



The Third Checkbox

ISAY- India Safe Abortion Youth Advocates



February-August, 2018

Mumbai



A team of 13 medical students from Grant Medical College and Sir J. J. Group of Hospitals, Mumbai, previously sensitized via sensitization as well as youth advocacy institute workshops came together to create awareness about the transgender community among the medical professionals. The symposium performance consisted of 5 speakers explaining various aspects of the life of a trans-individual along with audio-visual aids lasting for 20 minutes.

The performance covered not just the social hardships faced by the trans-community but also counted the various psychological and physical tolls this stigma takes on them. It then goes on to explain the various medical procedures that the trans-individual may choose to undergo in order to express their gender identity the way they feel best, be it “Hormone Replacement Therapies”, “Cosmetic Enhancement Surgeries” or “Gender Affirmation Surgeries”. The aim of the symposium was to perform at as many medical colleges as possible so as to expose large number of healthcare professionals to the many ways they can make a positive impact in the lives of transgender individuals. Providing a comforting and accepting environment for the care and treatment of this community, by increasing the awareness about gender dysphoria and the various remedies available for its treatment, is the main goal that the team is working towards.



Out of the 7 colleges that they have performed at until now, the symposium has “ranked first” in 3 of them namely, K. J. Somaiya Medical College, HBT Medical College (Dr. R. N. Cooper Municipal Hospital) and Grant Medical College and Sir J. J. Group of Hospitals. The participants received a lot of positive feedback from the audience and many accepted that this was a subject that required representation in the medical curriculum and how the ignorance can only be eradicated via similar efforts made on a large scale. The team plans on working further for this cause by continuing

sensitization for more and more colleagues with the hope that someday the trans-phobia prevalent in our society will be replaced by acceptance for the trans-community, which has been an integral part of the Indian culture for more than 4000 years.