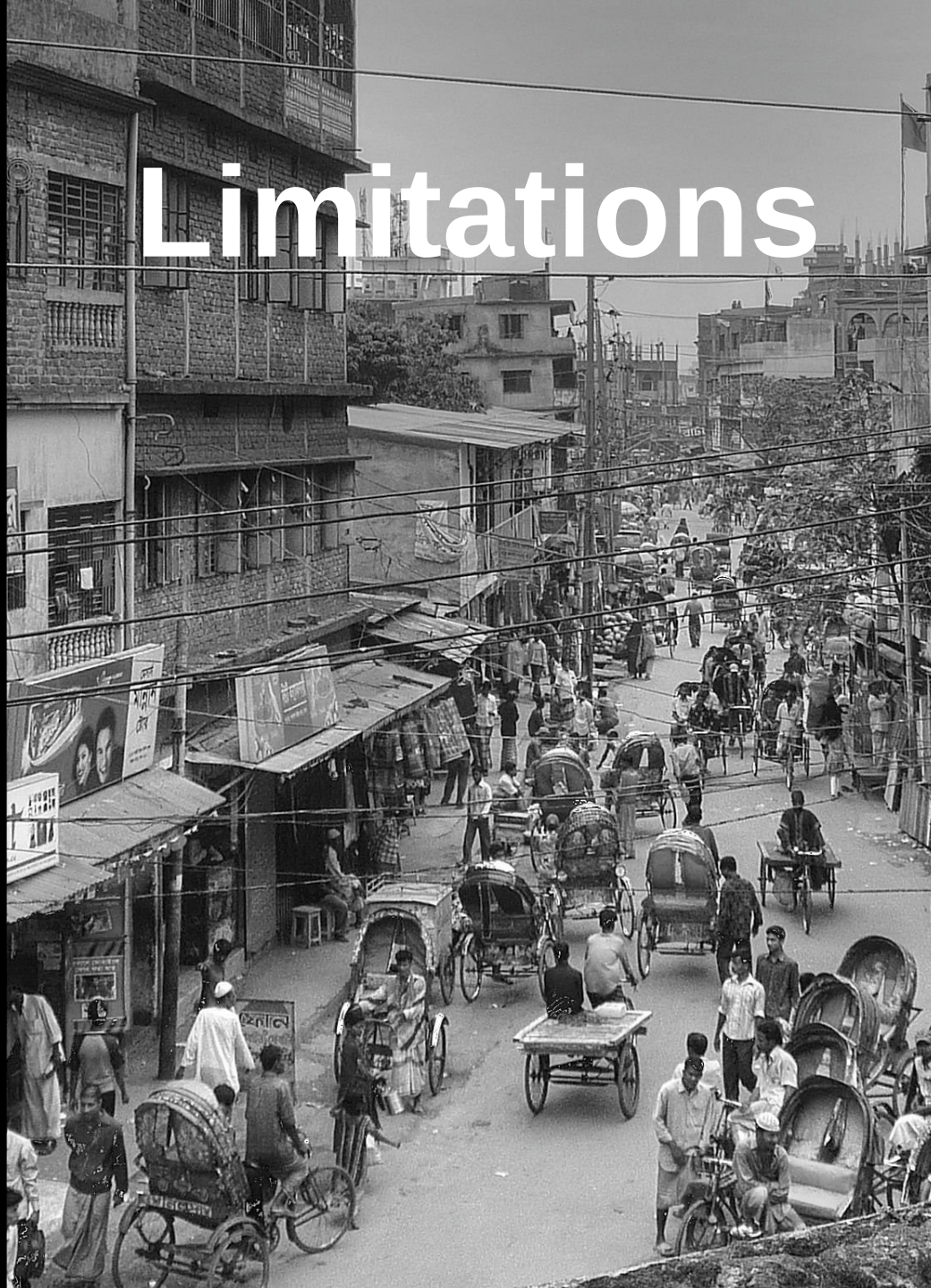
Limitations

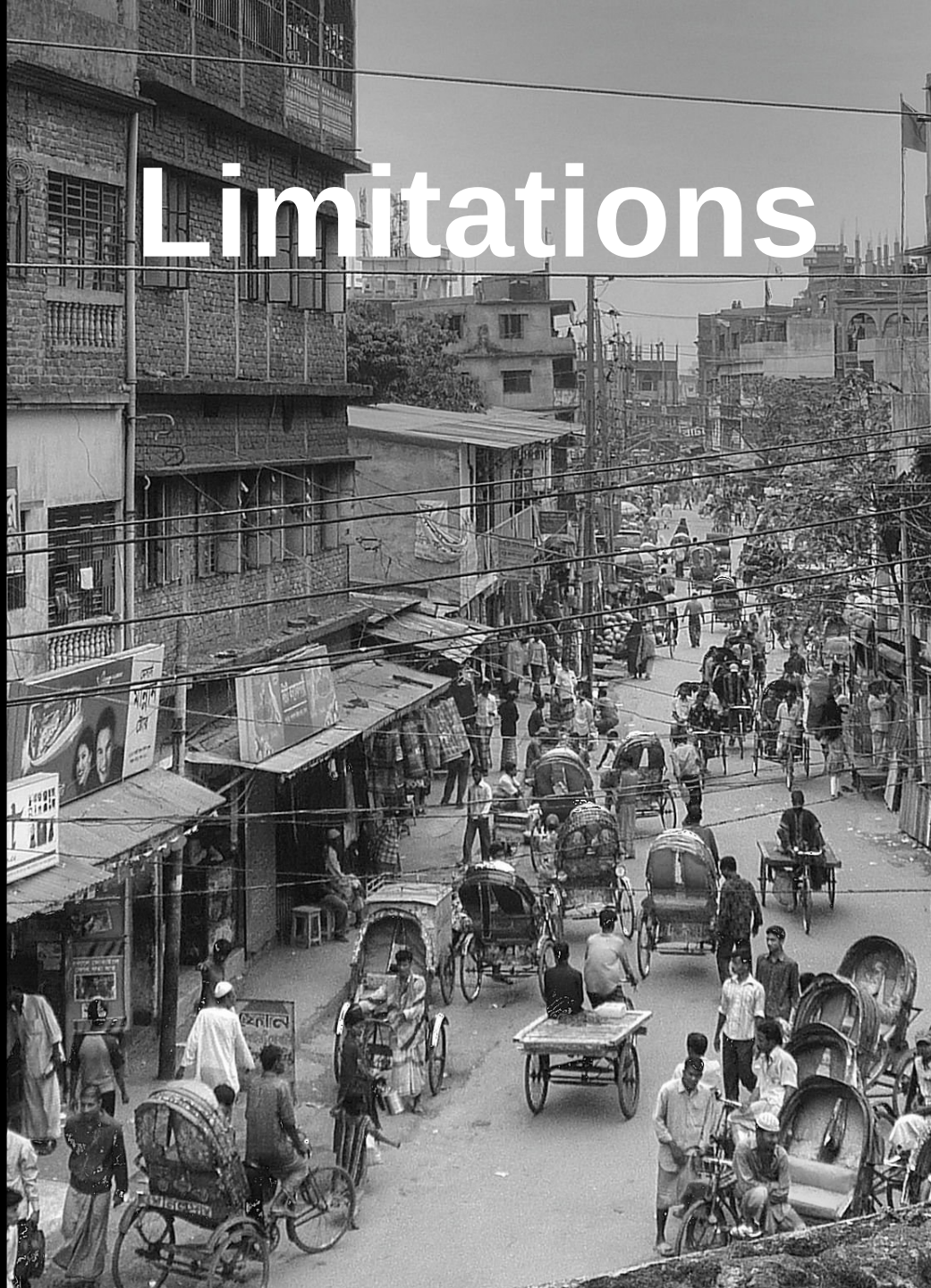
Cross-sectional



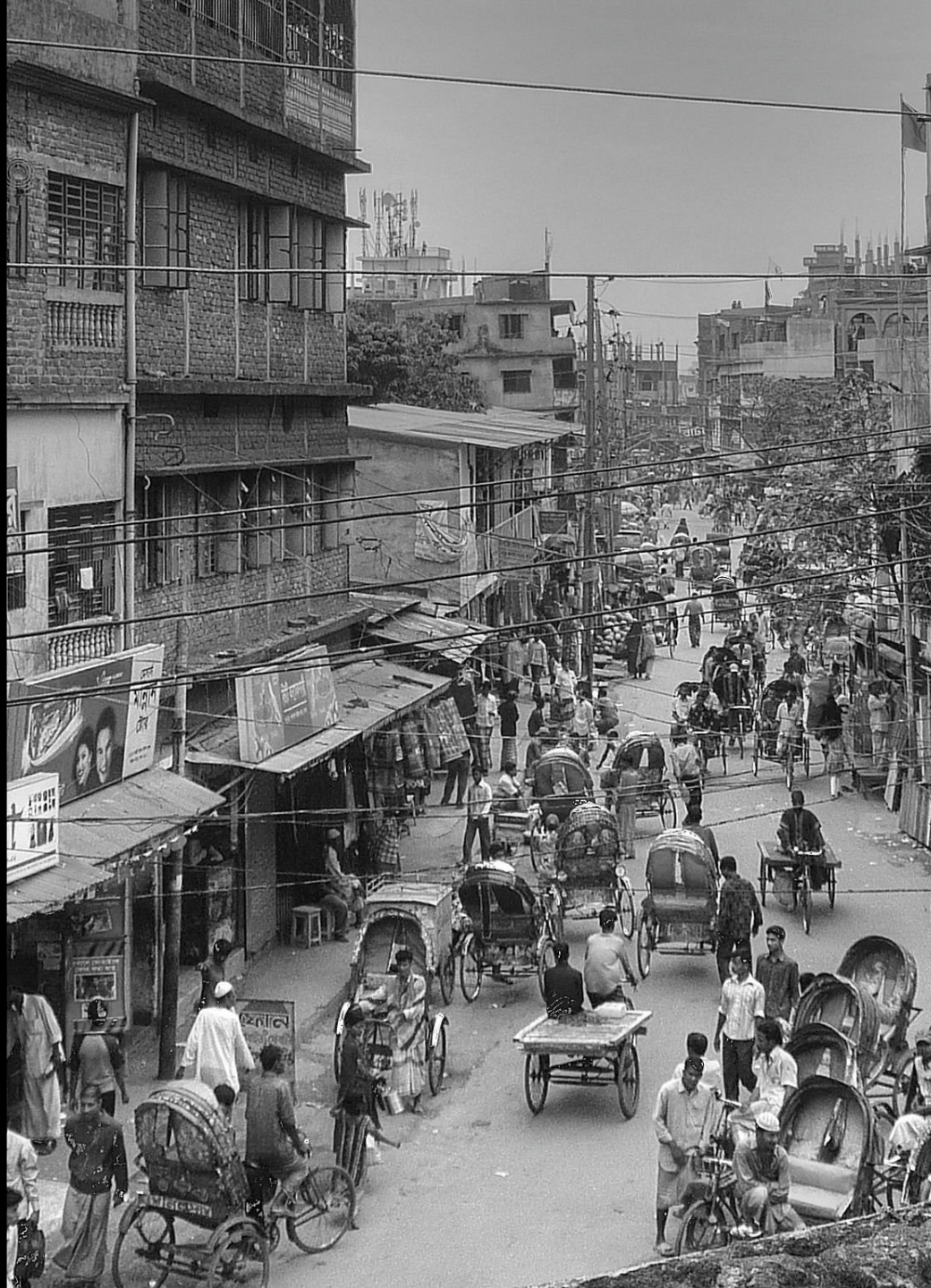
Limitations

Cross-sectional

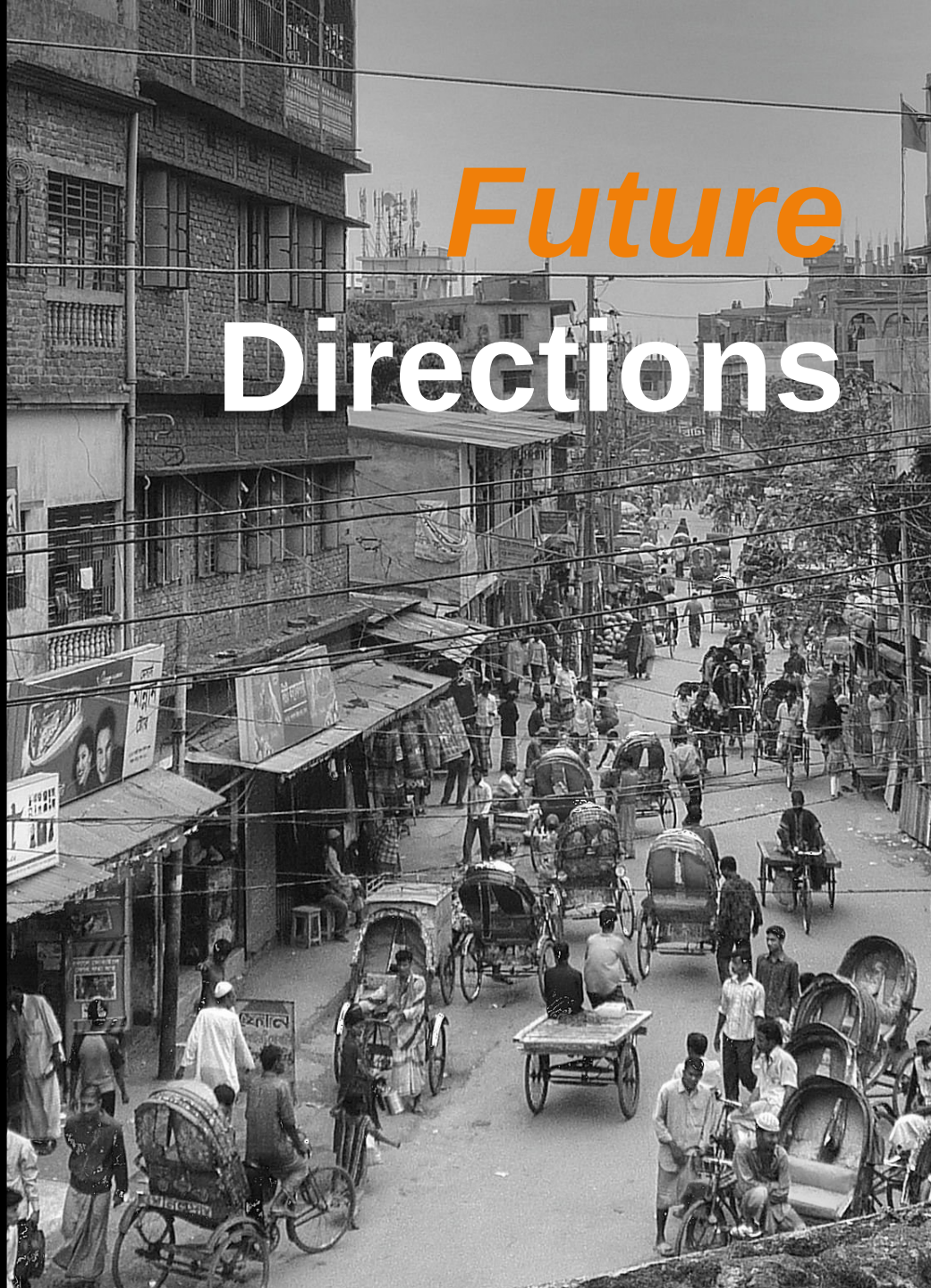
Limited violence measures



First study to describe community-level correlates of physical violence against adolescents in Bangladesh



Policy Implications

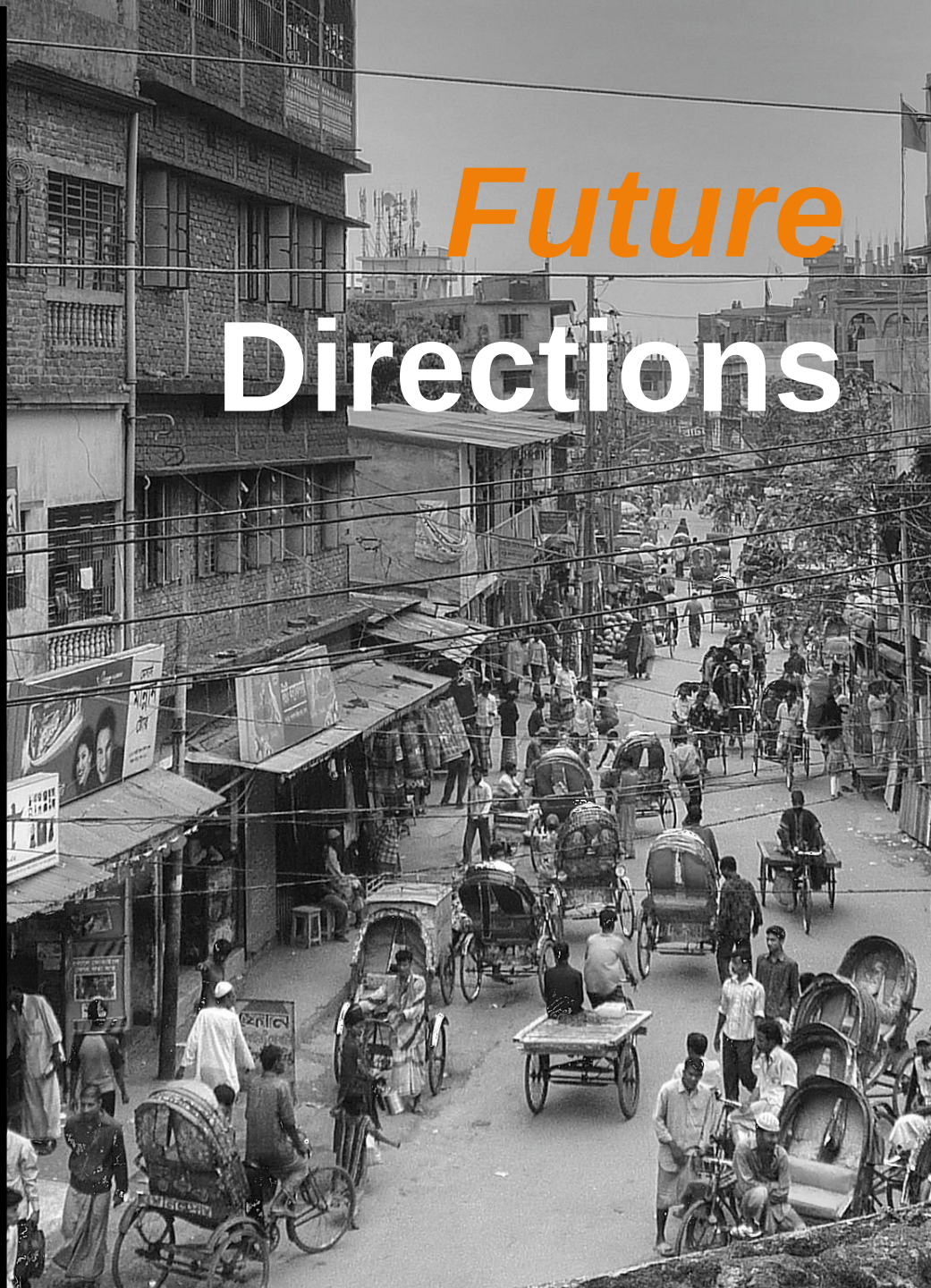


Future Directions

Future Directions

Policy Implications

Longitudinal Research



Full paper available at icddr,b website

http://www.icddrb.org/

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