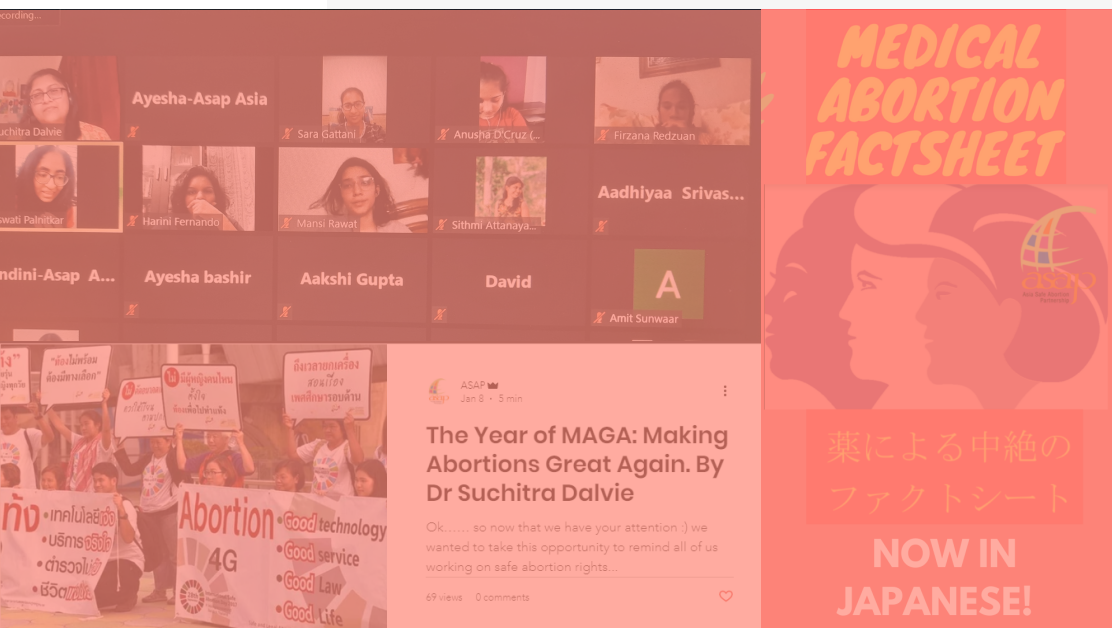


QUARTERLY REPORT

JANUARY - MARCH 2021



GREETINGS FROM ASIA SAFE ABORTION PARTNERSHIP!

Across the globe we have all been struggling these past few months, some with trying to get back to our pre pandemic lives and others still trying to fight it's subsequent waves. In some countries Governments and political leaders added to the difficulties and troubles by insensitive and unjust policy and programmatic decisions, that unfairly affected vulnerable groups such as migrants, sex workers, women seeking safe abortion services. Now, even though the vaccines are available, their distribution and accessibility is still grossly unequal, from country to country and within each country.

In the meanwhile ASAP members and partners, Youth Champions and Country Advocacy Networks continued our advocacy of safe abortion access for everyone, under all circumstances-- pandemic or no pandemic. So do join us as we take you through the journey of our past quarter along with our brilliant partners and Youth Champions

In the interest of building cross movement solidarity we are focussing on 'Building Inclusive Movements' as our guiding principle for 2021. The organization is working towards finding synergies and developing solidarities between various human rights, sexual and reproductive rights, and social justice movements in order to encourage to integrate safe abortion rights within their advocacy agenda and program strategies.

While we are incorporating these principles functionally, we are also focussing on raising awareness on the need for solutions, to make safe abortion services truly accessible to all.

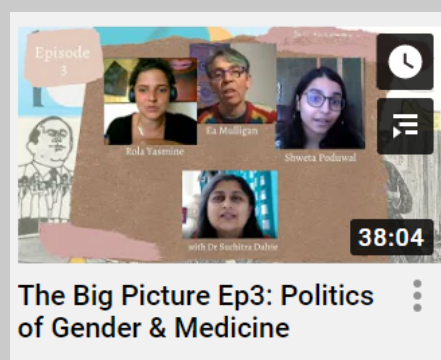
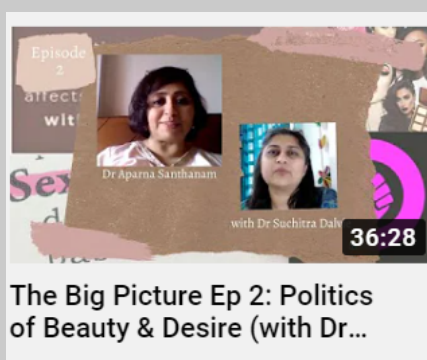
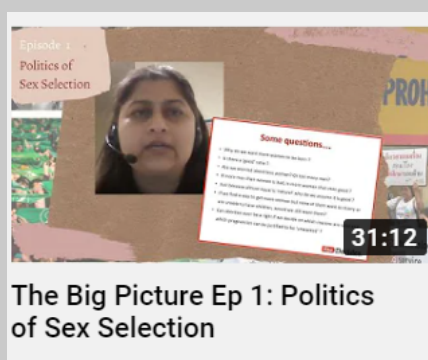
ASAP ACTIVITIES

THE BIG PICTURE WITH ASAP

In 2020, with our ASAP Conversations During Covid, we connected with our members, partners and allies belonging to or working with communities facing specific challenges during this pandemic for safe abortion access. After these conversations which touched upon specific focused issues, whether it was lack of safe abortion access in Japan to the existence of FGM in India and marginalization of the queer community to the difficulties being faced by sex workers, we are back with our second series of more meta level conversations. With this we hoped to bring to the forefront some core themes

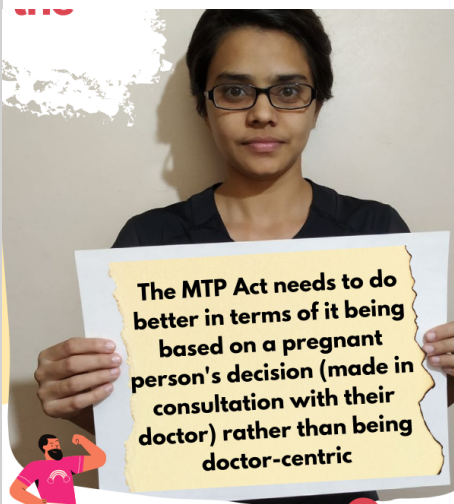
that need deeper reflection and some people who can shed a light on these complicated issues, unpack the controversial ones and enlighten us with their unique perspectives on old problems.

In this new series we are taking a look at the Big Picture issues that affect each one of us at a personal as well as a political level in our struggle for sexual and reproductive rights. These are issues like gender, patriarchy, sexual and reproductive labour, neoliberalism, population policies, digital freedom, healthcare and medicine, sustainable development

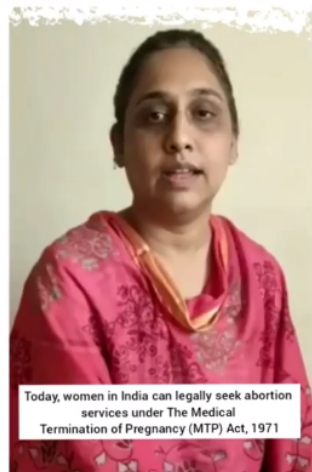


50 years of the MTP Act

Gaps, Gains and Goals.



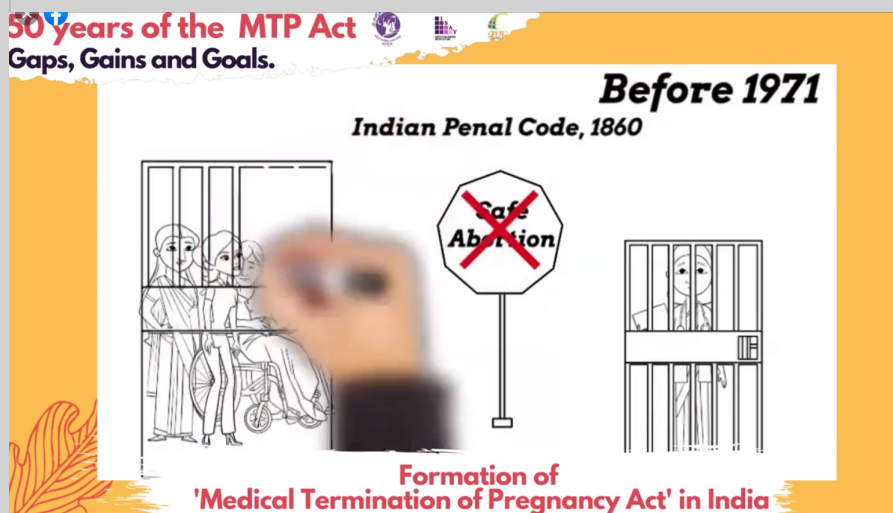
50 years of the MTP Act



Here's what Kajal from Mahila Sarvangeen Utkarsh Mandal (MASUM) has to say about the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act in India and its limitations, particularly for marginalized identities who seek safe abortion services.

We are celebrating 50 years of MTP Act with @isayadvocates and MASUM this entire year, so follow us for more updates and unheard voices speaking up for their #righttoabortion

50 years of the MTP Act Gaps, Gains and Goals.



50 YEARS OF THE MTP ACT: GAPS, GAINS AND GOALS

In 2019 the Mahila Sarvangeen Utkarsh Mandal (MASUM), in collaboration with India Safe Abortion Youth Advocates (ISAY) and ASAP had undertaken a rapid assessment with partners from seven states of India on 'Mapping women's access to safe abortion services'. Following that a national level consultation was held in New Delhi on 2nd March, 2020 with policymakers and government officials and on 3rd March, 2020 with civil society partners in order to disseminate the findings and to create a community of advocacy around the key issues.

As the Medical Termination Of Pregnancy Act in India completes 50 years in 2021, we will be talking about important issues with regards to accessing services under the law, throughout the year with a series on online events such as webinars and photo campaigns.

Click on the left image to watch the full video,

#GYNOPEDIAIT

Share your knowledge on sexual and reproductive rights and services where you live!

JOIN THE 2021 GYNOPEDIA EDIT-A-THON

Register at: bit.ly/3cpqw1d



STORIES TO ACTION



GYNOPEDIA IT

In order to make information more accessible to people looking for safe abortion services ASAP, Stories to Action (led by alumni YC Iris Pi) and Gynopedia ran an Asia wide campaign. The aim was to update the Gynopedia country pages and raise awareness about this crowdsourced platform, while also increasing the visibility of Country Advocacy Networks and other regional organizations working on SRHR and safe abortion access. As part of the campaign, we also held a Tweet-a-thon and a Gynopedia Editing training with our CAN leaders.

ASAP @asapasia · Mar 25

Follow this #Tweetathon to make a note of some brilliant organizations working on ground in their respective countries on raising awareness and making services more accessible to people.

#Gynopedialt @StoriestoAction @gynopedia #abortionrights #abortionjustice

For Youth Initiative Kuala Lumpur #GugurkanStigma @... · Mar 25

Replying to @asapasia @gynopedia and 6 others

We glad we have @RRAAMalaysia, an NGO that believe women have the right to access legal, safe, and affordable contraceptive and abortion services, both as women's reproductive right to decide on reproductive matters and as the right to health.

ASAP @asapasia · Mar 25

A reality for many former colonies. Irony how many countries in SA continue with the 'British Penal Codes and Laws' even today! We must #decriminalize abortions everywhere! #Gynopedialt #Tweetathon @gynopedia @StoriestoAction

Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka @YANSriLanka · Mar 25

Replying to @YANSriLanka @asapasia and 7 others

This law was made by the British, during their colonial rule of Ceylon, and has not been amended since. Ironically, in the UK, abortions were legalized in 1967. Clandestine abortion services are, however, available and quite accessible.

ASAP @asapasia · Mar 25

Accessing information related to ones sexual and reproductive health, is a human right, one which shouldnt lead to people risking their lives and relying on Internet, once they dont find any support from the govt, school or family.

#Gynopedialt #reproductivehealth

Haiyya @Haiyya_Act · Mar 25

Replying to @asapasia @StoriestoAction and 5 others

Owing to the idea or sexual and reproductive health care being taboo, internet is the main source of information, even though it is not the most reliable or credible source at times.

ASAP @asapasia · Mar 25

Huge shout out to @info_samsara for doing the work they do ❤️ Please follow them to know more about their work

#abortionrights #Gynopedialt #Tweetathon #Indonesia

ikaayu @kayuka · Mar 25

Replying to @asapasia @gynopedia and 7 others

most ppl who need abortion dont know where to go; stigma and fear of criminalization is too strong, also too many false information could trap ppl and make their situation worse; in Indonesia if you need info, call/chat @info_samsara to do counseling or just share ur story



MEDICAL ABORTION FACTSHEET IN JAPANESE

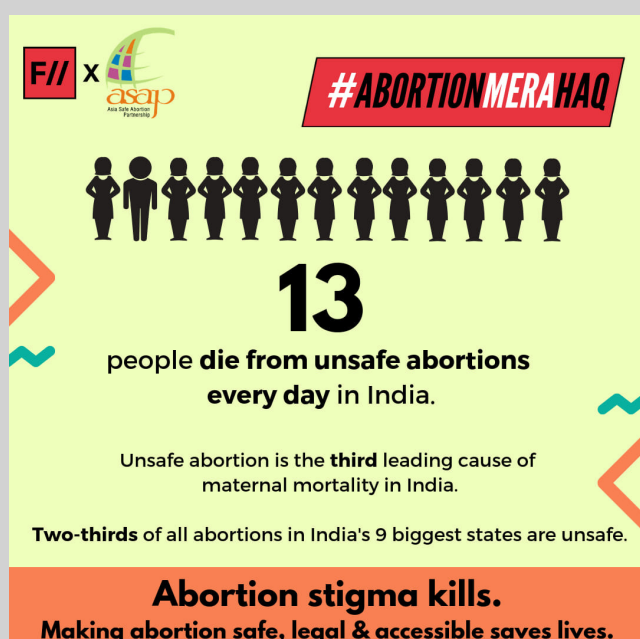
We are delighted to announce that our Medical Abortion Factsheet has been recently translated into Japanese, by our partner Kumi Tsukahara from Japan who is currently working with Reproductive Health and Rights Literacy Lab.

The factsheet is now available in English, Hindi and Japanese. All of which can be accessed [here](#).



AWARD NOMINATION

ASAP along with Feminism in India was nominated for Social Media for Empowerment Award, for our campaign; #AbortionMeraHaq / #AbortionMyRight where we used social media to raise awareness regarding safe abortion rights and laws in India throughout the month of May in 2019. The Nomination was in the category Communication, Advocacy & Development Activism



BLOGS



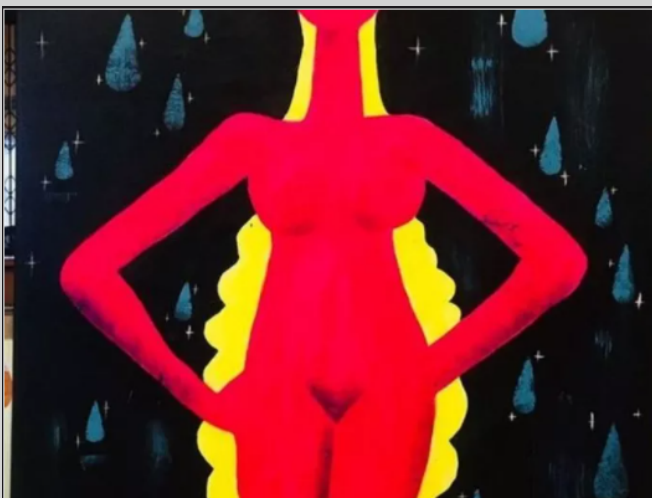
The Year of MAGA: Making Abortions Great Again. By Dr Suchitra Dalvie

69 views 0 comments



Women have always been represented as the 'honor' of a family in patriarchal societies. Mothers, daughters, sisters, wives and women in...

8 views 0 comments



'Her Choice' by Lirisha Tuladhar

3 views 0 comments

BLOGS



ASAP
Feb 23 • 4 min



'Obvious Child' Normalises Abortion, And I'm Glad For It. Review by...

I saw Obvious Child for the first time around three years ago. But the Jenny Slate starrer wasn't exactly a popular film when it came...

24 views 0 comments



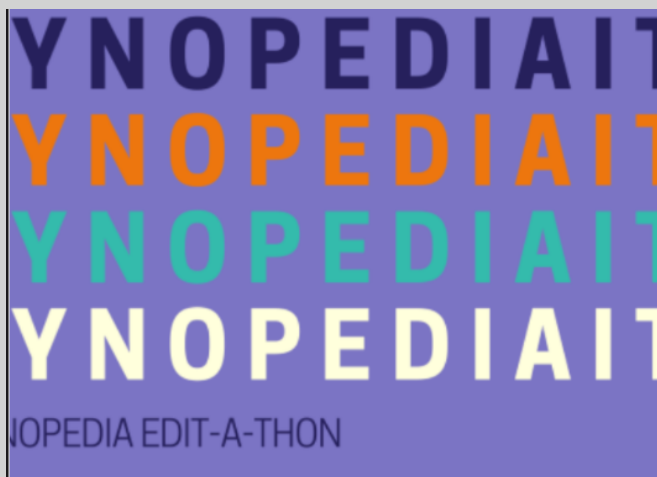
ASAP
Mar 6 • 8 min



New Pandemic, Old Issues: 'ASAP Conversation During...

Our guest today is Dr. Manisha Gupte who has been a part of the Indian feminist movement since the mid- 70s. In 1987 after living in a...

4 views 0 comments



ASAP
Mar 30 • 3 min



#Gynopedialt: Safe Abortion, Contraception, and your Health

We have teamed up with Asia Safe Abortion Partnership and Gynopedia, and invite anyone with internet access and a computer or mobile...

4 views 0 comments



SOCIAL MEDIA



As a result of the lockdowns there could be as many as 7 million more unintended pregnancies across the world. Hence ASAP continued raising awareness on the importance of accessible safe abortion services, especially amidst the pandemic.

REWINDING 2020

Despite the terrible year that was 2020, some incredible breakthroughs took place in our world and we wanted to start the New Year by celebrating those wins

Thailand in November amended its abortion law, which now aims to allow women to seek and have abortions up to 12 weeks into their pregnancy.

Currently, women seeking a termination can receive a prison sentence of up to three years and a 60,000 baht (\$1,980) fine.



Argentina which became the largest Latin American country to legalise abortion up to the 14th week of pregnancy after the bill was approved on 30th December 2020

The decision is ground-breaking given that the majority Roman Catholic country had some of the world's most restrictive abortion laws.



South Korea decriminalized abortion, effective 2021, by an order of the Constitutional Court.

The government had criminalized abortion in the 1953 in all circumstances. This was amended by the Maternal and Child Health Law of 1973 to allow in case of incest, rape, hereditary/communicable disease or risk to woman's health.



In **India** the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act of 1971 is being amended and a Bill was passed in one house of parliament before the country went into pandemic lockdown in March

Although the preamble of the proposed amendment includes progressive language, unfortunately the content and clauses of the new version are likely to create more barriers than make access universal and safe.



HUMANS OF ASAP

#IMakeHistory because I know the world is unequal and many are left behind, but I have the willingness & knowledge to change that.



Sabina Pokhrel is a feminist activist from Nepal. A Public Health graduate she is currently working with Visible Impact and is also SheDecides 25x25 young leader -Generation of Change.

FEMINIST
AND CHILL!

*To separate Entertainment
from Gender-tainment!*

OBVIOUS CHILD



"UNAPOLOGETIC, HONEST AND EXTREMELY FUNNY"

"JENNY SLATE IS A REVELATION"

"A COMEDY WHICH BOLDLY GOES
WHERE NO WOMAN HAS GONE BEFORE"

"MOVES FROM THE PROFANE TO THE
POIGNANT IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE"

"NOT JUST HUGE ENJOYABLE,
BUT ALSO IMPORTANT"

IN CINEMAS AUGUST 29



FEMINIST N CHILL

Movie recommendation - 'Obvious
Child'. Review by Youth Champion
from India, Purnima Singh

[Click the image to read review](#)

MEMES

All of us waiting for Joe Biden to
remove the Global Gag Rule like



How buying sanitary napkins in
Sri Lanka feels like

CAN ACTIVITIES

INDIA - INDIA SAFE ABORTION YOUTH ADVOCATES (ISAY)

50 YEARS OF MTP ACT - GAPS AND GAINS | MASUM, ISAY & ASAP | 9TH APRIL

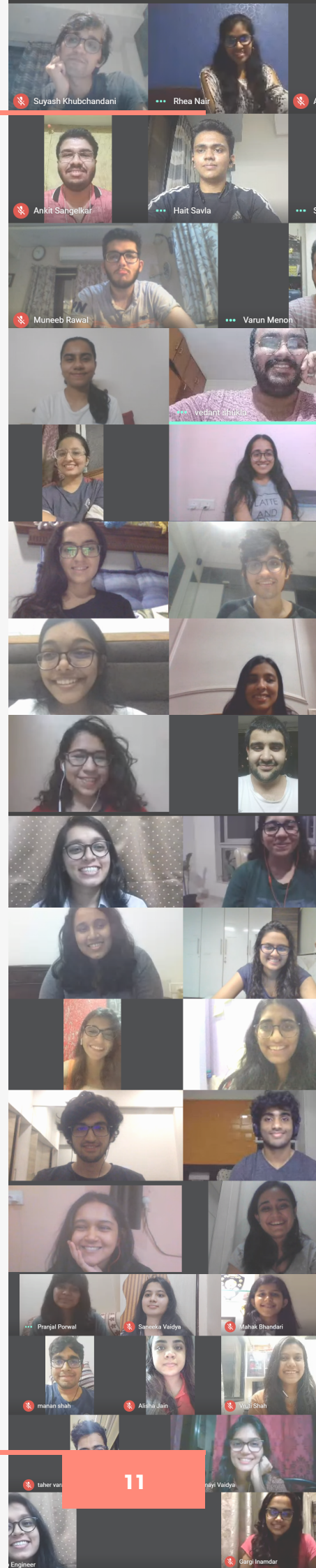
ISAY partnered with MASUM and ASAP for a national webinar called '50 Years of MTP Act-Gaps and Gains' to discuss the nuances of the policies regarding abortions in India. Suyash Khubchandani briefly detailed the work done by ISAY and how our partnership with MASUM led to collaborations for workshops and many other activities.

GYNOPEDIA | ONLINE | ASAP, STORIES TO ACTION AND GYNOPEDIA | 12TH MARCH

Shwetangi Shinde participated in the making of a reel for promotion of Gynopaedia in association with ASAP.

THE ABORTION CURRICULUM | ISAY | ONGOING

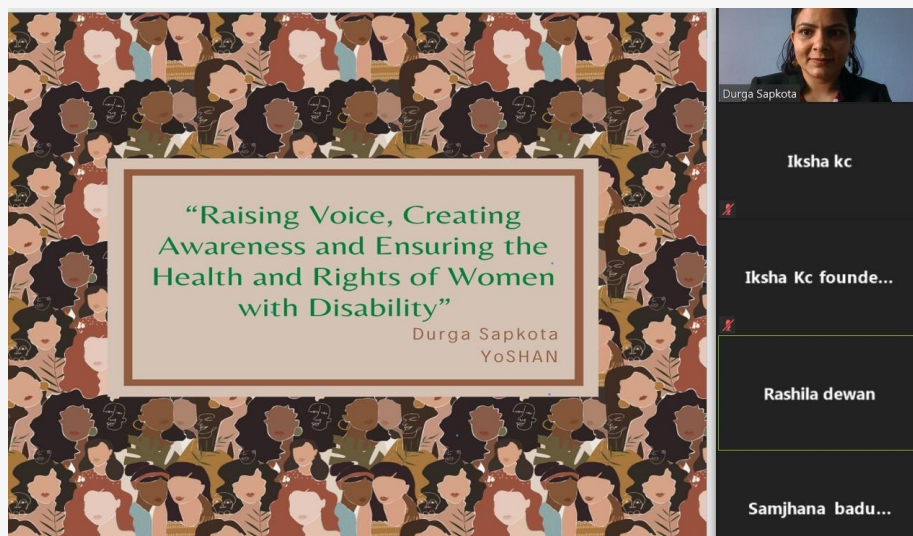
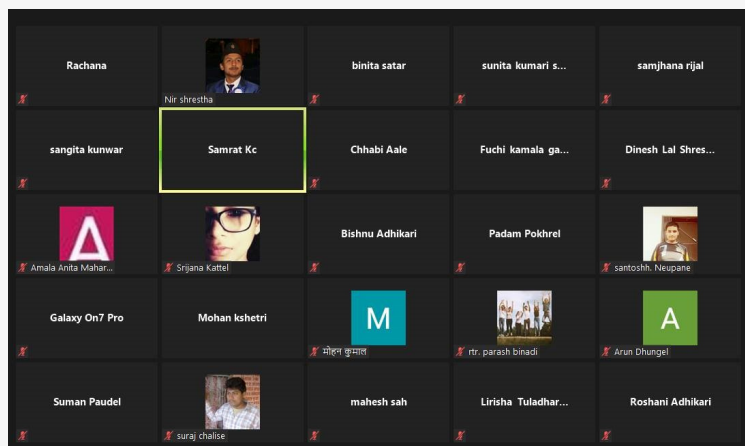
Members of the ISAY team worked for the creation of a toolkit for medical students as a guide for an abortion sensitization workshop. It includes a detailed account of every session and resource material that would be required to conduct a basic SOGIESC and abortion advocacy workshop



NEPAL - YOUTH LED SRHR ADVOCACY NEPAL (YO-SHAN)

SAFE ABORTION RIGHTS AND LEGAL PROVISIONS IN NEPAL | YOSHAN | 20TH JANUARY

Youth Champion Nir Shrestha conducted a virtual session on the topic with Blind Youth Association Nepal.



SESSION ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS | PAHICHAN NEPAL & YOSHAN

The organizations collaborated to , conduct an interactive session where women with disabilities from all the provinces actively showed up to share their lived experiences related to sexual and reproductive health. The session was facilitated by Durga Sapkota.



GARDENING WORKSHOP | ONE BILLION RISING (OBR), SANGAT NEPAL AND CECI NEPAL

YoSHAN participated in this workshop where different seeds and plants were planted on the feminist farm provided by Yogashala Nepal. There was enormous space to learn and share with each other. YoSHAN Youth Champion Kamala Bista took part in the program representing YoSHAN.

AMENDMENT OF SAFE MOTHERHOOD AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACT 2018 | REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS WORKING GROUP (RHRWG) | ONGOING

YoSHAN as part of RHRWG along with other organizations has been engaging in creating a more inclusive law in the country, which can ensure women's health and rights.

GUFF4YOUTH (G4U) | YOSHAN | 19TH MARCH

This session was organized on Mental health and SRHR and was facilitated by Pushpa Joshi and a psychological counselor Shraddha Pradhan. In the session, the interlinkages between SRHR and mental health were explored and they also discussed self-care practices.



Celebrating women who inspire

This International Women's Day, the Post reflects on the contributions made by nine unsung heroes who have done significant work in the pandemic.

Last year was incredibly difficult for all of us. From not being allowed to freely travel and meet our families and friends to losing our jobs

and the loss of many near and dear ones, the pandemic tested our patience, ability, and humanity. Amidst such trying times, there were

some people whose work and heart made the lives of others around them a little safer. To mark this year's International Women's Day,

the Post brings forth the stories of such unsung heroes, who regardless of the pandemic were determined to help others.

Garima Shrestha, doctor and founder of SHE-Nepal

Before 2020, the work of SHE-Nepal, an organization that works to promoting feminine hygiene, was mainly limited to distributing reusable sanitary pads, which they make themselves, and operating a menstrual hygiene program in Kathmandu.

"Soon after the lockdown started, we started receiving messages from women who had returned to their villages and were not being able to get hold of sanitary pads," said Dr. Garima Shrestha, who founded SHE-Nepal in 2017.

As a healthcare professional, says Dr. Shrestha, this news alarmed her. "Sanitary pads are a very important aspect in maintaining the feminine hygiene and the lack of them could result in infection," said Dr. Shrestha.

While trying to understand the issue at hand, Dr. Shrestha says she learned that in many rural areas of the country many women didn't have access to sanitary pads.

From the onset of the pandemic to today, she has so far distributed 10,000 reusable sanitary pads in socioeconomically marginalized communities in various parts of the country, from

Micromanager Ridge, Pyuthian to Garhuk, says Shrestha.

"Today, all of our work is heavily funded by individual donors. But I have actually started focusing on making SHE-Nepal financially independent so we don't have to rely solely on donations. We have very recently started selling SHE-Nepal's reusable masks and bags, and

hundred percent of profit from the sale will go into ensuring each and every woman has safe and dignified menstruation."



Sona Khatri, radio station manager

Sona Khatri has always imagined to live in an ideal, just society. "But I, living with my family, have faced a lot of struggles because of existing caste-based discriminatory practices," says Khatri.

And that is why to educate people against such discriminatory practices, she started her education, "namely" and earned an internship at the community radio station, Radio Kailash, which she is now leading, after 15 years of working there.

During the early days of the pandemic, Kailash became one of the first Covid-19 hotspots of the country. And while most of the businesses were shut down, journalists at Radio Kailash were working day and night to provide listeners with accurate information so they can know how to keep themselves safe. And this information was carefully phoned by Khatri and her team members, who wanted to give back to society in the time of need through their radio station.

"Not everyone living here knows Nepali. That's why we decided to use the local language to provide information to the people so they also have access to valuable information that can protect them," says Khatri, who through the radio channel spread awareness about coronavirus in Annapurna, Bhagmati and Tharu languages.

Similarly, through the radio station, Khatri also helped students of the district to continue their studies even during the pandemic as she judged middle teachers to conduct their classes over the radio for free.

I joined the radio to help my community and in the pandemic, I did what I was responsible for—to help those who needed help," says Khatri.



Nagma Khan, queer rights activist

It was 2017 when Nagma Khan, a trans woman, started to work as an activist for the Blue Diamond Society. "As I belonged to a community where people weren't welcoming of transsexual people, I had to struggle a lot in the beginning," says Khan, who is currently working on the district coordination of Blue Diamond Society at Bhatkuli.

But the struggles didn't deter her confidence and perseverance. Despite the social pressures, she

tried to live up to the life of queer people in the land, by either helping them to find ways to get justice or

providing them counseling.

During the initial days of the pandemic, when people were forced to their homes, for the already vulnerable queer population, this posed a difficult

situation, many of them had to go back to their natal homes, which they had abandoned earlier. And due to this, many of them had to live in hostility. The

pandemic also took jobs away from many queer individuals due to which they started to struggle in

fulfilling their basic needs as well.

And that's why Khan felt the responsibility to help—despite having the fear of contracting the disease. With

assistance from Blue Diamond Society, Khan started providing relief materials to queer people. She also

started providing a life-counseling service, answering the phone calls of queer people who were mentally

crushed because of the pandemic.

"Yes, I was scared. But I just imagined what they were all going through and took actions because I wanted to help them. I thought that I was born to serve the

queer community," says Khan.



Prakriti Bhattacharya, an activist and chairperson of Political Literacy for Women

There is a brave middle-class, non-political family. Prakriti Bhattacharya Bhattarai's interest in politics began young. "I used to regularly interact with people who were preparing for the examination of civil service. As they used to talk about politics, I started getting inclined towards understanding politics," says Bhattacharya.

However, when she enrolled herself to study social work for her undergraduate degree, she didn't find the same interest and political consciousness among her peers, especially girls. And that's why, she started Political Literacy for Women, an organization through which she helps improve their understanding of politics.

"Until now, we have trained more than 400 young girls, and among them, almost all of them have joined political parties," says Bhattacharya.

While her organization in the pandemic kept achieving their objectives of training as many as young girls as they could, Bhattacharya was exploring

her role. As an individual, she was involved in major social movements, which were participatory of hundreds of women, who came on the streets raising their voice and concerns against the rising violence against women.

Last October, along with other members, Bhattacharya joined the "Kailash" a social movement that aimed at redefining social movements against sexual violence in Nepal. She also joined the "Kailash" and performed the flash mob "Bhaskari" in a "You are a queen, a song that was rich in political symbolism, criticizing the patriarchal structure of the country."

Similarly, last month, Bhattacharya also shared her solidarity with the on-going Blue Diamond Society, a rally organized to raise concerns against the failure of the government to provide justice to women.

"Every day is like a fight if you want to be a woman involved in politics," says Bhattacharya. "There are days when I feel low, but I see the role of women's participation can make a difference in working. Right now my goal is to make the social movements more inclusive and intersectional."

Durga Sapkota, youth health advocate and co-founder of Youth-led SHHR Advocacy Nepal

When Durga Sapkota was studying nursing with maternity specialization at Nepal Health College (Dhulikhel Hospital), she came to an understanding that if one is to make a significant impact on women's health, a holistic approach needs to be adopted.

For example, a person wanting to get a safe abortion is denied that opportunity at health facilities (they are made to feel they are making the wrong choice)," said Sapkota, who is a youth health

advocate and was recently honored by the World Health Organization in their 2020 List of 100 Outstanding Women Nurses and Midwives to recognize midwives and nurses as the backbone of primary health systems.

The recognition has motivated me to work harder but I believe this celebration wasn't just about me but represented the countless nurses and midwives who play a significant role in our health care services," says Sapkota. "Unfortunately, here in the country, nurses are still not looked at with dignity and as identity of their own, they are considered as assistants, helping to doctors," she said.

But despite the challenges of societal conventions, Sapkota has been breaking barriers one by one and has been at the fore of advocating for gender equality and has provided assurance training on reproductive health and rights. And even in the pandemic, she has actively provided counseling to women through YOSHAN (Youth-led SHHR Advocacy Nepal).

Till date, Sapkota has provided training to 100 adolescent girls about menstrual health, safe abortion, family planning, and also

talking about gender equality, domestic violence, and rape.

Currently, however, Sapkota is taking time to deal with the loss of her mother to Covid-19. "It's been a very difficult time for me personally seeing how Covid has shattered our lives—but I want to be able to give back to people and I am working on my strength," she said.



Sergeant Krishna Kumari and Lance Corporal Rachana

They say that getting into the army is not a dream a woman should see for herself but that notion is exactly what Sergeant Krishna Kumari and Lance Corporal Rachana wanted to break when they joined the army.

They wanted to take risks, seize opportunities and practice strength, be everything a woman can't be, they say with one mind at the grounds of Gorkhali Company, Narayankot.

"The Nepal Army has given us a platform to be more capable and confident. It has provided us with opportunities to take on brave roles," said 17-year-old Sergeant Krishna Kumari.

Currently, the two women and their team have been at the center of defying gender roles conversations by being the first women to receive funeral rites—while for long time has been a taboo for women.

Their difficult task during the pandemic to manage bodies of Covid victims has managed to break the glass ceiling of cultural norms that have limited inequality strictly.

When the opportunity of enlisting for the task came, both Sergeant Krishna Kumari and Lance Corporal Rachana willingly acknowledged the job to be a service to the army and to challenge the thinking of Nepal society, the traditional role was based on how they could see how the virus had robbed people of the time to bid farewell to their own families. The bodies were covered in plastic and carried by them instead of family members and they could feel the stress and anxiety of family members.

"It was difficult to be the first as family members cried their heart out, we could do nothing for them except assure them we would do our duty properly," said Lance Corporal Rachana.

As these three, breaking their own gender at a time when Covid-19 created an uncertain future, the two are proud of themselves for having taken the risk. "We are glad to have been of service to the people," they say.



Meena Tamang, community health worker

Meena Tamang, 35, is a community health worker in the village of Bhatkuli, Lalitpur.



Socha Shrestha, animal rights activist

Socha Shrestha, 35, is an animal rights activist in the village of Bhatkuli, Lalitpur.

On International Women's Day, Durga Sapkota was featured in a national newspaper as one of the inspiring Nepali women.

SRI LANKA - YOUTH ADVOCACY NETWORK SRI LANKA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020 | YANSL



One of the milestones of the first quarter of the year 2021 for YANSL was the Annual General Meeting for the year 2020 held on the 21st of February 2021 from 9.30 am to 1.30 pm at Enclave, Colombo. The AGM brought together members of YANSL from its inception and was followed by a fellowship session. Apart from the presentation of the Annual Report, another key event was the change of the Board of Directors.

ONGOING PROJECTS

WE HEAR YOU PHASE 2 | YANSL

The 2nd Phase of We Hear You (WHY) reached its culmination in the first quarter of 2021. Several video documentaries were produced capturing the SRHR needs of people living with hearing disabilities and the developing of a sign language glossary on SRHR by featuring interviews with stakeholders who were engaged in this initiative from the beginning and documentary content of conducting educational and awareness-raising sessions with the Rathmalana School for the Deaf with the support of the Sri Lanka Central Federation for the Deaf (SLCFD).

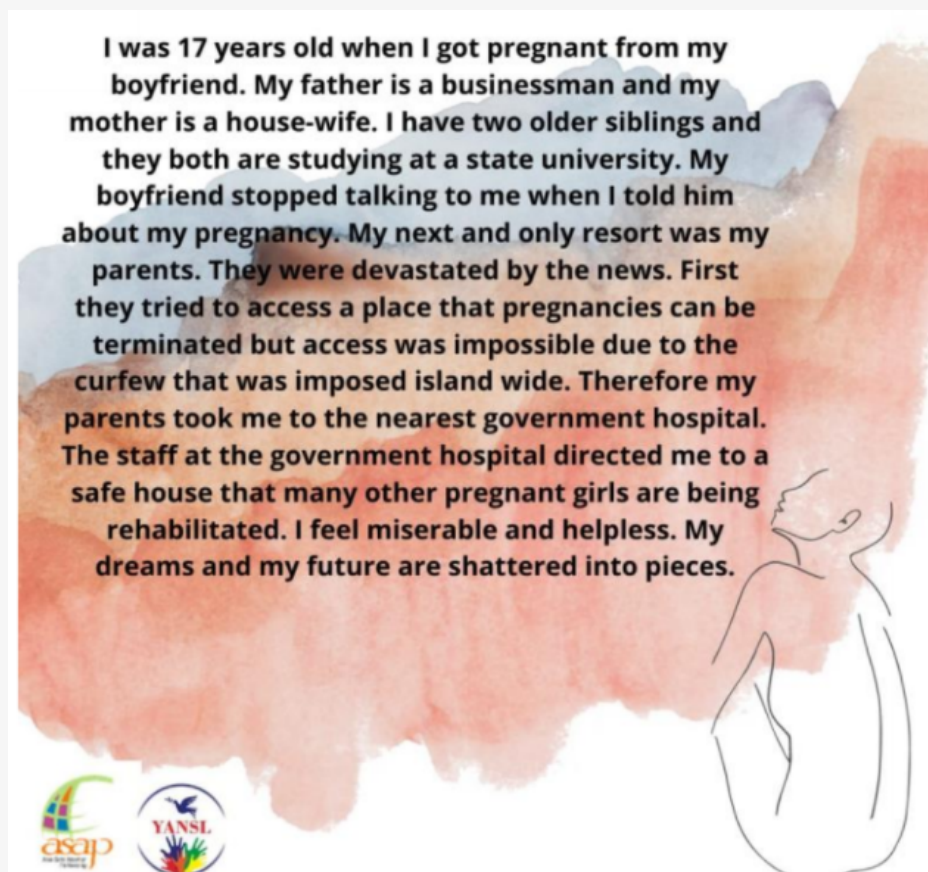
The project reached its pinnacle with the launch of a disability friendly website on SRHR named 'We Hear You' featuring information extracted from the SRHR Booklet of FAQs also put together by YANSL, and also videos with sign language interpretations.



AMPLIFY CHANGE PHASE 2 | YANSL

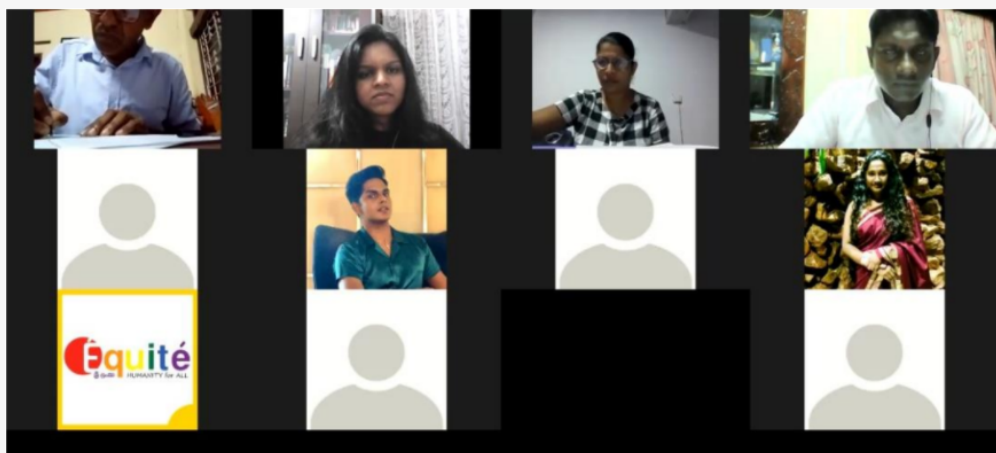
Due to constraints posed by Covid 19 and limitations of physical accessibility, the 2nd phase of Amplify Change Project was re-strategized to conducting a small research targeting law students and legal practitioners named 'Suggestions for Changes in Laws Related to SRHR'. During the first quarter of 2021, the research was conducted through online surveys and telephone calls and the research report was drafted with the assistance of Shelani Palihawadane. The research is currently under review and will be edited and put to print soon. A policy brief is also being formulated.

ASAP SMALL GRANTS PROJECT



Desaree Soysa and Tharindi Devadurendra, the Small Grants Recipients from Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP) continued the second phase of their project, which is to collect stories of women and girls who have faced difficulties in accessing SRHR services during the Covid-19 pandemic induced lockdown and share them in the form of blog articles, animated videos and posts on social media pages of YANSL.

WOMEN'S FUND ASIA PROJECT



Having secured the grant 'Claiming our Voices: Beijing+25 Follow Up and Review' by Women's Fund Asia, a project was launched as an evidence building project on access to SRHR services before and during Covid-19 focusing on women and girls in marginalized communities (ex. disability community) and the LGBTQ+ community in January 2021. In partnership with Care Consortium, a concept note for the entire project setting out its objectives was finalized during the month of February and discussions of how to create the videos including the terms of reference for videographers were finalized by the beginning of March. Focus Group discussions were held online towards the end of March with the participation of about 10 participants and their input has been taken for the conceptualization of the video scripts and finding respondents. Currently, the project team headed by Harini Fernando is finalizing the video producers for the project and identifying individuals as Respondents to be featured in the videos.

ONLINE CAMPAIGNS

GYNOPEDIA IT | ASAP

YANSL worked with Stories to Action (STA) and ASAP in updating the Sri Lanka page on 'Gynopedia' during the 1st quarter of 2021. As a method of collecting information to update the page and make SRHR information more accessible. Members of YANSL participated in a Tweetathon through YANSL's Twitter page.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION | YANSL | ONLINE



YANSL posted several posts and stories over different Social Media Forums on the importance of Sexuality Education targeting the International Day of Education. A conversation was also held on Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Sri Lanka featuring Paba Deshapriya, Director of The Grassrooted Trust Sri Lanka and moderated by Dakshitha Wickremaratne as the 5th Episode of the Catalyst Programme (an online series of educational sessions conducted by YANSL on various topics related to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, and broadly on Gender and Gender Equality).

'ME' TO 'WE' | YANSL & ROTARACT CLUB OFFACULTY OF LAW

In collaboration with the Rotaract Club of the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, an online campaign and series of webinars on raising awareness on the rights of the LGBTQ+ Community named 'Me' to 'We' was conducted by YANSL where resourced persons from within the organization like Desaree Soysa and Tharindi Devasurendra spoke of same sex relationships, contraceptives, and law reforms that are required to uphold rights of LGBTQ+ community.



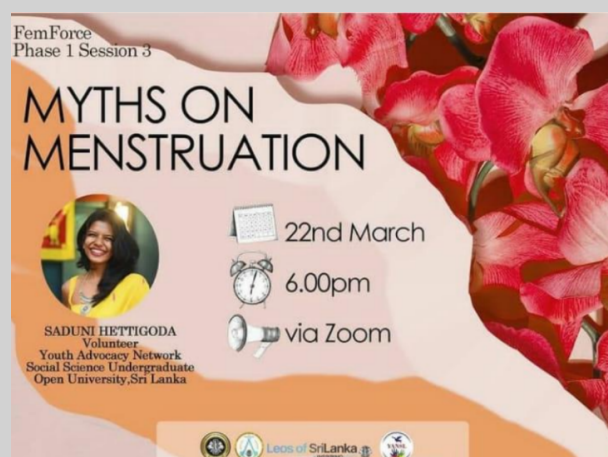
SEX ED 101

Continuing the initiative conducted in partnership with the Rotaract Club of Panadura, another webinar of SexEd101 was conducted on the topic of 'Myths surrounding Virginity' by Nishadhi Gunathilake, yet another Youth Champion. The presentation called good engagement and meaningful discussion among the participants.

FEM FORCE

A couple more webinars were conducted on Sexual and Reproductive Health related topics in partnership with the Leo Club of the Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo.

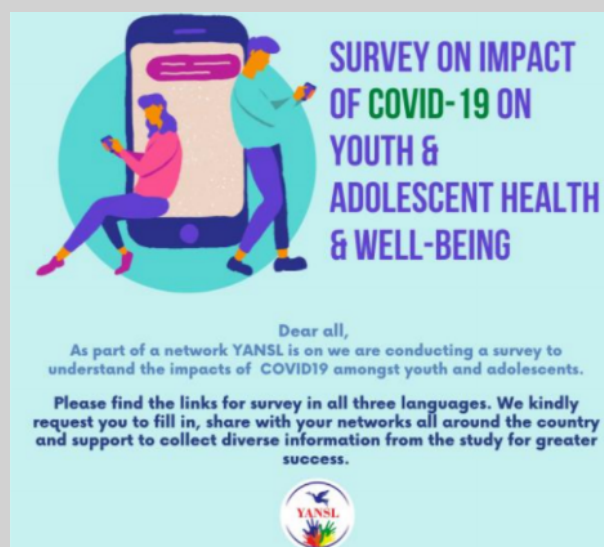
YANSL member Sanduni Hettigoda conducted a session in Sinhala language attracting a wide group of participants on the topic of 'Myths on Menstruation' while another member of YANSL Nishadhi Gunathilake spoke on laws and regulations surrounding LGBTQ+ community in Sri Lanka.



EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENTS

SOUTH EAST ASIA YOUTH ADVOCACY NETWORK (SYAN)

YANSL became a partner organization in the South East Asia Youth Advocacy Network (SYAN), which is a network which aims to bring youth focused, adolescent focused groups together and create a network in the region and create knowledge advocacy resources based on a module already developed through an online course.



GENERATION EQUALITY FORUM

Sanjana Ravi and Harini Fernando participated in the Generation Equality Forum from 29th of 31st of March representing YANSL.

YOUTH CAMPS | FPA SRI LANKA



Dakshitha Wickremarathne and Priskila Arulpragasam rendered their services as resource persons by developing training modules and training manual to conduct trainings for Youth Camps organized by the Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka in the three official languages – English, Sinhala and Tamil. Dakshtiha and Nishadhi conducted the pilot training in the Youth Camp held in Galle and Nishadhi again conducted a second training held in Galle.

THANK YOU!

CONNECT WITH US ON ONLINE!



BLOG



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