



Annual Report 2019

Year in Review 2010

Greetings from the Asia Safe Abortion Partnership! It gives us great pleasure to be able to share with you a snapshot of all that we did in the last year.

2019 has been an eventful year for all of us at the Partnership. This year we had the privilege of working closely with some amazing partners in the field. Alongside that, through our dedicated Country Advocacy Networks and Youth Advocacy Institutes conducted by them, we were able to expand our family of ASAP Youth Champions, ready to take forward and eventually lead the abortion rights movement in their countries.

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What do we mean by The Personal is Political?

According to the blog Feminism 101, "the theory that women are not to blame for their bad situations is crucial here because women have always been told that they are unhappy or faring badly in life because they are stupid, weak, mad, hysterical, having a period, pregnant, frigid, over-sexed, asking for it etc. The personal is political proposes that women are in bad situations because they experience gendered oppression and massive structural inequalities."

While this is undoubtedly true, if we look at it in a more empowering way, we also mean that while everything a person does may not have political <u>intent</u> but it certainly has political <u>impact</u>! The things we choose to <u>speak out</u> about or the things we choose to <u>keep quiet</u> about - all have political consequences.

Whether it is as simple as looking the other way when people living with disabilities are excluded or shutting women down when they want to talk about their sexuality and abortion issues or actively spreading hatred against members of the LGBTQ+ community? Everything is political whether we like it or not.

The world has seen, every so often, a gathering of voices and a surge in political discourse around so many issues where the political decisions had deep personal repercussions and wide universal resonance. We have seen this in the past with the movements against apartheid, for abolition of slavery, for the rights of workers. We have seen this recently with the campaigns for LGBTQ+ rights and in the Occupy as well as #MeToo movements.

Like the LGBTQ+ individuals 'coming out', perhaps it is time for more women to also 'come out' and speak about the abortions they have had. Perhaps it is also time for healthcare providers to speak out about the suffering and violations they see women face. With the increasing talk of conscientious objection which creates further barriers for women who want to access safe abortions, perhaps they need to strengthen the counter narrative of conscientious provision also!

We are all, as individuals, always part of the larger systems, willingly or otherwise. Every single act of ours either contributes to it or resists it. The world is increasingly being presented to us in stark contrasts. With us or with them. If the time for fuzzy boundaries and fifty shades of grey is over then we do need to make up our minds and decide which side of the line we stand on.



As Martin Luther King Jr said "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter."

No matter what we do as an individual, whether it is speaking up or silence, it IS an act of political submission and acceptance or subversion and dissent. We cannot wait for the fight to reach our doorstep. We need to take the fight to them!

Women and even girls can no longer be stopped from taking control of the conversations, systems, laws and policies that have, for too long, attempted to control them- whether it is by stigma and shaming, reduced power and mobility, lesser access to resources and choices.

The # MeToo unleashed a sheer avalanche of stories of abuse, despair, violence and violation that surprised exactly no woman and almost every man. That paved the way for more courage from those who suffer and more and more people have been speaking out.

From the 11 year old Naomi Wadler's powerful voice at the anti-gun rally in DC to the latest salvo from Ofelia Fernandez of Argentina who asked "Is the political system ready for us to enter?" and then told the world 'I don't care because we will force our way in.", this year the personal has become very political indeed!

Suchitra Dalvie



Steering Committee

Chair:

Thuy Bich Phan Vietnam

Members:

Anand Tamang Nepal

Dema Wangchuk Bhutan

Katayon Sadat Afghanistan

Subatra Jayraj Malaysia

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Secretariat Staff

Suchitra Dalvie Coordinator

Garima Srivastava Assistant Coordinator (January 2019 - October 2019)

Nandini Mazumder Assistant Coordinator (November 2019 onwards)

Ayesha Bashir Communication and Networking Officer

Sanika Mungekar Accounts Officer

Background

The Asia Safe Abortion Partnership believes that women's rights are human rights, and that true gender equality cannot be achieved without ensuring that women have access to their sexual and reproductive rights. Further, we hold that access to safe abortion is central to women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, and is integral to women being able to exercise bodily autonomy and agency.

We are motivated by the belief that all women should be empowered to obtain equitable access to reproductive services free of coercion, discrimination and violence, within a social justice framework.

Vision

Our vision is a world in which Asian women live with dignity and their access to sexual and reproductive rights are guaranteed.

Goals

The Asia Safe Abortion Partnership is committed to promoting, protecting, and advancing women's sexual and reproductive rights and health in Asia, by actively promoting access to comprehensive safe abortion services, and reducing the incidence of unsafe abortion. In defining our goals, we remain cognizant of the various components of access such as geography, affordability, and the availability of ongoing, and sensitive care. Further, we recognize that comprehensive care must necessarily include pre-procedure counselling, a full range of safe and effective methods, post-abortion care and access to contraception, as well as emergency referral services.

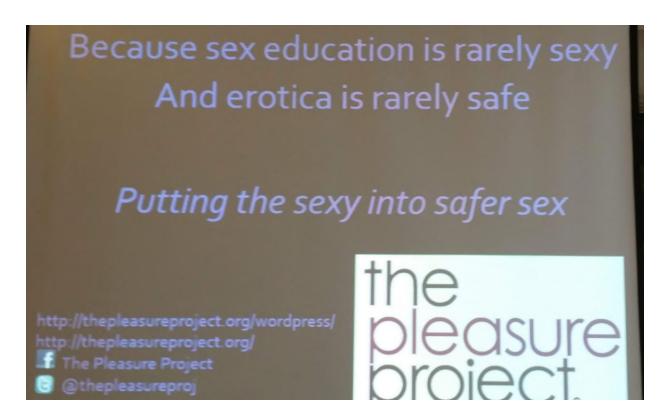
As part of our Goal, the Partnership also articulates the following objectives that inform our work:

- 1. To increase the capabilities of the network and its members to advocate and network for access to safe abortion as a human right.
- 2. To increase the availability of evidence-based research and scientific information on safe abortion, including medical abortion, and to facilitate its dissemination and use amongst members and stakeholders.
- 3. To promote technologies and service delivery systems to promote access to safe abortion services.
- 4. To increase the visibility of a rights-based approach to safe abortion at local, national, and regional fora.

2019 ASAP Events

Collaborations 🤵





Sexual Pleasure Toolkit workshop

12th - 13th January 2019 | Mumbai, India

ASAP collaborated with <u>Love Matters India</u> and the Pleasure Project in Mumbai for a workshop on sexual pleasure which spanned over 2 days and was attended by entire ASAP staff. The workshop covered important issues like the importance and difference between sexuality, sexual rights and sexual health.



ASAP Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie discussed case studies with the participants that helped them understand on how best to take the pleasure approach. She also addressed the service provider's perspective by explaining it through an activity where everyone was paired as a doctor and a client and they had to overcome their fear of asking embarrassing questions while being non-judgemental towards your client.



Youth Advocacy Institute with MSAI and ISAY

1st – 2nd May, 2019 | Mumbai, India

ASAP and our country advocacy network from India, <u>India Safe Abortion Youth Advocates</u> ISAY conducted a YAI with students from <u>Medical Students Association of India</u> in Mumbai. This was facilitated by Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie.

Topics like intersectionalities and how they affect our decision-making skills, mass media stereotyping and objectifying women and internet security were taken up by our experienced Youth Champions from Mumbai.





#AbortionMeraHaq

1st May – 28th May | Feminism in India

Feminism in India ran an online campaign called #AbortionMeraHaq which translates to 'abortion is my right'. The campaign demanded safe, legal and affordable abortions for all who require an abortion. Throughout the month FII and ASAP released posters, infographics, videos and articles talking about the different aspects of abortion rights in India; legal, medical and societal. We also hosted Twitter and Instagram chats with Dr Suchitra Dalvie to discuss abortion and clear up all misconceptions and myths. Some infographics are shared below. At the end of the campaign, we released a video created by FII capturing the Indian public's perception of abortion in India.

















Online Solidarity!



#MyBodyMyChoice

ASAP regularly interacted with partners from My Body My Choice coalition online, regularly retweeting and sharing the campaign message.

#MyGynaecStory

Haiyya, in collaboration with Feminism in India ran the #MyGynaecStory campaign, to destigmatize sexual health and to talk about the experiences of unmarried women, wanting reproductive health service, which is often judgemental and negative. ASAP contributed by sharing these stories on social media and talking about the need of doctors and medical students who are sensitized in gender and sexuality.



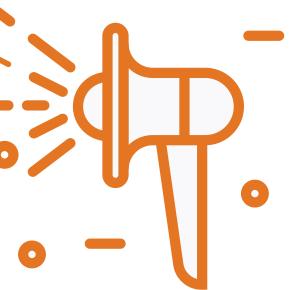
ASAP as a part of the My Body My Choice coalition, conducted an 'Ask Me Anything' session on 28th May with Sheroes on their social networking site, where Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie, answered reproductive health questions online.

My Abortion My Health | Safe Abortion Campaign | 28th September

On 28th September as a part of the International Campaign for Safe Abortion collective, ASAP re-shared their messages online, while also contributing as a core team member of the campaign.

Ask Me Anything | 28th September | MBMC & Sheroes

This Ask Me Anything was organized with Sheroes and MBMC, where various questions were asked regarding safe abortion and were answered by Dr Dalvie.



Networking & Advocacy



International Congress on Women's Health and Unsafe Abortion (IWAC)

19th - 22nd February 2019 | Bangkok, Thailand

This year the 4th International Congress on Women's Health and Unsafe Abortion, was organized by the Women's Health and Reproductive Rights Foundation of Thailand at Bangkok from 19th - 22nd February 2019 focusing on the important 5Ds when it comes to Universal Access to Safe Abortion, which are; **Desensitization**; **Desensitization**; **Desensitization**; **Desensitization**; **Desensitization**;

Eminent speakers shared their knowledge and opinions on the issue of abortion rights, from different parts of the world. ASAP had a strong presence at the conference.

Access to contraception among educated urban youth- YC Anika Binte Habib, Bangladesh (Co-Lead Youth AID)

Anika talked about the study conducted by Youth-Aid in Bangladesh that attempted to contribute and add knowledge on the situation, perception and policy option required in this field along with assessing the educated urban youth's access to contraception in Dhaka, Bangladesh.



Building support for sexual violence survivors through community-based education – YC Ignatia Alpha Gloria and Vicky Rosarie, Indonesia

34% of violence against women cases –that reported- is sexual violence and at least 1 in 3 women experience sexual violence in their lifetime. Based on this this information their team decided to conduct mini workshops with around 350 people from diverse backgrounds and ages, to understand their knowledge and attitude with regards to sexual violence. They included that comprehensive education on sexual violence needs to be regularly held to create spaces for clarification and confirmation, to widen the supporting groups, and to build sense of urgency for further advocacy national level.



Advocacy for attitude change among future healthcare professionals; Wangchuk Dema, Bhutan

Around 200 women and girls die every year in Bhutan due to unsafe abortions. Youth Champions from DRUK- YISA conducted an advocacy meet with the students of Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan and were surprised to find that almost 300 medical students despite being trained as healthcare providers, were not aware that abortion is fairly legal and therefore It seemed like an opportunity to clarify the legal status of abortion in the country. The students were surveyed on whether abortion should be completely legalized or not and 68.8% said yes, while 27.8% said no and rest 3.3% were neutral.

Gender Perspective and Training in Medical Education; Suyash Khubchandani, India (Co-founder ISAY)

Given the critical role that healthcare providers play in either being a barrier or a support to women who seek sexual and reproductive health services along with upholding or denying them their rights, ASAP has been working closely with some medical students. They now have their own network called ISAY Till now they have organized 7 sensitization workshops panning 150 students which were a mix of conversations, discussions and activities on issues surrounding gender, sexuality, barriers to safe abortion with an aim to provide a wholesome understanding of a right's based approach.



Some other topics covered by our members

- Embedding Abortion into SRHR via Sexuality Hotline- Rola Yasmine Lebanon
- Value Clarification and Attitudinal Transformation an approach to overcoming barriers to abortion services in a conservative context- Naureen Farhan Surani Pakistan
- Conflict in Young People's Sexual Life- Phan Bich Thuy, Vietnam
- Abortion Myths and Perceptions: Findings from an online survey- Dr Souvik
 Pyne
- Abortion Access: Women's Rights vs Religious Political Partnerships S P Choong, Malaysia
- Secularism, Sexual Rights and the Youth-SP Choong
- Using Post Abortion Care in Afghanistan to save lives- Katayon Sadat, Afghanistan
- Mapping women- sex ratios and the right to safe abortion- Garima Shrivastava
- · Creating Youth Champions through Advocacy Institutes- Suchitra Dalvie
- Strategies for introducing abortion into practitioner training Suchitra Dalvie

Health Over Stigma Report Launch on 'Stigma unmarried women face when accessing sexual and reproductive health services

21st February, 2019 | New Delhi, India

Lack of enough data on experiences of women with regards to their reproductive choices and the stigma faced on an everyday basis, makes the cause of SRHR a neglected one



among the policy and law makers of the country. <u>Haiyya</u> a grassroots organization conducted a survey with 796 unmarried women in Delhi, under their campaign called Health Over Stigma and shared their findings. For instance, it was revealed that 83.4% unmarried women access internet for information on SRHR, while only 20% knew about the abortion law in India. This data is alarming as it indicates that sexual health issues are not considered serious enough for a majority of women and often internet seems to be the last resort for many, which may not always be reliable. The launch was attended by the Communication Officer of ASAP, Ayesha Bashir and was also an opportunity to collaborate for the second phase of their campaign, focusing on service providers.



Self-Managed Abortions Global Meeting IWHC

24th - 26th Feb, 2019 | Bangkok, Thailand

ASAP Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie was invited to be a part of this meeting and attended on behalf of ASAP. The meeting objective was to develop a more dynamic understanding of self-managed abortion across informal practices and formal systems to:

- Better support and meet the needs of all people seeking abortions
- Improve the design of interventions for health systems, laws and policies
- Evolve dominant paradigms and discourses about self-managed abortions and
- Reflect on existing and propose potential new research and advocacy goals. During the various sessions
 held over three days the participants mapped the continuum of practices in self-managed abortion (SMA)
 across formal and informal sectors, including who are some of the actors and what are their philosophies
 of practice. They also discussed how people access information, medicines and support and what are their
 realities and needs

Inroads Regional Gathering

8th - 9th April, 2019 | Kathmandu, Nepal

ASAP was represented at the Asia Regional Gathering of Inroads held at Kathmandu. Dr Suchitra Dalvie was present as were many of our Youth Champions. While Shreejana from Nepal talked about the importance of contraception along with always recognizing the need that women still need to have access to safe abortion, Priskila from Sri Lanka shared about the legal and advocacy situation in the country and the work being done by our country advocacy network YANSL. Dr Dalvie spoke about the politics of self-managed abortions.





CREA Re: Conference

10th – 12th April | Kathmandu, Nepal

ASAP was at represented at the <u>CREA</u> Recon by the Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie and Assistant Coordinator Garima Shrivastava. Among the many topics at the conference to reimagine, rethink and reboot, there were also critical and often controversial discussions around issues like prenatal testing, disability and abortion. Dr Suchitra Dalvie moderated and spoke on a panel discussion- Abortion in Asia: Selection, Termination and Determination. Youth Champion Durga Sapkota from Nepal was also a part of the panel. Dr. Dalvie also spoke at a panel on cross movement solidarity and alliance building between disability rights and safe abortion. She highlighted how sex ratio and conversations around numbers is not useful if you don't talk about the politics around it. We need to recognise the systems of discrimination promoted and sustained by the patriarchy.





Sexual and Reproductive Rights in India: Social movements and legal battle

14th - 15th April | Bangalore, India

Dr Suchitra Dalvie was invited by the Centre for Law and Policy Research and spoke on 'Are we ready for Women's Right to Safe Abortion?' Her presentation covered issues around the Indian Penal Code Sections 312- 316, the MTP Act and its limitations and the increase in misinformation and stigma caused by the implementation of the PCPNDT Act.



7th Annual SARJAI Convening

16th – 18th May, 2019 | Kathmandu, Nepal Organized by South Asia Reproductive Justice and Accountability Initiative (SARJAI)

ASAP Assistant Coordinator Garima Shrivastava attended the 7th Annual <u>SARJAI</u> Convening held in Kathmandu, Nepal, MAY 16-18, 2019.

Networking & Advocacy

She was part of the panel on conceptualizing a SARJAI Working Group on Abortion Legal Advocacy and spoke about Criminalization of abortion in South Asia and its impact. Her presentation highlighted how criminal laws on abortion throughout South Asia shape knowledge, perception, and attitudes concerning abortion and how have these had different impacts on women's and girls' access to safe abortion services. She also spoke about the need for building cross movements solidarity and alliance building advocating for decriminalisation of abortion and



creating more enabling legal environments for women to truly control their reproductive freedom.

Women Deliver

3rd - 6th June | Vancouver, Canada

ASAP had a good representation by our Youth Champions at the Women Deliver conference, held in Canada. Apart from sharing their individual experiences, many of them also highlighted the work of their respective country advocacy networks.





Packard Foundation Youth Champions Initiative

8th-15th July | USA

Our Youth Champion from India Suyash Khubchandani participated in the Rise Up's Youth Champions Initiative organized by the Packard Foundation which invests in powerful young leaders ages 18-29 who are leading the sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice movement in Ethiopia, India, Pakistan, Rwanda, and the United States.





National Consultation

29th July | New Delhi, India

ASAP was invited for recommendations by Population Foundation Of India and The Youth Parliament Foundation organized a National Consultation to accelerate adolescent & youth health with participation from the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India. The consultation intended to review current policies and programmatic interventions at the national level, deliberate on the recommendations from the regional level, and finalise actionable points that would complement and strengthen the existing national and state programmes. It brought together a diverse set of young people working on SRH issues from across the country, youth-led organisations, state-level government representation, civil society, as well as development partners.

Sex Selection, Medical Ethics and Politics

29th July | Kathmandu Nepal

Coordinator ASAP was invited by CREHPA to speak at the Nepal National Meeting on Sex Selection and Safe Abortion held on 29th July 2019. Her paper was the keynote address to shed light on Asian context in terms of SSA practice and resultant SRB imbalances and how the interpretations of skewed SRB go against women's right to choose and potential threats to safe abortions. The Chair



of the meeting was Ms. Lubna, head of UNFPA Nepal and the other two speakers were Sonali Regmi (former CRR Asia regional Director) and the Head of the ethical Committee of Nepal Medical Council.

Dr Dalvie's presentation covered the politics of sex determination, the concerns that the gender discrimination issue is being used to create anti-abortion sentiment, the need to always emphasize women's right to safe abortion while also condemning sex determination. The meeting generated some very interesting discussions and the participants were very keen on understanding how the situation has unfolded in the Indian context.

SheDecides Partner Meeting

29th July & 28th August | New Delhi, India

Assistant Coordinator Garima Srivastava represented ASAP at SheDecides at the partners meeting organised by SheDecides, the meeting mainly intended to strategize how SheDecides can build movement in India and partner with the ongoing work organizations are doing around SRHR. She suggested that a forum like SheDecides can create space for more youth representation on global platforms and key policy making spaces.



Unplanned Pregnancy and Abortion Conference

1st - 2nd August | Brisbane, Australia

The conference comprised of plenary sessions with experts and concurrent sessions, including a clinical stream for health practitioners providing or assisting in abortion care. Dr Phan Bich Thuy presented in 2 sessions. One on "The Asia Safe Abortion Partnership" and another on "The conflict in young people`s sexual life in Viet Nam".



Social Media For Empowerment

2nd August | Organized by Digital Empowerment Foundation

ISAy's campaign 'That's What She Said' was one of the finalists for the Social Media for Empowerment Award. Though Feminism in India won the award for their brilliant campaign, it was an honor to be sharing the stage with some great change makers of the country.







Massive Victory for Women

19th August | New Delhi, India

The event was attended by Communications Officer Ayesha Bashir as a member of the core team for <u>Health Over Stigma Campaign</u>. The event was organized as a celebration of Delhi Medical Council and Delhi Medical Association coming on board with HOS and extending support in ensuring that the campaign's 10 commandments for Gynaecologists in Delhi to provide stigma free services, are implemented. It was also an opportunity for dialogue between SRHR advocates and doctors.

Maternal and Reproductive Rights in ICPD

26th August | New Delhi, India

The event was organized by Sahyog and NAMHHR and attended by Assistant Coordinator Garima and it intended to review implementation of the ICPD Plan of Action by the government of India, in relation to Maternal Health and Reproductive Rights and also to examine equity issues including budget allocations and the role of the private. The Convention culminated with the developing of a Call to Action, to urge the Government to take appropriate action to ensure that human rights principles enshrined in the ICPD POA are upheld towards achieving the highest quality of maternal and reproductive health for the marginalized in India.

Jashn-e-Reproductive Rights

28th September | New Delhi, India

The event was organized by Love Matters and Haiyya and attended by Communications Officer Ayesha Bashir and it was a day long fest to increase awareness and celebrate reproductive rights for all, including the right to access safe and legal abortion. The fest entailed informative sessions about abortion and reproductive health, along with a range of other educational and fun performances such as spoken word poetry, street theatre, musical performance, etc.







Gender Equality and Safe Abortion Report Launch

28th September | New Delhi, India

ASAP Assistant Coordinator, Garima Shrivastava attended launch of a report by Pratigya Campaign on 28th September 2019, at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi. The report was a study on accessing the judiciary's role in access to safe abortion in India. ASAP was the only organization present at the event working directly to promote access to safe abortion through rights-based perspective.

Human Rights Law Network, MTP Amendment Hearing Meeting

14th October | New Delhi

Coordinator was invited to be in a meeting at the HRLN office in Delhi to discuss the interventions and petitions to be made by civil society in response to the guidelines submitted by the Union of India for setting up state medical boards to decide on abortion cases beyond 20 weeks.

FP2020 National Dissemination Meeting

15th October | New Delhi

Coordinator was invited to the FP 2020 meeting hosted by FPAI at Hotel Ashok, New Delhi. The Family Planning Association of India (FPA India), along with its partners, launched a nationwide campaign: "Youth Dialogue- A perspective on FP2020", to create an enabling, stigma-free environment and spread awareness on 'Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for all'. Coordinator was invited to participate as an expert panellist and spoke on SRHR Landscape: Reaching the Unreached.

Some important points covered by Dr Dalvie were

- The MTP Act is needed because the IPC criminalizes abortion. We need to work to change that so that we don't need the MTP act and we can replace it with a law which actually protects women's rights instead of protecting doctors.
- Young people below 18 cannot sign alone and we should try to work around evolving capacities and Gillick competence.
- The conflicting and overlapping ages of consent for a young woman depend on whether she is married or not. This is discriminatory since the biology of a 16-year-old pregnant young woman is the same whether she is married or not.
- Marriage seems to be a watershed moment in the lives of women in India. Given then the government has refused to criminalize marital rape, what it means is that we can't say yes to sex before marriage, and we can't say no to sex after marriage! It is as though married women are no longer equal citizens.
- Coordinator also spoke about the need to address public sector accountability is that we can avoid situations of exploitation and dependence on the private sector. Someone from the audience shared a story about a young girl from Hyderabad being charged 45,000 INR for a medical abortion at 6 weeks! This is ridiculous and someone needs to be held accountable.



Packard Grantee Meeting

18th -19th October | Cochin, India

Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie attended a grantee meeting organized by the Packard Foundation on. She presented the work being done by ASAP with medical students across Asia. It was also a great opportunity for networking and future collaborations.

Removing Restrictions to Safe Abortion Care

10th - 11th November | Nairobi, Kenya

Marie Stopes International, London had organized a workshop aimed to build on the progress that all their partners in Kenya, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Nepal and Mongolia had made in strengthening the health systems and providing lifesaving reproductive care to women and girls. Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie was invited as one of the resource persons for conducting sessions on advocacy campaigns and Global Politics and its local Impact on reproductive health care.

Roundtable Discussion on Advancing SRHR and Digital Rights

15th November | New Delhi

ASAP was invited by Love Matters to talk about online censorship with regards to abortion rights in India. The event saw participation from various NGOs working on SRHR like Haiyya, organizations working on freedom of the internet. Tech giants like FB, twitter and IG were also invited but were only represented by participant from Tik Tok. Objective of the discussion was to understand the internet and how we can come together to ensure that the content which actually needs to be censored is censored and not the SRHR information being shared online. Ayesha Bashir represented ASAP at this meeting.

SRHR Retreat with Action Canada for Sexual Health And Rights

25th - 27th November | Canada

Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie was invited to this event which was an opportunity for advocates from around the globe to meet face-to-face to share and learn from one another, strategize around opportunities for collaboration, build our collective capacity to demonstrate the impact of our advocacy, and make recommendations to the Government of Canada on how to best support our work.

Consultation on Gender Equality and Safe Abortion with <u>Pratigya</u> and <u>Girls</u>

12th December

The joint consultation was proposed in the midst of concerns arising out of skewed sex ratio at birth and its linkages with access to safe abortion services in the country. It aimed to clarify the two laws and the prevalent confusion between the two issues. Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie was invited to give the keynote address and she spoke about the importance of differentiating sex determination from sex selection, emphasising that the latter stands true even when a pregnancy is identified as carrying a male fetus and she chooses not to terminate.



She also highlighted the issues with some schemes aimed at increasing child sex ratio often resorting to the very same stereotypes and discrimination they should be fighting against (ads like 'if you don't give birth to girls, who is going to marry our sons'). The meeting saw intense debate from a range of perspectives. It is important to keep in mind that due to the aggressive implementation of PCPNDT Act, women are often denied safe abortion services.

Legal Barriers to Accessing SA services in India: A study by CLPG (Centre for Constitutional Law, Policy and Governance, NLU), in collaboration with the Center for Reproductive Rights, New York

The purpose of this study is to understand and document the ground realities faced by those seeking and those providing abortion services. In particular, to analyse how the legal and policy framework impacts the access and provision of these services. As part of this study, the team is conducting field based studies in four states: New Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand and Maharashtra, involving interactions with different stakeholders, such as women who have sought abortion services; service providers (medical practitioners, pharmacists and ASHA / ANMs); government officials; civil society organisations / community based organisations; lawyers and academicians. Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie assisted the team with their field study in Maharashtra.

The Amazing Flabby Breasted Virgin and Other Sordid Tales

20th December | Serendipity Arts Festival 2019, Goa, India

Playwright and theatre activist Ayesha Susan Thomas performed a theatrical reading of female bodies in Indian Medicine, which was inspired and based on an article written by Dr Suchitra Dalvie for Agents of Ishq in 2017. The reading was attended by a mix of art enthusiasts, social workers, students, working professionals who were interactive and gave much positive feedback, as to how this should be made common knowledge while also expressing shock after coming across some definitions and references in the books, which made them identify the bigger and much deep rooted problem within the system. This, as Ayesha says was her pilot, to gauge the response and how it's being received by the people. Based on the feedback, it is possible to plan for taking this to a larger level, in collaboration with ASAP.



Capacity Building



Leadership and Competency Workshop

16th - 18th February, 2019 | Bangkok, Thailand

This workshop was organized with the aim of improving the leadership capabilities of the ASAP CAN leaders through improved mentoring and leadership. The DiSC psychometric profiling was carried out for ASAP CAN team leaders and key staff. This coaching has provided the foundations to accelerate the participants' development as leaders through raising their awareness of their own strengths and weaknesses, and the differing capabilities, motivations and communication preferences of others.





7th Regional Refresher Institute by ASAP

10th - 12th May, 2019 | Mumbai, India

India Organized by ASAP We conducted our 7th Youth Advocacy Refresher (YAR) with 25 Youth Champions from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. It brought together Youth Champions from the Regional Youth Advocacy Institute (YAI) conducted in Colombo in December 2018 and several other YAI's conducted at the local level in these countries.



We had also invited representatives of organizations working in sexual and reproductive rights, mainly on digital platforms, like Agents of Ishq, Point of View and Feminism in India. Asmita from FII also talked about their campaign #AbortionMeraHaq in collaboration with ASAP. Dr Amar Jesani, founder of the Indian Journal of Medical Ethics talked about what conscientious objection means for doctors, while Nidhi Goyal shared her experience on disability rights and reproductive rights coming together and the things that need to be kept in mind, while dealing with the issue. <u>Also check out our YAR report.</u>

Networking & Advocacy

Youth Advocacy Institute

2nd – 4th August | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

ASAP organized a YAI in collaboration with the Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM) where we conducted sessions on gender, power and patriarchy, as well as discussion on issues relevant to the local context such as baby dumping and child marriages.



Youth Advocacy Institute

19th August | Mumbai, India

ASAP, ISAY and Medical Students Association International collaborated to conduct a YAI with medical students from across the globe. Germany, India, Italy, Portugal, Romania, UK. Manisha Gupte conducted sessions on understanding the social construct of gender, power and patriarchy. Dr Suchitra Dalvie conducted sessions on technical updates on abortion and contraception.

Youth Advocacy Institute

16th – 18th September | Kathmandu, Nepal

YoSHAN organized its first National Youth Advocacy Institute (YAI) on safe abortion rights. Twenty-one participants from medical and paramedical background from diverse geography were selected after the rigorous process. Within these three days they talked about safe abortion rights from various perspectives including sexuality, patriarchy, economy, geo-politics and so on.





ASAP and CAN Strategic Planning Meeting

19th-22nd September | Colombo, Sri Lanka

Partnership held a strategic and planning meeting for the secretariat and the country advocacy network. Goal of the meeting was to revisit ASAP's objectives and outcomes, while also ensuring all our activities align with the larger goal of achieving a rights-based approach to abortion. The meeting was also significant in ensuring better channels of communication within the large network of ASAP and how



we can best disseminate the work being done by all the Youth Champions in their respective countries.

Youth Advocacy Institute

28th September-1st October | Yogyakarta, Indonesia

YONI organized their first Youth Advocacy Institute in Jogja on understanding gender, patriarchy and the politics of abortion and reproductive rights in Asia and Indonesia. The participants were drawn from the School of Journalism and are very eager to take the movement forward in the country with one of the most restrictive abortion rights in the world.



BVC Youth Advocacy Institute

10th-12th October | Mumbai, India

ASAP organized a Youth Advocacy Institute in Mumbai with students of Bombay Veterinary College aiming to train and provide them with evidence-based information, which can then be used to spread awareness in the remote areas of the state visited by them. Interestingly, ASAP's Youth Advocacy Institute has been selected by the college to become a part of their National Social Service scheme,



which will ensure more regular and frequent interaction and a wider reach of ASAP's message.

Regional Youth Advocacy Institute

29th November - 30th December | Istanbul, Turkey

A Regional Youth Advocacy Institute (YAI) was co-organized by Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP) and The A Project, Lebanon, in Istanbul, Turkey, from 29th November to 1 st December, 2019. The A Project is founded by Rola Yasmin, an alumnus of one of the earlier YAI's. The Institute was a big milestone for ASAP as it was the first Regional YAI for South West Asia and North Africa region. A total of 21 participants (15 participants and 6 organizing members/facilitators) attended the Institute from across 10 countries in the region-Egypt, India, Iran, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Sudan, Turkey and Tunisia.

VYAC Mini game on Facebook

January 5th - 13th | Online

As a follow-up activity after a Live stream to discuss anti-abortion movement in Vietnam last December 2018, VYAC created a Give Away Mini game with three True/False questions about safe abortion. VYAC's Facebook followers were encouraged to share their answers with a lucky number from 0 to 100 in the comment section. On January 13th, VYAC used Random.org to randomly select three luckiest people amongst those who had given correct answers to give away VYAC's t-shirt with a #vayoyna #happenis slogan. The mini game reached 5,839 people, engaged 711 people, and got 52 people answering three questions about safe abortion:

- True or False? Abortions cause infertility and psychological problems.
- True or False? Only irresponsible young people need abortions.
- True or False? Prohibition of abortion is not a solution to end this phenomenon.

VYAC BridgeFest 2019

January 13rd, 2019 | Ha Noi, Vietnam

BridgeFest 2019 - the fourth "Bridging the Gap" music festival, was co-organized by Oxfam in Vietnam and the US Embassy in Vietnam, aimed to break down barriers, such as gender, income, physical ability, geography, culture, and religion, to promote equality and connect people. VYAC held a booth at BridgeFest 2019 and reached nearly 1000 youths. At the event, we:



- Invited youth to answer SRHR quiz, engage VYAC's FB page, and receive VYAC's t- shirt with a #vayoyna #happenis slogan
- Explained how period cycle, and how contraceptives work. Demonstrated how to use female condom
- Gave away stickers with slogans about #MyDecisionMyChoice #MyBodyMyRights #TrustYourchoiceTrustyourself

Youth Workshop

26th January 2019 | Timphu, Bhutan

Organized by our Youth Champions from D-YISA this workshop was organized for a mix of class 12th and a few medical students who had never been a part of an extensive SRHR focused discussion. At the session they talked about the difference between gender and sex after which moved on to define toxic masculinity and how it affects other genders. They talked extensively about abortion rights in Bhutan and also touched upon the term feminism, which many participants hadn't heard of before and talked about how it means equality for all, but is mostly considered a movement for women because it is the women at large who have suffered or suffering the most in the world.

Additionally D-YISA along with rainboW-o-Men,(their local partner) have also come up with an IG page called "Feminism in Bhutan" and are trying to take the message of 'equality for all' and the importance of reproductive rights of women to the youth of Bhutan.

Today She Decides Flagship Event

1st-3rd March, 2019 | Kathmandu, Nepal

SheDecides in collaboration with ARROW and IPPF organized this flagship event on 1st March 2019 in Kathmandu, in cooperation with ARRO's partner Beyond Beijing Committee and UNFPA. Nepal was chosen in recognition of the important work the government and civil society are doing to enable women to decide about their health and own bodies. ASAP was represented by our Youth Champions Katayon from Afghanistan, Anika Binte Habib from Bangladesh, Wangchuk Dema from Bhutan, Yadanar from Myanmar, Desaree Soysa from Sri Lanka, and Thao Vi from Vietnam. It was a milestone moment when the 25x25 of SheDecides were revealed. 25x25 brings together 25 young advocates from 25 countries around the world who have contributed to the sexual and reproductive rights of their respective countries or regions.

First Sensitization Programme with Online Participants of Instagram Page 'Feminism in Bhutan'

10th March, 2019 | D-YISA, Bhutan

In recognizing "International Women's Day" which was on March 8th, D-YISA brought some Instagram followers of "Feminism in Bhutan" together today (10th March) to mark the day. Besides that, it was also the first ever sensitization program of about 4 hours for the participants since the



page was only recently created in January this year. "Feminism in Bhutan" came up about an aim of online sensitization and campaign on feminism, Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) including safe abortion, comprehensive sexuality education, gender based violence including sexual harassment and assault, LGBTQI+ especially transwomen, people with disability and sexuality, fight against climate change, women in politics, Self-Care, Sexuality of all genders, masturbation and other topics or issues that are hardly talked or discussed (seriously) about.

VYAC Movie Talk 3

March 10th, 2019 | Hai Phong, Vietnam

VYAC held a screening of the new TV show, only available on Netflix called-Sex Education which is a British comedy-drama, filmed in the rolling hills of the Wye Valley straddling the border between England and Wales, but it sports heady, American cologne straight out of the 80s. One of the biggest messages the TV show has is during episode 3 where Maeve gets an abortion and that's why VYAC chose the episode 3 of season 1 to share with audiences. We also collaborated with GIVOLOGY club of Tran Phu high school in Hai Phong to reach out more people. At the result, the number of registered participants who knows the event via friends and another network increased 16%.

Multi Sector Dialogue on Reproductive Rights of Persons with Disabilities

17th March, 2019 | Quetta, Pakistan

ASAP member and disability rights activist Zargoona Wadood organized this event with the aim of discussing the Reproductive Rights of person with disabilities within the Cultural norms of Quetta with the indirect objective of Education on Safe abortion and Marriage issues of Person with Disabilities. 20 participants from the community and



35 from the Civil Society including Media were invited. After intense dialogue between the individuals belonging from different sector and taking their views into account, with the help of activities, they were able to spread awareness on the overall theme and objective of the event.

Youth Advocacy Institute

29th - 31st March | Mumbai, India

ISAY organized a YAI with 16 medical students. As always the agenda primarily focussed on the stigma attached to abortion in the country, the role patriarchy has to plays towards enabling this culture and how they as future service providers can break this norm, by being more sensitive and non-judgemental.



Youth Advocacy Institute for Development Workshop

30th March, 2019 | Barishal, Bangladesh

Youth AID conducted their first ever workshop with young women from the Dalit community regarding the importance of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Menstrual Regulation. The workshop was co-led by our Youth Champion Anika Binte Habib.



Community Theatre Performance

27th May | Lahore, Pakistan

Our country Advocacy Network Youth Advocacy Network Pakistan organized a theatre performance for young girls in a school in collaboration with Institute for Social and Young Development on breaking stereotypes and advocating the need for enforcement of SRHR in the country.





Menstrual Hygiene Day

28th May | Kathmandu, Nepal

On Menstrual Hygiene Day 2019 and International Day of Action for Women Health our country advocacy network- YoSHAN organized a discussion on safe motherhood and Reproductive Health Act with Maharajgunj Nursing Campus (Advance Nursing Group).

Guff4Youth - Protein, Vitamin and Estrogen

27TH July and 28th Sept | Nepal

On 27th July YoSHAN held a session in partnership with Loom Nepal, which was hosted by Youth Champion Bonita on how nutrition affects our reproductive health and can be understood in relation with abortion.



Youth Engagement Day

28th September | Vietnam

VYAC collaborated with the Students' Association of Hue University of Sciences in Thua Thien Hue province to organize a Youth Engagement Day on International Safe Abortion Day. This event aimed to sensitize key youth leaders and connect youth networks in Hue city towards future activities on SRHR. More than 60 individuals from nine networks, clubs and organization engaged through this initiative.

Retreat and Team Bonding

4th August | Bhutan

The retreat was an opportunity to understand self-care, and each other better for the Bhutan team. A hike was also organized which was walked while at length discussing the importance of self- love and mental health leading on to the importance of safe abortion

Introduction to Gender, Feminism and Abortion

10th August | Bhutan

One of the members of the network, and Youth Champion Ugyen Dema organized a sensitization program for students of her class. The session received a good feedback, one of them being that it was the first time the participants were attending a session which talked about feminism in such detail and it helped them give a new perspective.

Small Grants





Interactive Youth Forum

27th July | YANP

Youth Advocacy Network Pakistan – YANP and Institute for Social and Youth Development - ISYD conducted an Interactive Youth Forum under the project entitled "Breaking stereotypes and to advocate for enforcement of SRHR" to disseminate information, knowledge and understanding of importance of SRHR and Family Planning education for adolescents and youth and to promote health based awareness and initiatives.

#AbortTheStigma

28th September – 6th October | For Youth Initiative (Youth Champion Sangeetha) & RRAAM

In conjunction with World Safe Abortion Day, youth champions from Malaysia exhibited a collection of works by Malaysian artists on the notion of #AbortTheStigma

Held in Kuala Lumpur, a curated list of artists who have been championing human rights, narrowed down their focus on interpreting abortion stories. More than 30 submissions were collected anonymously from all over Malaysia on their experience going through abortion. Public was allowed to read these intimate stories and observe how artists have deciphered those complex emotions.



Online Campaigns

8th March

International Women's Day 2019-: #IMakeHistory Campaign

8th Feb-8th March, 2019

This year ASAP decided combined Women's History Month and International Women's Day, to celebrate our Youth Champions with a campaign called #IMakeHistory. The idea behind it was to celebrate those who are making history every day, ranging from the smallest task of sharing a social media post to increase awareness around safe abortion rights, to conducting research, writing articles and organizing events. All of these contribute to the growing regional and global movement for women's right to safe abortion. We also posted #AbortionSong that was created by our YC Asmita Ghosh and was a spoof of a popular English song. We received a good response to the video with more than 500 views in just 3 days.



l Make History

















28th May

#NotJustAUterus

28th May, 2019 | Online

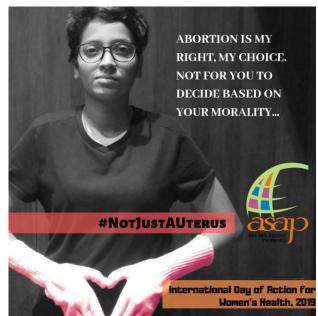
May 28 is the International Day of Action for Women's Health, which has been commemorated worldwide for over 30 years by women's rights advocates and allies in the sexual and reproductive health and rights movement. Like every year, this year also we led an online campaign. The theme for the partnership's campaign this year was #NotJustAUterus where we wanted to highlight the roles women can and do play beyond that of their reproductive abilities. This year we also wanted to challenge some of the many common stereotypes ascribed to women. With this campaign our aim was to emphasize that women can be so much more than just mothers or wives or a medium to ensure continuity of her husband's lineage. Therefore each picture challenges one such norm in our society that reduces her value to her gender or her uterus with complete disregard for her choices. Shared below are some of our most popular posts











Online Campaigns

#IBleedIRule - YoSHAN

28th May | Online

Country advocacy network YoShan held a weeklong campaign for the menstrual hygiene day on 28th May, where they shared quotes from youth champions challenging and doing away with the stigma and shame associated with menstruation and bleeding.



#HealthCareWeDemand - ISAY

28th May | Online

Country advocacy network from India- India Safe Abortion Youth Advocates, ran a month long campaign to de-stigmatize the issue of abortion while also highlighting the role health care professionals can play in making women more comfortable and how they can help them in realizing this right.





28th September

#SeptemberWithASAP

1st-28th September | Online

From 1st to 13TH September, we celebrated 'September With ASAP' where we re-shared some of our earlier shot documentaries, by our Youth Champions, in context of the abortion rights debate today, especially with a recent shift to a more anti-choice standpoint.

One of the most widely shared and seemed to stand true even today was the story of Ms A, who represents any woman who may wish to terminate a pregnancy for her own reasons and so the video shows her journey from the day of finding about the pregnancy, to realizing that she is not ready to become a mother, to her decision and eventually getting a safe abortion and the various challenges she faces, through it. You can watch the video here. To see all of our videos you can visit our Facebook page.

#SafeAbortionBecause

28th-30th September | Online

We emphasized why safe abortion is an absolute necessity by talking about 5 developing countries from Asia that even today provide extremely limited or no provision for a safe abortion for their citizens, leading to declining health and rights for a large portion of their population. We need to hear these stories and understand that anyone choosing to get an abortion could be doing so for any reason and that should require nobody's certificate of approval.

To see all our campaign pictures from 2019, check out our 'Campaigns' section on our website.



Unsafe abortions are

responsible for 8,000 maternal deaths and over

572,000 complications

every year in Bangladesl

#SAFEABORTIONBECAUSE

I was married off too young and I am not

Publications &Videos

Impact: Dr Suchitra Dalvie | DW News

Dr. Suchitra Dalvie advocates for equal abortion access for women across the continent.

Women's Rights Over Their Bodies | Youth Ki Awaaz Panel Talk

Journalist Anubha Bhonsle speaks with Dr Suchitra Dalvie, Anubha Rastogi and Insia Dariwala on women's rights over their own bodies.

Its time we stopped linking Abortion to Bad Sex Ratio in India | Agents of Ishq

Dr Suchitra Dalvie emphasizes on why women must always have the right to safe abortions in order to control their own bodies and lives.

All these titles are available online.

The ASAP Blog-

Prochoice Discussions from Asia

ASAP blog regularly shares content from across Asia, in the form of information and opinions that can disseminate evidence-based information, with regards to safe abortion, to the reader. Some of our recent blogs, written by our YCs can be read here.

Awareness: The only approach to abort stigma By SUWEETA XIAO WEI,

Malaysia Malaysia



Awareness: The only approach to abort stigma

Posted on 23 October, 2019 by SUWEETA

When the removal of a foetus can save the life of an adult, therefore avoiding mishaps of sacrificing two lives at a time, termination of pregnancies should gain its approval.

In Malaysia, abortion is permissible when a pregnancy may pose physical or mental danger to a pregnant woman. When safe abortion is not available, desperate pregnant women tend not to keep their foetus till delivery but to head for unsafe abortion. Global data indicates that 13% of maternal deaths were caused by unsafe abortions and topping the list was haemorrhage (severe bleeding), which was 25%. This clearly shows the impact of having an unsafe abortion.

Imagine handing over a woman's fate to another person who has no medical qualifications, no proper tools, not even a proper clinic, but claims to be "experienced" in terminating pregnancies. That would be more cruel to both mother and foetus in comparison to a safe abortion.

Stigma in society is the reason for these helpless women to resolve to unsafe abortion.

When having physical relationship is taboo, sexuality education will automatically be hindered. On the other hand, an open-minded society would lead to a more formal education system and abortion would be permissible in certain circumstances.



Publications & Videos

Global Gag Reflex?!

By Meera Mokashi, India



Talking about population policies and its impact on **Abortion Rights in China**

By Yu Yang, China



Prochoice Discussions From Asia

first.

result, abortion might be influenced by policymakers easily.

If we want to discuss about the dynamic relation between population polices and abortion in China, it's good for us to look into both the current situation and history of abortion

Social Media

Partnership is highly active on social media, constantly engaged in reproductive health and rights conversations and creating safe space for discussion online with regards to information, stories and challenges, focussed on the abortion rights movement in Asia.





Mar 2019 · 31 days

TWEET HIGHLIGHTS

Top Tweet earned 1,747 impressions

Saying that if you use contraceptives, you wont need an abortion is like saying if you wear a helmet you will never get in an accident. Contraceptives are not magical, folks, they too can fail. #righttoabortion #abortthestigma #BustAbortionMyths #safeabortion

twitter.com/ThinkCREA/stat.

◆1 €3 9 ♥17

View all Tweet activity

Top Follower followed by 5,232 people







Dr. Suchitra Dalvie, a gynecologist and activist with our grantee partner @asapasia, explains why patient care must come first, regardless of a provider's beliefs. #CelebrateAbortionProviders @Safe_Abortion pic.twitter.com/Kuh54QGIDb



€3-17 ♥22

May 2019 • 31 days

TWEET HIGHLIGHTS

4-1 43-3 W120

Top Tweet earned 10.6K impressions

So true and yet, govt policies and initiatives rarely pay attention to reproductive health of women. How many more people have to risk their life for this issue to be taken seriously?

@ PriyankaCRaina on how healthy women can lead to a happy nation.

#MyBodyMyChoice twitter.com/myright_2choic.

View Tweet activity View all Tweet activity

Top Follower followed by 10.3K people



Women's March Global

(i)womensmarchgbal FOLLOWS YOU

Join us on Facebook: Women's March Global and Instagram: WomensMarchGlobal. For media inquiries please contact media@womensmarchglobal.org. #WomensMarchGlobal

View profile

View followers dashboard

Top mention earned 3,804 engagements



Feminism in India

#AbortionMeraHaq

Medical abortion has revolutionised the access to safe abortion! These two pills, Mifeprestone and Misoprostol, are used in medical abortion. @asapasia.

Have questions? Read this guide to medical abortion pills that answers all your FAQs: feminisminindia.com/2019/05/17/med... pic.twitter.com/DVPxcVbnCx



Top media Tweet earned 7,124 impressions
Granting personhood to the foetus

Apr 2019 • 30 days

TWEET HIGHLIGHTS

Top Tweet earned 3,126 impressions

#Sexselection happens both preconception and post-birth. It is a whole spectrum, therefore attacking technology or #women is not a solution since the practice is rooted in #Patriarchy and #gender discrimination-Dr Dalvie at the Abortion Panel. #recon2019 #Rethink #REBOOT

pic.twitter.com/DKur2H8Y5y



View Tweet activity View all Tweet activity

Top Follower followed by 7,897 people



Top mention earned 84 engagements



Thank you 4 dropping by&showing interest in the work that we do on #SafeAbortion. We are in awe of ur love&support! ♥
#weareinroads @inroadsGlobe
@asapasia @SERAC_BD
@ARROW_Women @YANSriLanka
@Hidden_Pockets @info_samsara
@lovemattersinfo @safe2choose
@findmymethod @pinsanorg
pic.tw/tter.com/AKXO96euCk



£32 •11

Top media Tweet earned 2,641 impressions





The Asia Safe Abortion Partnership asap-asia.org





