

Survey on understanding of feminism and abortion by future health workers.

May 17th (4pm -6pm)

DRUK-YISA (Asia safe abortion partnership)

On 17th May three members Ashok, Dechan, Manita of D-YISA conducted a short survey on trainees of countries oldest medical college. It was mainly to check the understanding of future health workers on issues such as feminism and safe abortion. We gathered around one hundred and fifty students in the auditorium from different categories like general nursing and midwives, pharmacy, counselling, dental technician, community, laboratory technician, foundation and health assistant. We had to call different categories of participants as it would give us clear idea about which courses had the idea about abortion laws and which didn't. Firstly Manita gave her introduction as a member of D-YISA and ASAP. Followed by we distributed the papers to the participants and waited for them clear their doubts. Manita didn't clarify anything on questionnaire but told the audience that she would talk to them at the end of programme for 20 -30 mins. Few participants didn't even wanted to write their course and categories because they were not comfortable with the questions put on.









By the end of programme, we kept participants for few more minutes as it was important for them to have little knowledge on abortion and related issues. Manita said she is working with ASAP and D-YISA which mainly advocates for women's health. She mentioned that everywhere women's health is neglected and the need to have more of sensitization programme where women atleast decide for her own body. She also said that, their CAN creates awareness on reproductive rights and provides correct information to the people on safe abortion practices. Manita explained few doubts which was common from the participants. Manita told the participants about patriarchy. She said 'PATRIARCHY', is continuous chain of domination from male of the family, society and nation as whole. Further she explained that decisions are always taken by male in the larger scale by forgetting the existence of women. So it has always neglected the rights and needs of women. Few participants didn't know that in Bhutan abortion laws were legal in some conditions. So Manita told the participants, it is important to know atleast the laws in which abortion can be approached legally like in cases of rape, deformities of foetus, risk t to mother's health and in mental retardation of mother. She than explained the purpose of conducting such survey as, much focus is given to medical students as they are the first person to know about issues in regards to the women's health. Every year many women die of unsafe abortion without correct information about it. Having a correct information about such issues can help so many women in dire needs. Followed by she thanked everyone for giving their time and afford in writing the questionnaire and promised to share the result with them.

Thank you.