

2018

ANNUAL REPORT

#gender #women's health
 #Vietnam #abortionrights #feminism
 #youth #movietalk #community
 #safesex #pro-choice #VYAC



VIETNAM YOUTH
 ADVOCACY NETWORK
 OF ASIA SAFE
 ABORTION
 PARTNERSHIP



Annual Report 2018

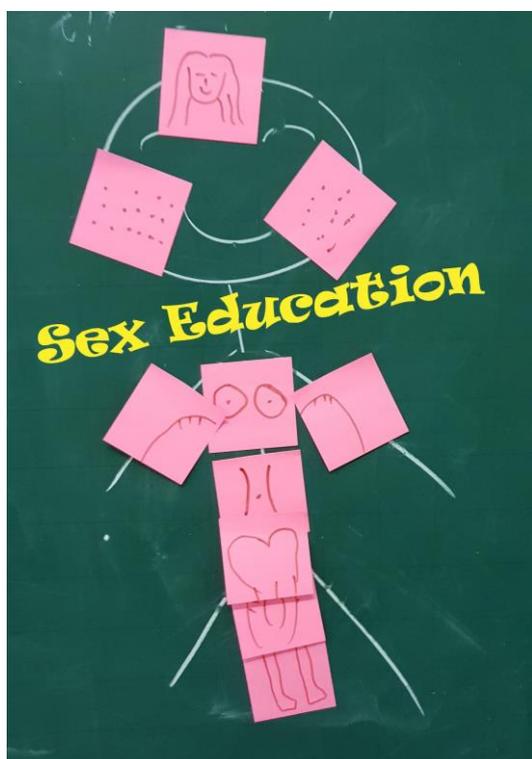
Vietnam Youth Action for Choice

The Power of Partnerships, Celebrating 10 Years of Movement Building for Safe Abortion Advocacy, 2/2018

Three co-founders and one advisor of VYAC were invited to join the seminar with funders, trainers, youth champions within ASAP network. Besides, ASAP gave a fully-funded opportunity for one core member of VYAC and so we held an abortion video contest amongst our members. We received 5 videos and interviewed 2 out of these 5 candidates about their attitude toward abortion.

Doan Thi Quynh Anh was selected and took part in a compulsory course of SRHR which was created by VYAC before joining the seminar in Thailand. [Here is her post-conference sharing.](#)

Festival for adolescent empowerment on SRHR, Thuy Duong, Thua Thien Hue Province on 08/04/2018 - [Video of the Festival for adolescent empowerment](#)



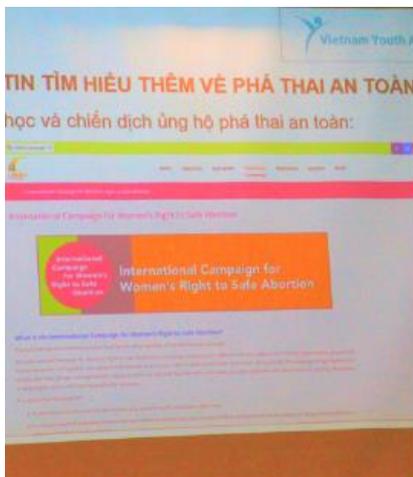
The Festival was organized with the aim of equipping students in Thuy Duong with basic knowledge and skills on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Most of activities were run by VYAC members and volunteer. After the festival, all members and volunteer said that they were enhanced knowledge and skills on SRHR, especially in leadership skills. The festival was considered as a chance for them to practice all knowledge and skills on SRHR and leadership that they acquired from VYAC training before.

“My leadership skills were improved when I took responsibilities in recruiting and managing volunteer. I emailed them and discussed with them in person very confident. Especially, when I guided students how to use condom during the festival, I could facilitate the session and see the concentration of students in every steps I did.”

Before the festival, about 80% students said that they did not know how to use at least one contraceptive method. After the festival, more than 94% participants knew how to use at least one contraceptive method correctly. The percentage of students who had accurate knowledge on sex increased significantly from 12% to 50%, and accurate knowledge on gender rose from 16% to 81% after the festival. Besides, students also had chance to be counseled by Dr. Phan Thuy, and Steering Committee of VYAC about SRHR.

In general, most of students said that they satisfied with the content and activities of the festival. They were willing to introduce such activities to your friends.

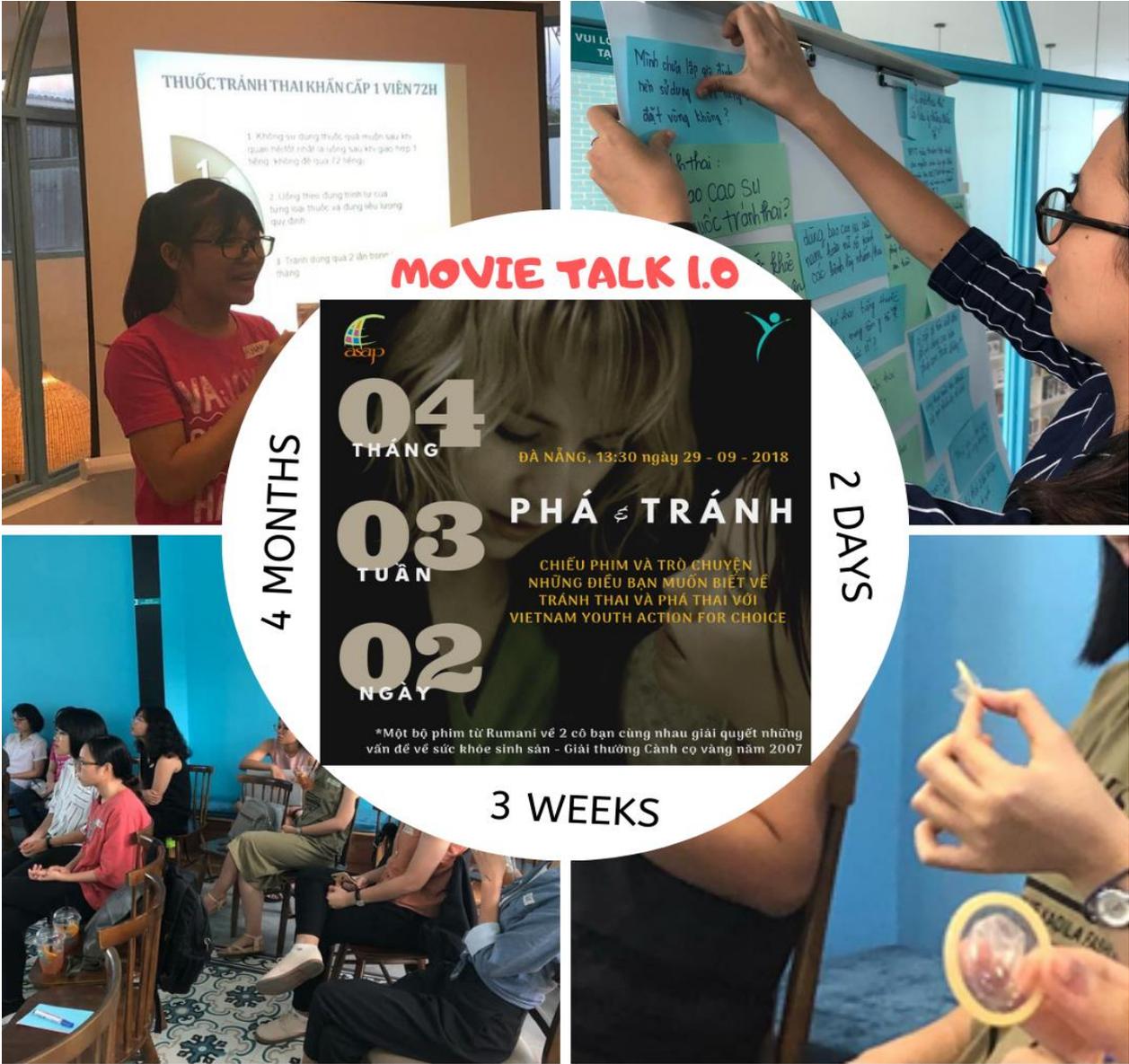
Youth Activist Forum on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Ha Noi, 22-24/08/2018



The Youth Activist Forum on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights was organized in Hanoi, by Center for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCIHP). During the forum, VYAC leaders and co-founders, Dr. Mai Doan To Thuy and Nguyen Thi Thao have been invited as co-organizers and co-hosts for a session on safe sex and safe abortion. In the session, Dr. Mai Doan To Thuy shared evidence based-research to discuss safety and benefits of contraception versus usual message of side effects and risks. She also emphasized although with “perfect use”, there is no methods or combination of contraceptive methods is guaranteed to be 100 percent effective. This was one of the reasons why abortion is necessary. In additions, she facilitated a session that she shared four case studies of women seeking for abortion, and discussed with participants to affirm the human right and personal decision to terminate a pregnancy.

Movie Talk 1, Da Nang, 29/09/2018

The first movie talk event of VYAC took place on 29th September in 2018 to celebrate the Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion (28th September) in Danang,



Vietnam. VYAC started a conversation on safe abortion and safer sex among young people by showing “4 months, 3 weeks and 2 days”, which has won three awards at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival including the Palme d'Or, and tells a story about two girls struggling to seek abortion in an illegal and unsafe context of Romania in 1987. Despite a small numbers of participant attended the event - 10 young people in total, the movie talk was vehement and full of sharings from all participants. The session took more than one and a half hour longer than we expected (1.30 pm to 6.30 pm) as well as we had an amazing connection with them. [Link to the 1st movie talk of VYAC](#)

We will keep organizing this event because there are more young people willing to know more, share their thoughts and seek for information on abortion.

The 2nd Youth Advocacy Institute in Vietnam, Ha Noi, 23-25/11/2018



After implementing 2 training courses on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) for young medical students in Hue and Danang, Vietnam Youth Action for Choice (VYAC) understood that training course on abortion directly to young people is a high effective approach. Improving the knowledge and skills for young people as well as expanding the network for VYAC is considered a main strategy.

With sponsor of ASAP, VYAC held a 2nd YAI in Ha Noi and received a lot of positive feedback from participants. [Here is our report of 2VYAI.](#)

Live-stream on VYAC Facebook Page about safe abortion, 29/12/2018

[Our first live stream on VYAC FB page](#) was one of our Seri online campaigns sharing information based-evidence against anti-abortion campaign “Mama don’t kill me”. The live-stream stressed that safe abortion did not lead to severe health risks such as maternal death, infertility, etc., and pointed out how 6 statements of the anti-abortion campaign violated reproductive rights of both women and men.

“Should abortion be partially restricted”, “what does empower mean”, and “what is roles of social media toward abortion” were three questions VYAC received during the live-stream amongst 912 viewers.



Movie Talk 2, Ho Chi Minh, 30/12/2018



“Obvious Child”, an extremely self-aware film, and yet provides characters a large and chaotic space to be themselves. While abortion twist may drive conversations and give the media a natural hook, but the real triumph of “Obvious Child” involves its ability to make familiar ingredients work just fine on their own terms. By placing the abortion in the context of a much broader series of events, the main character normalizes it.

There were 22 youths aged from 17-28 joined the event although we had called and confirmed with 43 registered participants. After watching the film, we circled together to have a warmer space and shared our opinions when people can see each other and be free to give their thoughts. It was incredible because we even shared about many aspects that associated with abortion, such as: feminism, reproductive health, bodily autonomy, economic, Sex Ed, stigma, media, etc.

Dr. Mai Doan To Thuy and Nguyen Thi Thao explained and shared accurate information about safe abortion based on participants’ concerns, questions which were noted during the discussion.

[More pictures of movie talk 2](#)

II. VYAC OUTCOMES

Co-founders of VYAC were invited to be speaker of other SRHR networks events

Mai Doan To Thuy

Thuy was invited to be a speaker for at Ho Chi Minh City university of Technology on Vietnamese Women's day (October 20th, 2018) about safe sex and gynecological diseases. At the event, girls were shown how to use male and female condom as well as contraceptive pills to prevent unwanted



pregnancy and STDs. Also, the rights to sexual and reproductive health were introduced for encouraging girl's autonomy towards their bodies.

Thuy was also invited to be a technical advisor of Sex Education for You in Ho Chi Minh City and be a speaker at a Boy Talk day on November 18th, 2018 about gender equality and domestic violence. At the event, male gender stereotype and rights to SRH were discussed by using Vietnamese folk verses in order to comparing social expectations in the old day versus current day. In the end of the talk, participants shared that they understood the gender roles of women and men and what men should do to achieve the gender equality and equity.

Nguyen Thi Thao

14th - 15th March 2018, Ms. Thao was invited to take part in the research workshop "Dynamic Digital Citizens: Young Online Social Entrepreneurs in ASEAN and Australia". In this workshop, Thao had an opportunity to share the development process of the smartphone application - "Health Pocket" - the first application provides knowledge on SRHR for young people in Vietnam. Besides,



since early 2018, Ms. Thao has been a member of Youth Advisory Group of the United Nations in Vietnam, to support the revision of the Youth Law and provide evidence on youth issues to policy makers until 2021.

Le Hoang Minh Son

After being awarded and joining the 120 under 40 young leaders across the globe for Family Planning, Son continued his work in the Center for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population as a Youth Program Coordinator and won the rapid-response mechanism grant from FP2020 to empower ethnic minority adolescents in Thuan Chau, Son La - a mountainous province to share their stories on love, early and forced marriage, unwanted pregnancy and lack of sex education.



As a part of the 120 under 40 team, Son also attended the International Conference on Family Planning in Kigali, Rwanda in between 9th to 15th November, 2018. During the conference, the Youth Champions from Asia Safe Abortion Partnership also gathered and shared their experiences about the conference and how networking on SRHR could benefit young people.

Funding

VYAC applied for [Wo]man Up small grant from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and CCIHP for initiatives focused on building awareness and skills for male youth in changing the concept of masculinity and gender equality to eliminate gender-based violence. At a final selection, VYAC got selected for the initiative of using sports to raise the awareness about gender-based violence, skills to handle conflicts, intervening in cases of violence when as a witness. As part of the grant, from September 20th to 23th, Tung Nguyen (core member of VYAC) and Cong Quach (life skill advisor) participated in a training before the round of finalizing budget estimation. However, due to the timing problem from the CCIHP and UNFPA project, VYAC has been promised to get the funding in another opportunity in 2019 from a SRHR youth advocacy project that CCIHP had been working with the Dutch Embassy in Vietnam.