

- ASIA SAFE ABORTION PARTNERSHIP

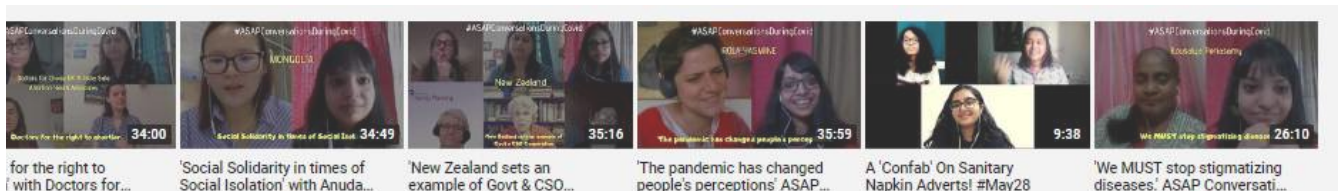
ANNUAL REPORT

2020



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FROM THE COORDINATOR'S DESK

What can one possibly say that can encompass what 2020 has been like for us as a people?

It has been apocalyptic and tragic, transformational and staggering, all at the same time. The SARS CoV 2 virus has brought us to our knees for sure, but we were already halfway there in many ways. Since March this year we have been in lockdowns, unlock phases, economic crisis, social dilemmas, personal upheavals and massive unprecedented paradigm shifts.

Through all this we have seen people still gathering for festivals and religious functions on the one hand and for civil protests on the other. The world has literally been on fire in some parts and drowning in some.

As always, the ones who suffer the most are the disenfranchised and marginalized. Not really surprising but still disheartening is the reality that all the work done by the women's rights movement has gone backwards by many decades as women are forced back into the stereotypical roles of unpaid careers. Loss of jobs and earning is affecting women disproportionately. Being trapped at home with abusive partners has resulted in a spike in intimate partner violence. Access to basic healthcare services in these difficult times has meant a greater risk of unwanted pregnancies and greater possibility of unsafe abortions.

FROM THE COORDINATOR'S DESK

Healthcare providers, with more than 70% of them being women, have held the pandemic at bay as much as humanly possible but systems and providers are overwhelmed and policies and politicians have not stepped up in any meaningful way so far.

However, through all this there have been some glimmers of positivity and a hope for the possibilities of redefining the new normal. Some countries fast tracked the approval for telemedicine for medical abortion which is a big step in the right direction. Self- care protocols being promoted by WHO have the potential to radically change how women can access self-managed abortion in the future.

ASAP made the best of the bad times to find ways to connect with our members, partners and allies across the region and globally, to engage in conversations around the issues being faced by their country and community due to the pandemic. We have been once again inspired and awed by the resilience, creativity and enthusiasm shown by the Youth Champions. Despite all these difficulties they have found ways to connect and create solidarity--- not just holding the line but also creating avenues and portals for a better world post pandemic. As news of the vaccines brings hope, we wish all of you a safe passage into 2021 and look forward to working with renewed vigour post- pandemic!

ASAP EVENTS

Youth Advocacy Institute, Haiyya Foundation | 17th-19th January | Delhi, India

ASAP in collaboration with a grassroots campaigning organization, Haiyya, organized our first Youth Advocacy Institute in Delhi. This YAI saw participation from prominent organizations working on SRHR in the city such as The YP Foundation, Feminism In India and also individuals doing great work through their art, journalism or legal background. Swetha Poduval from ISAY shared details of the work they do. We also had a special guest from our CAN in Sri Lanka—Priskila Arulaprgasam from YANSL. Some of the highlights of the YAI were sessions on patriarchy by Manisha Gupte, value clarification exercise as well as the group exercise where the participants actively engaged and challenged each other. Abhishek from Haiyya took the session on gender and mass media, focusing on the kind of stereotypes that impose generalization, even if done in a positive manner. Biggest highlight was our panel discussion on cross movement solidarity with Nazariya: A Queer Feminist Resource Group, All India Network of Sex Workers, and Love Matters India.

The YAI paved the way for many possible future collaborations and networks. on our social media



National Advocacy Consultation on Safe Abortion with MASUM | Pune, India | 22nd January

MASUM, in collaboration with ASAP conducted a study on safe abortion access in 7 states in India; Assam, Delhi, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh. The MASUM team partnered with local NGOs who co-led the study and helped reach out to around 200 women and service providers. The communities of women ranged from indigenous women, sex workers, women living with HIV, and general communities, interviewing women who needed abortion services. Sample of service providers included, grassroots workers such as ASHAs, Sathin in Rajasthan, ANMs, nurses, doctors and non-medical staff. The sites were a mixture of urban/peri-urban, rural/semi-rural and indigenous-remote areas. Key findings showed that women continue to face serious barriers when seeking access to safe abortion services.

ARJC Planning Meeting | Bangkok, Thailand| 27th-28th February

We organized a Steering Committee meeting including planning for the proposed Abortion Reproductive Justice Conference, planned to be held in Bangkok in November 2020. As of now this has been postponed to 2021.



Visit to Transgender Clinic | Bangkok, Thailand | 28th February

A voluntary visit to a transgender clinic called the Tangerine Clinic was arranged by Dr. Subatra Jayraj. Dr. Subatra Jayraj, Dr. Suchitra Dalvie and Nandini Mazumder visited the clinic on 28th February and interacted with the staff. The clinic is currently hosted in the Chulalongkorn University Campus but it is in a transitional phase and will be moving to another complex soon. The clinic currently is a part of a general health clinic which has worked in favour by not adding to the stigma against it for dealing with trans* issues. Overall, it was a very fruitful visit and encouraged us to think of ways to be inclusive and sensitive to trans* issues in our work.

National Advocacy Consultation on Safe Abortion with MASUM |Delhi, India | 2nd-3rd March

MASUM, in collaboration with ASAP organized a national meeting to share and discuss the findings of the study on safe abortion access in 7 states in India; Assam, Delhi, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh. The meeting was attended by many key stakeholders from civil society and government including NHSRC, UNFPA, WHO. It was a very successful meeting as it brought together many key stakeholders from other movements which have not worked on or engaged with safe abortion advocacy work so far. Such as the Jan Swasthya Abhiyan, National Network of Sex Workers, to name a few.



ASAP ONLINE WEBINARS

My Body My Work | Organized by ASAP with All India Network of Sex Workers | 1st May (Labour Day)

On the occasion of the International Labour Day we had a panel discussion with the All India Network Of Sex Workers that looked at the intersections of labor rights, sex workers' rights, abortion rights and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in context of the current COVID19 pandemic. Panelists for the conversation were Gautam Mody from New Trade Union Initiative - NTUI, Kusum from AINSW and Dr Samrajit Jana, who provided a gendered perspective for looking at labor and discuss the issues being faced by thousands of people, whose work is either not recognized or not secure. This is because they are not 'registered', are migrant workers, are unorganized, or self employed, or they are women, expected to be mothers and fulfill their reproductive destiny. With the pandemic things have gotten worse for all such groups, with limited access to healthcare services, no financial security and the added stigma of Coronavirus. This conversation was an attempt to show solidarity with sex workers and the larger movement and to demand the rights and 'dignity of ALL labour' without any moral judgement. You can watch the video by clicking on the picture.

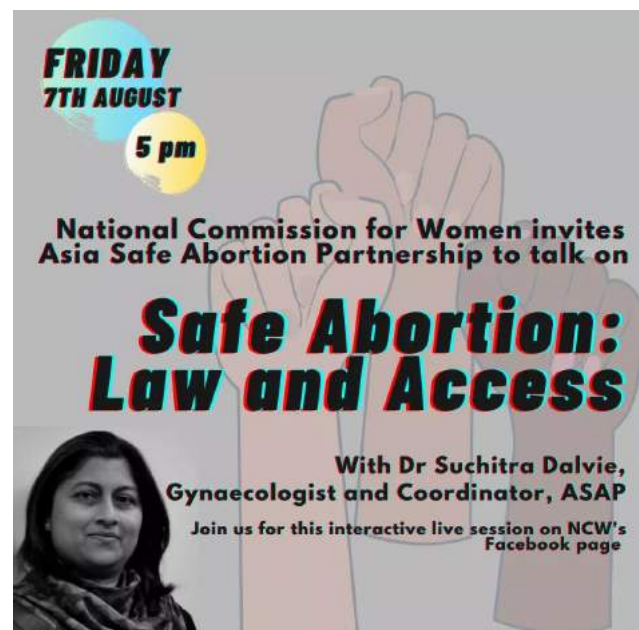
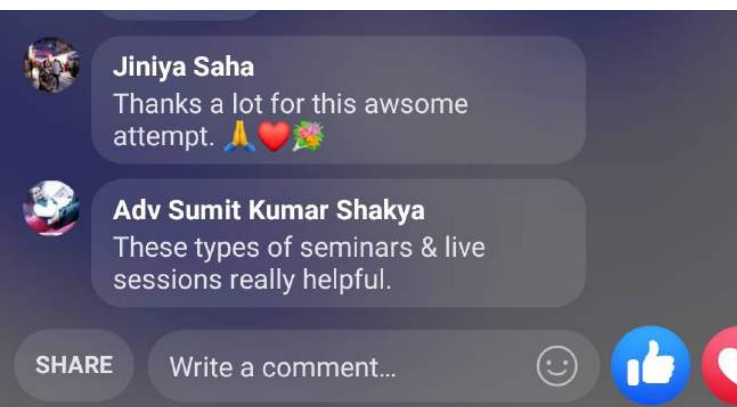


CAN Catchup | Organized by ASAP | 20th June

Given the challenging circumstances in which we all are, the partnership organized a catch up call with our country advocacy networks, to check on each other and share updates from respective regions. The call was refreshing for many participants as it in some way may have compensated for absence of physical meetups like YAI. It was inspiring to hear from all CAN leaders and to learn how they managed to strive towards their work and dedication for the cause of safe abortion.

Safe Abortion: Law and Access | Collaboration with National Commission for Women, India | 7th August

National Commission for Women in India invited ASAP to collaborate for a Facebook live to discuss the abortion laws in the country and the challenges people face in accessing safe abortion services despite it being legal in the country.



Access to Safe Abortion Care in South Asia amid COVID 19: Challenges and Opportunities | ASAP in collaboration with IPPF SARO, WHO, Guttmacher Institute | 13th August

COVID-19 has presented new challenges in access to safe abortion care in South Asia region. The webinar with its panel of experts from the region focussed on highlighting innovative approaches adopted by activists and organizations to combat its impact and use it as an opportunity alongside strategies for ensuring women can continue to access safe abortion services through telemedicine & harm reduction approaches.

Meet The Speaker

Webinar On: Access to Safe Abortion Care in South Asia amid COVID-19 | Challenges and Opportunities



Dr Suchitra Dalvie

Co-founder and Coordinator of the Asia Safe Abortion Partnership

She leads safe abortion advocacy work of the network in the Asia region. Her work involves strategizing and implementing the online and off line programs and mentoring of the Youth Champions and the Country Advocacy Networks to create a movement for safe abortion rights. She has over 24 years of clinical experience and 20 years of development work experience. Dr Dalvie is a qualified and practicing Gynaecologist who is passionate about women's human rights and gender issues along with issues of social justice and equality.

Dr. Suchitra will discuss the models that meet women's needs and position self-care as part of a true continuum of abortion care, which includes access to non-judgmental and stigma-free abortion care. She will also facilitate a discussion with Women on Web (WoW) around harm reduction approach, telemedicine, online perceptions & web based solutions on safe abortion services.

Alternatives and Innovative Approaches in Comprehensive Safe Abortion Care

Dr Suchitra Dalvie, MD, MRCOG
Coordinator, Asia Safe Abortion Partnership

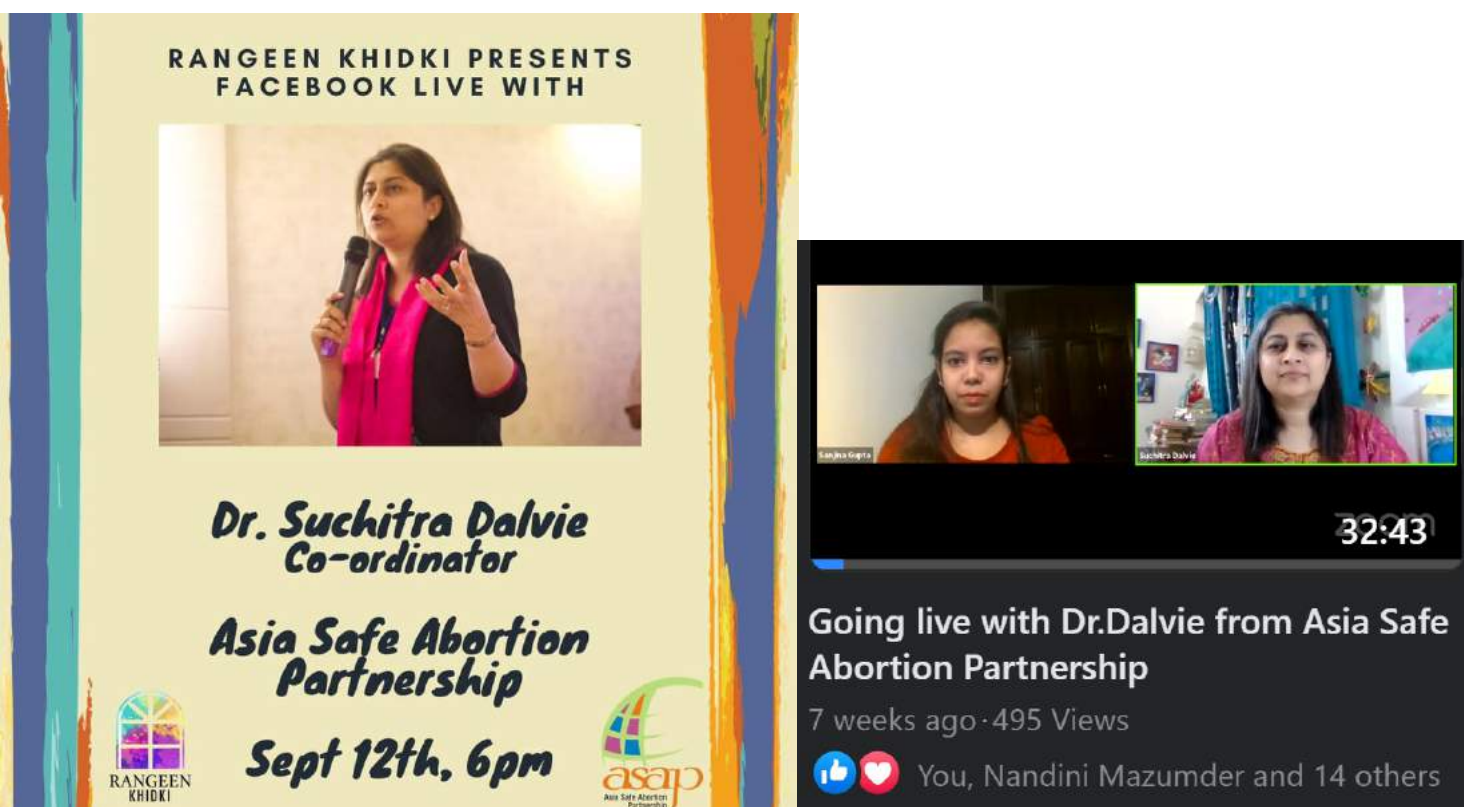


1st Online Regional Youth Advocacy Institute | ASAP | 18th July - 16th August.

This Youth Advocacy Institute was earlier scheduled to be held in Bangladesh, but due to COVID19 was converted to an online forum. The YAI saw participation from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Nepal.


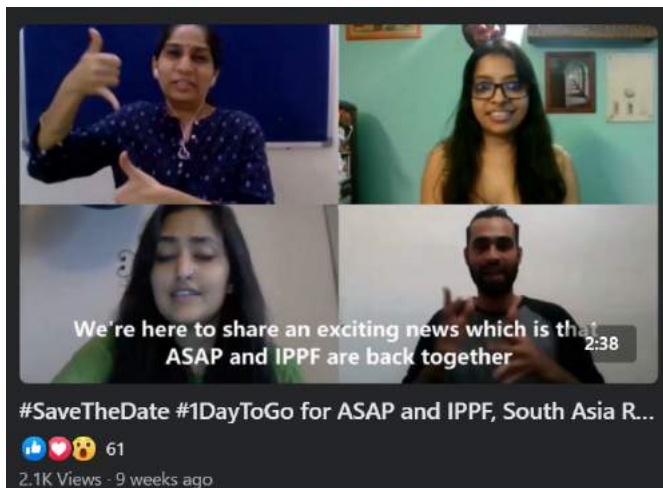
Facebook Live on Safe Abortion Access | Rangeen Khidki with ASAP | 12th September

Leading up to the International Safe Abortion Day, Dr Suchitra Dalvie was invited by an organization working on raising awareness on sexual and reproductive health and rights called Rangeen Khidki with primary focus on menstrual stigma, to talk about safe abortion access and challenges faced by women due to prevailing stigma and misconceptions around abortion rights despite it being legal in the country. You can view the full conversation [here](#).



Voices from Asia: Unpacking the struggle towards making safe abortion rights accessible | IPPF and ASAP | 15th October

This webinar was a follow up from the joint webinar that was organized by ASAP, IPPF, WHO and Guttmacher in the month of August 2020. The previous webinar focused on innovative approaches required for course correction of disruption caused by Covid19 and how to ensure the provision of safe abortion services, including through self-managed medical abortion up to 12 weeks, post-abortion care as well as menstrual regulation. The second webinar was more focused on an intersectional approach and brought in voices of several marginalized communities simply that are often left out of mainstream conversations. This was also one of the first webinars on safe abortion access, where both Indian Sign Language and International Sign (a trans-national language tool) were present simultaneously throughout the webinar. Watch the full webinar [here](#).



Voices From Asia


Unpacking the struggle towards making safe abortion rights accessible.

Join us for an insightful conversation on how to make abortions inclusive and accessible.

Indian sign language will be used simultaneously during the webinar

15th Oct

2:30 pm IST



2nd Online Regional Youth Advocacy Institute | ASAP | 19th Nov - 20th Dec (Weekends)

After the success of our first online YAI, we organized our 2nd online YAI, with 16 participants ranging from countries like Bhutan, India, Indonesia to Nepal and Pakistan.

SOCIAL MEDIA

ASAP Conversations 2nd Episode Female Body in Medicine and Theater

On World Theater Day , Dr Suchitra Dalvie spoke with Applied Theater Practitioner Ayesha Susan Thomas about the power of theater and creative arts in reaching all communities, while opening up conversations about topics that usually makes people uncomfortable. She also spoke about her work in progress —‘Flabby Breasted Virgins and Other Sordid Tales', a play based on Dr. Suchitra Dalvie's article written for Agents of Ishq and an updated version for Feminism in India and Haiyya. We released this on YouTube and as an audio podcast on Soundcloud.



SRHR Hotlines in COVID

In order to offer some support to persons who are more vulnerable during such times to emotional, physical and sexual abuse, to lack of access to health care services for managing an unwanted pregnancy and lack of freedom to get themselves to safety, we put together, with support from the Country Advocacy Networks, a list of helplines that could be accessed from these countries. Shared below are some examples. You can access all helplines on our social media.

Organization
Nepal Women Commission
NWC

Services
Helpline for Gender Based Violence

Hotline
1145 (24 hour service)

Organization
Marie Stopes Vietnam
(MSI)

Services
Providing SRHR services
(including safe abortion)

Hotline
+84 1900 558 882

Website
<http://mariestopes.org.vn/>

Organization
Women's Aid Organization
(WAO)

Services:
Counselling for
• Domestic Violence
• Rape
• Sexual Assault
• Abuse

Shelter for
• Women & Children
• Domestic Violence
Survivor

Hotline:
WAO Hotline +603 7956 3488
(Mon-Sat 9am-5pm)

TINA
+6018 988 8058
(24 Hours)

Speaking Truth to Power | International Women's Day, 8th March 2020

This International Women's Day as women across the world showed up to march in huge numbers and protest-- in the US against gender based violence or organizing a run to celebrate women in sports, to women protesting against the citizenship bill amendment in India, it was their demand to be heard that we wanted to amplify. ASAP's 2020 International Women's Day was thus about 'Speaking Truth To Power'. This power could be anything/anyone who limits your ability to truly be yourself and stand up for your rights and rights of other marginalized groups.



Feminist and Chill

We launched this campaign with the aim to criticize and question existing content in mass media/entertainment Industry from a gendered lens and also to share recommendations of politically correct feminist work. It's an ongoing campaign in collaboration with the Country Advocacy Networks.



ASAP Conversations During COVID: Audio/Video Podcast Series April

We launched the series with the aim to understand how the pandemic has affected us differently or even in some situations similarly, and how it plays out in different countries and regions, and affects different communities, especially those who were already vulnerable and marginalized. To understand how it has magnified the gaps that already existed in society, economy and politics -such as for women, queer people, trans people, people from minority and marginalized communities, refugees, migrants, working classes and Dalit communities, indigenous people. These historically vulnerable groups have been left even more isolated due to the pandemic. The series is based on the belief that even in these times of social distancing (for those of us who can afford to do it) or quarantines, social solidarity and the quest for social justice is ever more important. Finally, to collectively imagine a new world and plan for systemic shifts so that the post-COVID19 world is more just, equitable and inclusive. Since 22nd April we have released 28 videos in the series all of which are available on our Youtube and Soundcloud channel.







ASAP Conversation During COVID: Blog Series

Some Youth Champions shared their experiences through the written word. Here are some of those blogs. You can read all our blogs on the website here.



Dear Leader | ASAP's 28th May Campaign

As we do every year, this year also we marked International Day of Action for Women's Health 2020 with the theme of : 'Dear Leader': Speak Truth To Power. Through this campaign our Youth Champions from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam expressed their opinions on the insensitive handling of sexual and reproductive health issues by their Governments and leaders during the current pandemic.

A graphic with a dark red background and a textured, aged paper border. The text "#DearLeader" is written in a white, cursive script font.

#DearLeader

*International Day Of Action
For Women's Health*

A graphic with a light beige, textured background. The text "#DearLeader" is written in a black, cursive script font.

#DearLeader

*Comprehensive Sexuality Education needs to
emphasize the need for safe and legal abortion.*

*Vietnam Youth Action For Choice
Vietnam*



#DearLeader



Despite the statement from the Indian Psychiatric Society, conversion therapies are still practiced on queer people. Strict action should be taken against mental health practitioners who offer conversion therapies. Homosexuality is not a disease and hence, nothing to "treat".

Chinmayee Kuber
India



#DearLeader



Women and girls have been the worst affected by COVID19. Their Sexual and Reproductive Health is neglected specially access to family planning and post abortion care services. I request to ensure uninterrupted and non-biased access to affordable services to women and girls including people living with physical disability.

Naureen Farhan Surani
Pakistan



#DearLeader



If we want the people to access to reproductive health services we first need to provide them that information through Comprehensive Sexuality Education and inclusion of these topics in the school curriculum.

Lirisha Tuladhar
Nepal



#DearLeader



As per Integrated Reproductive Health Guideline by Ministry of Health, sexual and reproductive health services are considered essential. This means access to safe and legal abortion should be available any time, especially during a crisis. Denying this need means more women and girls will suffer from unsafe abortion.

Ignatia Alfa Gloria
Indonesia



#DearLeader



Isn't our reproductive health essential during COVID19? If yes, why were The National Population and Family Development Board (NPFDB) clinics; a family planning clinic nationwide; closed under the movement control order during this pandemic?

Nuraini Rudi
Malaysia



#DearLeader



Young women and girls living with different disabilities are finding it more challenging to access SRH services and products during the pandemic, they are forced to resort to unhygienic substitutes and are more vulnerable to diseases and complications. We need to make SRH services more accessible to them.

Shelani Paliawadana
Sri Lanka



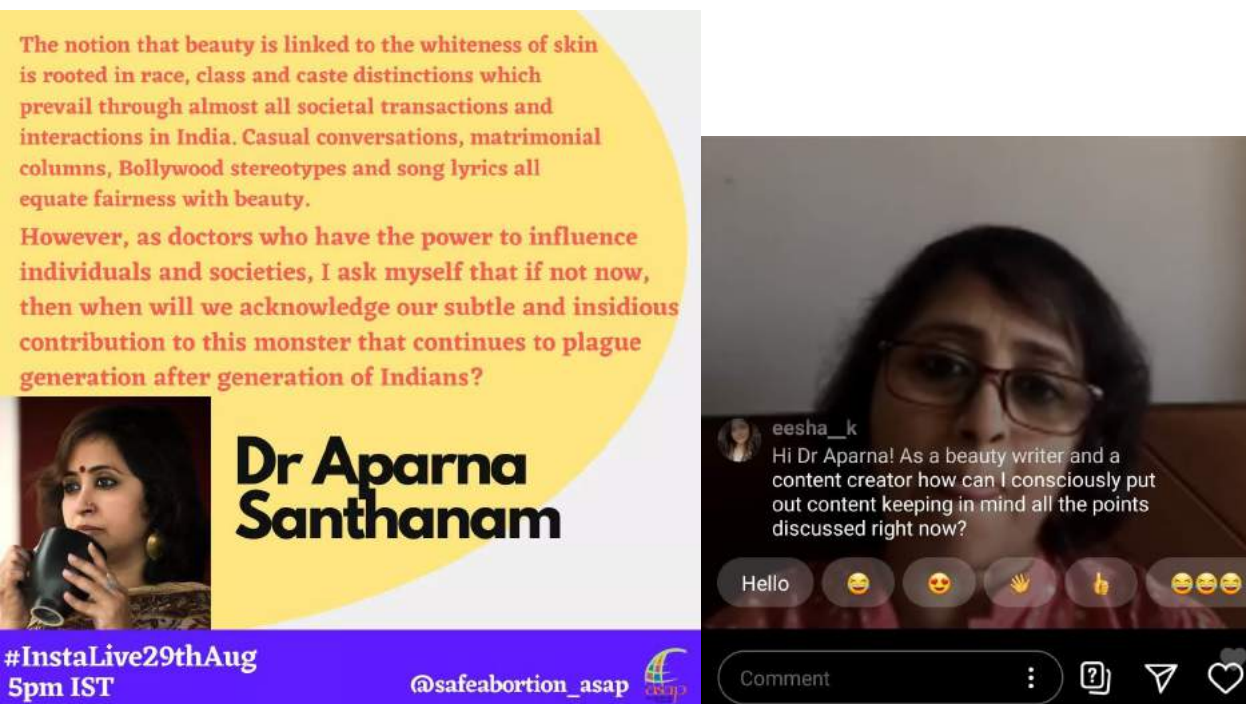
Patriarchy 101

In September ASAP launched a series deep diving into the invisible and normalized framework of Patriarchy that starts affecting us from before we are even born right until the day we die. These conversations are excerpts from an interview conducted by Nandini Mazumder with Manisha Gupte, co- founder of Mahila Sarvangeen Utkarsh Mandal (MASUM-an organization working for the past 32 years for women's rights in Pune, India) and Rola Yasmine, Founder of The A Project (working on women's sexual and reproductive rights in Beirut, Lebanon.)



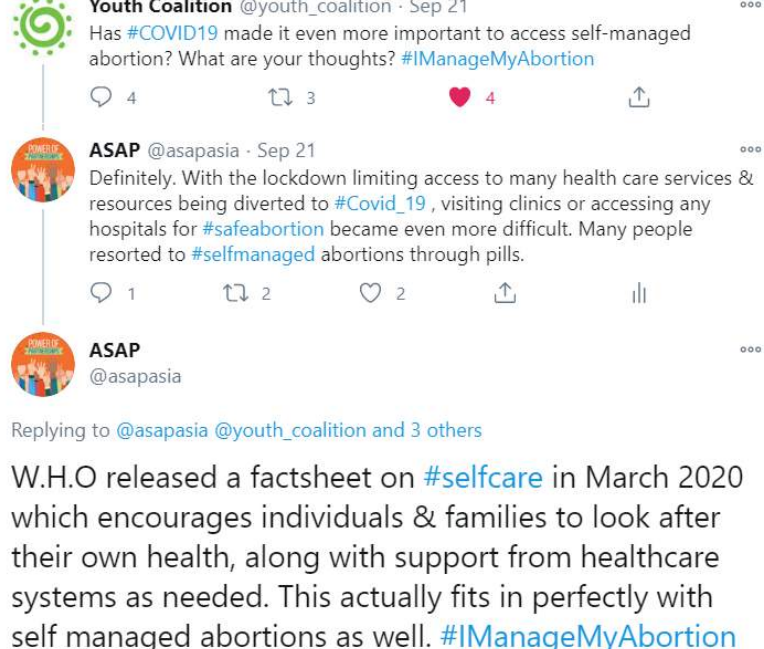
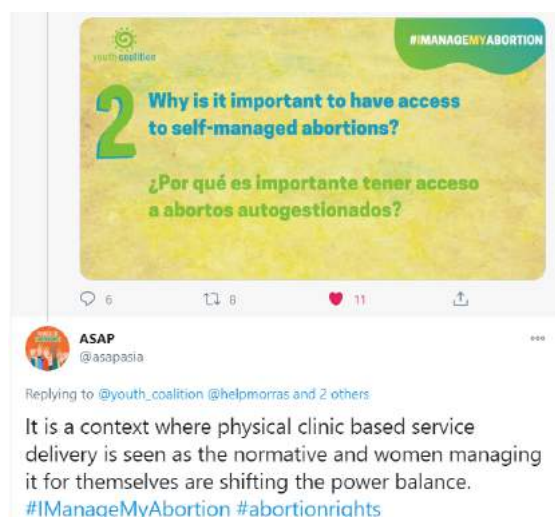
First Insta Live on deconstructing beauty | 29th August

We held our first Instagram Live with Dr Aparna Santhanam who is a best selling author and a reputed dermatologist and cosmetologist who has been involved in the field of beauty, health and wellness for over a decade. She describes herself as a ‘a loud undefeated voice on non- invasive techniques and the need for working with a minimalist approach.’ She along with Dr Dalvie held this live talk about the responsibility of people in the medical field to deconstruct notions of beauty while at the same time empowering someone who seeks it.



Tweet Chat with Youth Coalition | 20th September

In the lead-up to International Safe Abortion Day, Youth Coalition hosted a Twitter chat with expert panellists on self-managed abortions. Dr Dalvie was one of the panellists. Shared below are screenshots from the chat



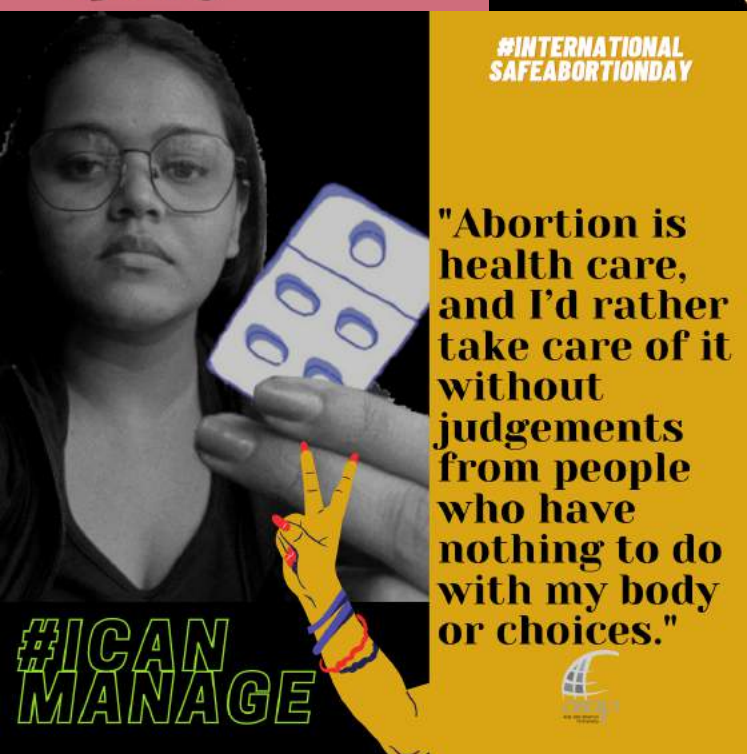
INTERNATIONAL SAFE ABORTION DAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER

I CAN MANAGE: Campaign promoting access to self-managed safe abortions

Celebrated across the world by reproductive rights and abortion rights activists & organizations, ASAP discussed and amplified the growing need of Self Managed Abortions across the world, especially in context of COVID19 and circumstances like the worldwide lockdown in 2020. Speaking truth to power were our Youth Champions across Asia with participation from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Vietnam who demanded the right to take decisions for their own bodies! Shared below are some images.

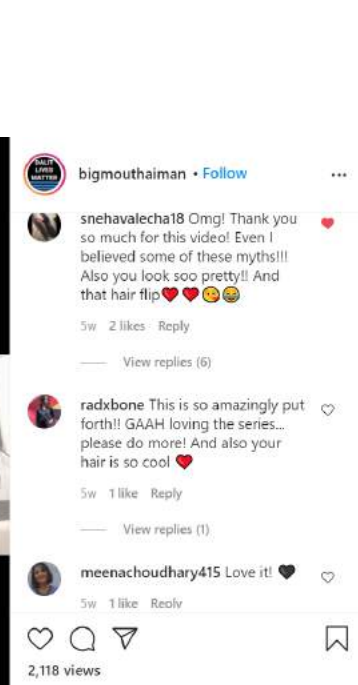
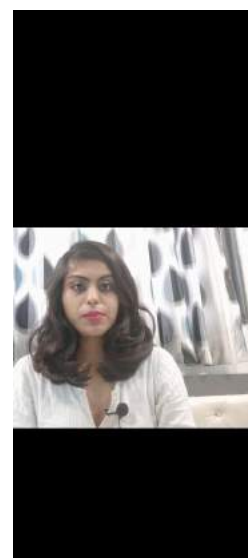


Amazing campaign



Influencers talk about Safe Abortion!

Even though having reproductive freedom brought about a revolutionary change for the feminist movement, even today there are women who die through unsafe, back alley abortions every day. All of this due to the stigma and myths regarding women's sexual and reproductive rights and choices. So in order to normalize safe abortion we collaborated with influencers like Esha Bahal and Aiman Sheikh on Instagram so that they too can share this information creatively with their followers. You can view the videos by clicking on the pictures..



September 28th with Feminism in India

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020 was approved by the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, earlier this year to amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (MTP), 1971. While the bill was supposed to be discussed in the Rajya Sabha, this has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The new bill has been deemed 'progressive' and 'liberal' by the government, but there are several issues with the proposed amendments as well. On International Safe Abortion Day FII and ASAP took a look at some of the issues with the MTP (Amendment) Bill, 2020 and why the new bill needs to have a rights-based approach to abortion and reproductive health. You can view all the pictures [here](#)

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Aims to extend the period of allowed termination of pregnancy upto 20-24 weeks.

To terminate until 20 weeks, approval from one registered practitioner would be required, and between 20-24 weeks, approval of two medical practitioners would be needed.

THE ISSUE WITH IT:

The new bill doesn't focus on the rights of the person who doesn't want to continue the pregnancy.

A person still won't have the absolute right to terminate a pregnancy if they want to.

- The Medical termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill 2020 was approved by the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, earlier this year to amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (MTP), 1971.
- The bill was supposed to be discussed in the Rajya Sabha, but this has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- While the new bill has been deemed 'progressive' and 'liberal' by the government, there are several issues with the proposed amendments as well. Let's take a look at some of them.

THE MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020

The need for a rights-based approach to abortion and reproductive health.

My Body. My Choice

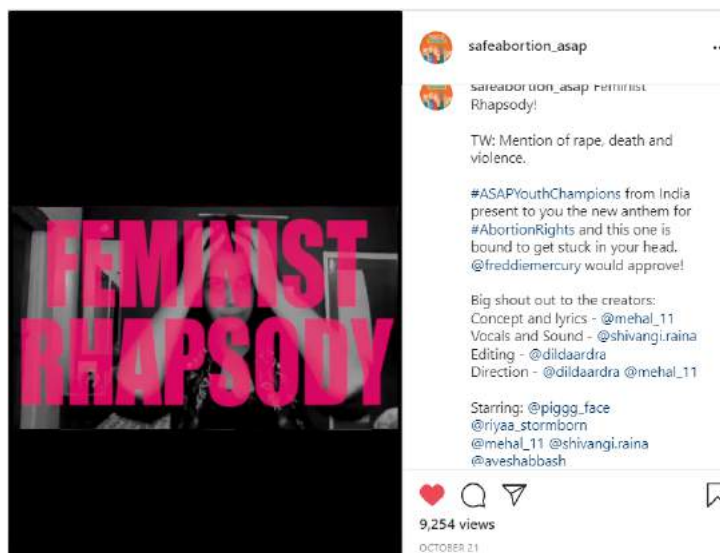
#ArtWorkForAbortion | She Decides

ASAP as part of the regional network of She Decides connected them with All India Network of Sex Workers and Vikalp Sansthan from Rajasthan, India who submitted their brilliant artwork for #ArtworkForAbortion campaign for 28th September



Feminist Rhapsody

Youth Champions from India recreated Queen's classic hit 'Bohemian Rhapsody' but with feminist lyrics. Listen to the song and watch the video [here](#).



BLOGS

thestar.com.my

Star ONLINE

Log In

Over 1,000 baby-dumping cases from 2010 to May 2019, 64% died

NATION

Saturday, 03 Aug 2019 7:16 PM MYT

By Ashley Tang

ASAP Jul 10 • 5 min

Teen Pregnancies and 'baby dumping' in Malaysia: We are failing t...

I refer to the article "Teen mum throws newborn from fourth floor flat, baby girl survives" published on May 13. In the first news, it wa...

5 views Write a comment



ASAP Jul 11 • 3 min

'11 Thoughts On 11 July 2020 , World Population Day ' by Dr Suchitra Dalvie

1: This day has been observed by the UN and its agencies since 1989. It was inspired by the public interest in Five Billion Day on July 1...

16 views Write a comment

PREGNANCIES

According to a report provided by FRHS India, we can expect the following to occur as the pandemic continues as well as in the post-pandemic period:

- INCREASED DEMAND FOR STERILIZATION SERVICES
- INCREASED DEMAND FOR ABORTION SERVICES
- DECLINE IN CONTRACEPTIVE USAGE

Trigger Warning for Next Photo: Forced Pregnancies, Unsafe Abortion Complications

ASAP Jul 30 • 5 min

The MTP 2020 Amendment Bill: anti-rights subjectivity

In India, abortion has been allowed in limited circumstances since the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act 1971 was passed, creati...

3 views Write a comment



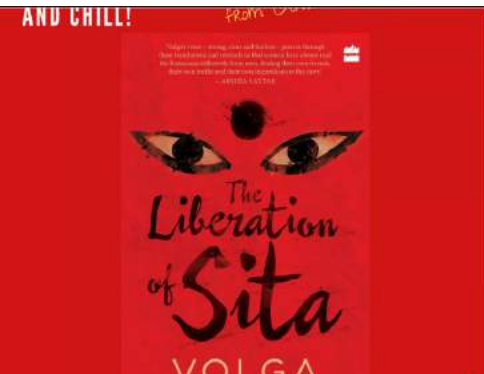
ASAP Aug 4 • 7 min

Video Translation: COVID 19 has worst affected women from...

As part of the series of ASAP Conversations we have been talking to our partners who are spread across the region and outside as well in ...

10 views Write a comment

BLOGS



ASAP  Aug 5 • 3 min

Volga's 'The Liberation of Sita'. Review by Aardra

The first time I took any active interest in Ramayana was in 9th grade. We were asked to study a one-act play called 'Raj Rani Sita' writ...

77 views Write a comment



ASAP  Aug 22 • 5 min

'Freedom week musings.' By Nandini Mazumder

73 years ago, India and Pakistan was created, overthrowing two centuries of British colonial rule. Yet one wonders if the struggle for in...

27 views Write a comment



ASAP  Sep 10 • 3 min

'Is Parenting at the Root of all Inequalities?' By Naina Samson

One of the basis of all kinds of inequalities is culture and every culture emerges from parenting. Children inhabit cultural ecologies th...

119 views Write a comment



ASAP  Sep 30 • 3 min

'Un- Becoming Rapunzel' by Sajju Maharjan

What comes to your mind when one says "Rapunzel"? Obviously, her beautiful long hair, isn't it? How should you feel when one calls you Ra...

51 views Write a comment



BLOGS



ASAP
Nov 11 • 4 min



Could Self Managed Abortions be the Future of Reproductive freedom:...

One of the major lessons of the covid 19 pandemic has been the revelation of how broken the public health delivery systems are in our reg...

14 views Write a comment



ASAP
Dec 8 • 5 min



'Green' Menstruation in Bhutan: For health, climate and beyond -...

Gone are the days when menstrual hygiene information and products were unavailable but still half of the population, those menstruating i...

3 views Write a comment



ASAP AS PANELLIST

Leading the Feminist Way | Haiyya Foundation | 14th April

The webinar was organized with the aim of understanding feminist leadership and what it looks like in practice. ASAP's Communication and Network Officer Ayesha Bashir, was one of the panelists, along with renowned activists, Meera Sanghamitra, Vithika Yadav and Tara Krishnaswamy. Given the crises the world at large is facing, during the discussion, a big consensus was for leadership structures based on feminist values and to learn from different communities and their contexts. Ayesha spoke about how we can move in that direction, by first questioning our own prejudices and stigmas. If we envision a more just world, we must stand up for it in our own families and communities. She also explained why 'cancel culture' or ignoring men in our gender justice movement, can be detrimental to the cause in the long run and instead we must think of different ways of sensitizing people, raising awareness without making anyone feel threatened.



WEBINAR: LEADING THE FEMINIST WAY




VITHIKA YADAV
HEAD
LOVE MATTERS INDIA


MEERA SANGHAMITRA
INDEPENDENT HUMAN
RIGHTS ACTIVIST


TARA KRISHNASWAMY
CO-FOUNDER
SHAKTI


AYESHA BASHIR
ASIA SAFE ABORTION
PARTNERSHIP

DATE & TIME MAY 14 THURSDAY 12PM IST **REGISTER** [BIT.LY/HAIYYAWEBINAR2](https://bit.ly/haiyyawebinar2)

Access to abortion services in the context of government programmes, pandemic/ health crises and changes in abortion laws | CREA and Commonhealth | 1st, 6th and 13th May

Coordinator, Dr Suchitra Dalvie was the speaker as well as the moderator for this series of webinars which aimed to analyse the historical context of criminalization of sexual and reproductive health. Dr Dalvie's presentation explored what decriminalization of safe abortion represents against this backdrop and also the importance of learning from the experiences of movements that have been advocating for decriminalization, for example; the Sex Workers Rights movement and the broad-based advocacy that was taken forward successfully by them.

Access to Reproductive Justice | Organized by Human Rights Law Network | 24th May

Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie spoke about 'Denial of Abortion Services and MTP Act'. She focused on the poor implementation of the MTP Act across the country, which along with the stigma has made this service inaccessible for many. Though India has a law for terminating an unwanted pregnancy, abortion is still criminalized, 56% of abortion are unsafe in India and 80% women still don't know if it is legal. She also raised some important questions about the proposed amendments and whether they bring about a shift in power from healthcare providers to the person who doesn't want to continue the pregnancy. She also asked to think about the following questions

- Do they increase women's autonomy and agency?
- Do they decriminalize abortions?
- Do they ensure that no women is turned away or forced into an unsafe abortion or into containing a pregnancy that is rated?
- Do they increase public sector access and government accountability?
- Do they improve private sector regulation?
- Do they provide for better access to Medical Abortion Pills ?
- Do they ensure that all government hospitals are providing the full range of abortion services including second trimester abortions and without any coercion for contraception?

Rights Based Approach to Delivering Comprehensive SRH Services For All In The New Normal | UNFPA with Sri Lanka Medical Association | 26th July

The annual conference of the SLMA had a focus on the need for comprehensive SRH services delivery applying equity in access, quality of care, without discrimination, accountability across implementation, what this would look like in the post-COVID context and create a policy dialogue that will inform and contribute to the larger advocacy on universal access to comprehensive SRHR service delivery through adopting a rights-based, inclusive, life-cycle approach for all in a normal and emergency/pandemic settings. ASAP Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie was one of the panellists and spoke about the critical need to address gender and sexism in medical education and clinical practise.

The Gender Politics of Medicine



Dr Suchitra Dalvie MD, MRCOG (UK)
Consultant Gynaecologist
Coordinator ASAP

My Body My Voice: International Safe Abortion Day Briefing | Marie Stopes International | 28th September

On 28th September, MSI published an update on their annual My Body, My Voice report, launching new findings from interviews with over 1,800 women who accessed a safe abortion service with MSI. Given the focus of this year's International Safe Abortion Day on self-managed abortions, the briefing included presentations on how we can support self-administration safely, including via pharmacy provision and accompaniment models. Dr Suchitra Dalvie was one of the speakers and spoke about the political significance of self-managed abortions

The Political Significance of Self Managed Abortion



Dr. Suchitra Dalvie MD, MRCOG

APCRSHR10 Virtual-8: Safe abortion and SRHR in Asia Pacific | APCRSHR10 | 28th September

In the wake of COVID 19 the APCRSHR10 was transferred to fortnightly virtual sessions. On 28th September, Dr Dalvie was invited as a plenary speaker where she talked about the "Abortion and Reproductive Justice: The Unfinished Revolution"

Options to maintain Essential Health Services During COVID | WHO - ESEOR | 28th October

This was the eleventh webinar in their series. The conversation focussed on self-care interventions to support maintaining essential health services for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR); midwives' contribution to maintaining coverage of SRH services; demand for SRH services in the community, and community practice on self-care interventions for SRHR.

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Safe Abortion Access during Covid 19 | Gaon Cafe | 27th November

Assistant Coordinator Nandini Mazumder was invited by Gaon Cafe for their Facebook Live to talk about the situation of accessing safe abortion services during lockdown in India.

कोरोनाकाल में सुरक्षित गर्भपात की क्या स्थिति रही?

GaonCAFÉ

Speakers:

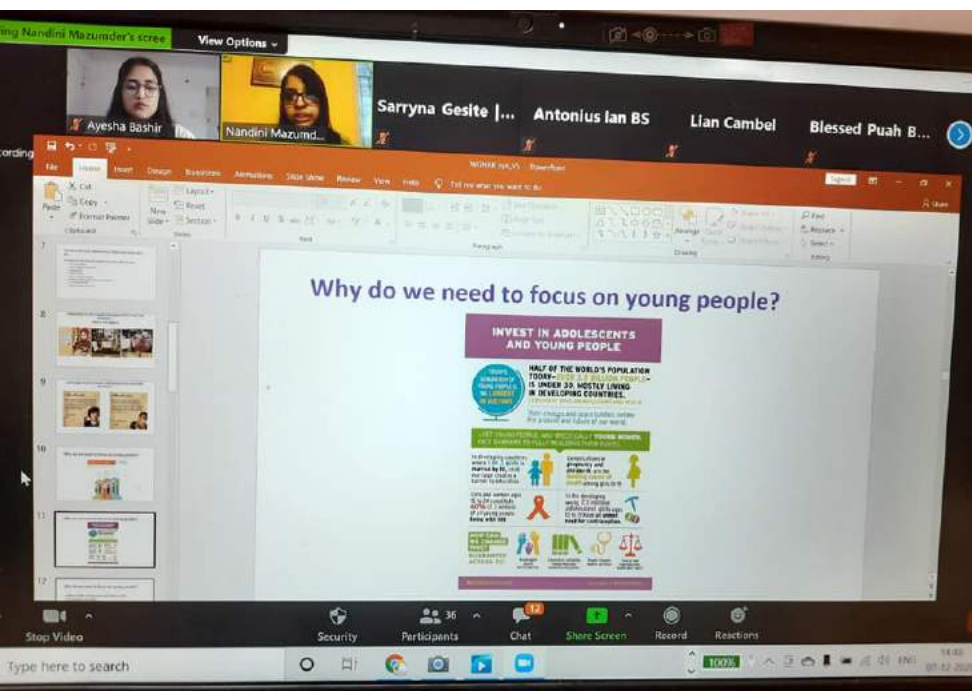
- डॉ. नीलम सिंह: मुख्य कार्यकारी, स्वास्थ्य संस्था, लखनऊ
- अनुश्री बैनर्जी: अध्यक्ष, नेशनल आर्टिजन्स डेवलपमेंट फाउंडेशन, पश्चिम बंगाल
- नीलेखा कुमार: सॉफ्टवेयर स्टेट डायरेक्टर, आर्थिक डेवलपमेंट फाउंडेशन, बिलासपुर-झारखंड
- निधि जम्वाल: डिप्टी मैनेजिंग एडिटर, गाँव कनेक्शन
- नीतू सिंह: सीनियर रिपोर्टर, गाँव कनेक्शन
- आयशा खवली जॉर्ज: एग्जीक्यूटिव को-ऑर्डिनेटर, हिंदन प्रोटेक्ट्स कलेक्टिव, बैंगलूर
- नंदिनी मजुमदार: ऑनलाइन को-ऑर्डिनेटर, एशिया सेक अक्टॉन पाटनरशिप, बैंगलूर
- सुनीता सिंह: टीम लीडर, लखनऊ
- राजिम केतवारस: कोऑर्डिनेटर, रॉडिअर अटिवाली मंच, छत्तीसगढ़

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LIVE | 27 नवंबर दोपहर 3 बजे

Young People, Reproductive Justice, Abortion Rights Regional Online Discussion Series | WGNRR | 7th December

Assistant Coordinator Nandini Mazumder and Communication and Network Officer Ayesha Bashir were invited by Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights to speak about 'Safe Abortion as a Human Right for Young People'. This webinar was part of a series of conversations held during the '16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence' where they discussed issues related to sexual and reproductive health and rights, especially for young people.



Myths and Questions related to Safe Abortion | Feminism In India Hindi | 8th December

Dr Suchitra Dalvie was invited by FII Hindi to clarify misconceptions around abortion services in India while also highlighting the root cause of taboos and stigma around abortion; Patriarchy. The panel also had a speaker from How To Use Abortion pill.



She Decides Masterclass: The Politics of Selective Abortions and its Impact on Safe Abortions Rights | She Decides | 14th December

Dr Suchitra Dalvie was invited by She Decides as a part of their Masterclass Series to talk about the complex politics of sex selective abortions and explore the challenging arguments surround easy access to safe abortion services.

She Decides. MASTER CLASSES



14 December 2020 15.00 GMT

**THE POLITICS OF
SELECTIVE ABORTION AND
ITS IMPACT ON ABORTION RIGHTS**

Suchitra Dalvie

ASAP AS PARTICIPANT

INROADS Global Gathering and Steering Committee Meeting | 10th-15th February | Mombasa, Kenya

Coordinator ASAP is a part of the Inroads Steering Committee for the Asia Pacific Seat. The global gathering included 120 persons from across the globe with a large proportion coming from the continent of Africa. Dakshitha Wickramratne from YANSL and Pushpa Joshi from YoSHAN were also present. Many interesting discussions took place on issues of stigma, access and advocacy strategies. ASAP posters, MA factsheets and comic books were highly appreciated and all the copies meant for distribution were taken by participants.



Gender Contestations in Access to Health by International AIDS Vaccination Initiative (IAVI) |Delhi, India | 20th February

ASAP was represented by Assistant Coordinator Nandini Mazumder. IAVI is a not for profit scientific research organization working towards affordable, globally accessible public health solutions for urgent, unmet global health challenges including HIV and tuberculosis. The purpose of the consultation was to bring together a range of stakeholders including developmental organisations, community media groups and design thinking groups, working on health and gender to better understand the challenges with regards to access.

COVID-19: What are its implications for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights | SRHM Journal | 27th March 2020

This was the first of the webinar series since the pandemic broke out across the world and was attended by Assistant Coordinator Nandini Mazumder. The speakers brought in important perspectives and gave us an overview of what was to be expected in the coming months, especially for marginalized and vulnerable communities. Chris Purdy from a company called DKT International producing SRHR products, such as MA pills, condoms, etc. warned of an imminent crisis in the supply chain for contraceptives and IUD as manufacturing in countries temporarily shut down. Lizzie from This Ability Kenya reminded that people with disabilities have lived with the limitations for years, such as, poor systems and infrastructures, accessibility issues, issues of lack of basic resources for the poor. She reiterated that after the pandemic we must lean in on the communities living with disability and learn from them to rebuild a more just and inclusive world.

Delivering access to safe abortion in the time of COVID-19 | Marie Stopes International | 8th April

Attended by Assistant Coordinator Nandini Mazumder, this was the first webinar in the series and focused around delivering access to safe abortion in the time of COVID-19, sharing the potential impact of the virus on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), alongside strategies for ensuring women can continue to access safe abortion services during the crisis; through telemedicine, pharmacies and government partnerships.

Self- Managed Abortion and Law: Toward a person centered human right approach | IPAS | 22nd April 2020

In this webinar panelists discussed the concern for criminalizing self-managed abortion, in imagining a future that promotes rights based approach to abortion services. For many people, self-managed abortion is a preferred way to end a pregnancy based on their experiences and circumstances. Even where people have access to high-quality abortion services provided in formal health systems, they may choose to self-manage their abortions because of privacy concerns or to avoid the stigma related to an unwanted pregnancy. The webinar was attended by Assistant Coordinator Nandini Mazumder

Amplify Change Strategy and Consultation Webinar | Amplify Change | 13th May 2020

A grantee meeting attended by Nandini Mazumder, on behalf of ASAP where Grantees were asked to share their inputs on Amplify Change (Strength, Weaknesses and Opportunities) that would inform the Grants strategic planning for the next five years

Abortion Laws in India: Perspectives from the margins | CHLET and The Y P Foundation | 1st July.

The webinar focused on abortion laws and adolescents. As per the Protection of Child Sexual Offenses (POCSO) people below 18 cannot have consensual sex and any sexual activity is deemed as statutory rape against the girl and the accused in the boy or the male partner. This often hinders young people who are sexually active and have become pregnant from accessing services out of fear, shame, stigma and the possibility of criminalization. The webinar was attended by Assistant Coordinator Nandini Mazumder.

Biopolitics & COVID 19 Pandemic: Feminist Perspective DAWN | 2nd July

Attended by Nandini, this was one of the most informative webinars and shared below are some important points

- Gita Sen shared about how India handled the small pox epidemic - how people were paid to report on cases that ultimately led to eradication. The same strategy was used for the sterilization program during the emergency under Indira Gandhi which continues to haunt India's public health and family planning program till today
- Sonia Correa - Revisited Foucault in the context of the pandemic (the failure of the western modernity). She also spoke of the normalization of regressive ideas of gendered norms or race superiority during the pandemic - she drew a parallel of the western race hegemonies with the way India is demonizing Muslims in the context of COVID19 which is similar to how the blacks are being treated in the USA
- Gloria reminded us the plight of those engaged in informal economy or low paid jobs, such as, sexual workers and other informal low economic workers who are impacted adversely due to the pandemic and the way governments have dealt with the situation without any empathy.

Biopolitics & The COVID-19 Pandemic: Feminist Perspectives



Sonia Corrêa
Rio de Janeiro



Gita Sen
Bangalore

Sexual And Reproductive Justice Webinar |People's Health Coalition South Africa | 23rd July

The panel included, Dudu Dlamini from Sex Workers Education and Advocacy Taskforce /Mothers for the Future, Sharon Cox from the Triangle Project, Kgaladi Mphahele from Doctors Without Borders/MSF Southern Africa and Facilitator, Marion Stevens from Sexual and Reproductive Justice Coalition - SRJC. The webinar focussed learning from the perspectives of sex workers, clinical providers of contraception and abortion services, queer health services and responses as well as the sharing of experiences of compounded marginalisation. The closing remarks were made by Sr Judy Ranape RH trainer and manager in the W Cape. Please find the link to their Facebook page here for more information.

Sex Ratio at Birth in India-Recent Trends and Patterns | United Nations Population Fund | 30th July

This webinar organized by the UNFPA left a lot to think about and critique. As a follow up ASAP organized a consultation on 4th August with a select group of activists and organizations. The purpose of the consultation was to deliberate on the findings presented at the UNFPA webinar and formulate an action plan. Some of the key points discussed were: Lack of clarity in the data usage:

- The UNFPA report data was sourced from CRS or birth registrations, SRS or continuous registrations, Census data of 2001 and 2011 with information from 2004 to 2011 or 7 years, NFHS and HMIS. The last one is only from rural India and the NFHS is probably the most comprehensive of all the sources. The report uses all these sources to estimate the sex ratio at birth in India and in other words the findings shared in the report are all estimates that can be debated further. There is a difference between sex ratio (between 0 to 6 years of age) and sex ratio at birth (0) but the UNFPA data has clubbed the two together without any explanation.
- Lack of clarity in the data analysis: The report does not explain if sex ratio is the most critical indicator of the gender discrimination. The report puts the focus of Gender Based Sex Selection (GBSS) on female foetuses and the scrutiny over them. It fails to clarify that the PCPNDT only talks about sex determination – therefore, those who find out it that the foetus is male and continue the pregnancy are also violating the Act. The usage of the phrase “missing girls” is problematic and personifies the foetus and is extremely anti-choice. How does one make sense of aborted foetuses in this context as all of them are missing birth?
- Usage of language: There was a mention of “marriage squeeze” in a conversation around women’s rights when marriage itself is a patriarchal construct with not much value for the woman –it incorporates problematic patriarchal practices such as dowry, marital rape, unequal inheritance, loss of career and education opportunities for women, child marriages, rape, violence etc. which adversely affect a woman.
- Lacking a feminist approach: While questioning the heteronormativity, there is a need to also question the gender binaries being used as a norm. The report mentioned dowry repeatedly but does not state that dowry is illegal in India. The report does not mention that abortion is legal in India

PUBLICATIONS

Dr Suchitra Dalvie's blog 'Love in time of Corona'

As of now many countries are imposing stay- at- home and social distancing protocols and some are more or less in a state of lockdown and many more will soon follow. For those who have a home, have savings that can allow stocking of food and essentials and have healthy able bodied family members, the lockdown is more of an inconvenience than a real calamity. But there are 150 million homeless people globally and 1.6 billion who lack adequate housing. We have close to one billion people living with some form of disability or chronic illness needing carers'.

The blog was also translated in Vietnamese by VYAC Team member Hoai Nam and published in Vietnamese Women newspaper on 6th April



Dr Suchitra dalvie's blog 'Somewhere over the rainbow, skies are blue'

And the dreams that you dare to dream really do come true. It is 2020 and most people on this planet now associate the rainbow with the LGBTQIA symbol rather than the old Judy Garland song from the Wizard of Oz, which is great! But as Valentine's Day comes around and in a frenzy of 'celebrating' 'love' as the media starts filling up with everything in shades of red, it is interesting to reflect on the origins of it all. All our cultures have been celebrating and analysing a whole spectrum of love over the ages but in recent centuries has been narrowed down to the celebration of mainly (or only) romantic/sexual love being projected as the ultimate goal in life. Finding one's soulmate, married till death do us part and all that jazz.

Indian Organizations Condemn Poland's Draconian Abortion Law | 20th April 2020

'Standing in solidarity with all women for rights over their bodies, and to prioritize pro-choice abortion laws, organizations Haiyya, Asia Safe Abortion Partnership, Love Matters India and Feminism in India strongly condemn the 'Stop Abortion' bill discussed in Parliament of Poland amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.'



The MTP 2020 Amendment Bill: anti-rights subjectivity | 28th April | 2020 | Co Authored

In India, abortion has been allowed in limited circumstances since the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act 1971 was passed, creating an exception to the offence of abortion under the Indian Penal Code, 1860. The law's primary purpose was population control and family planning ¹ and it lacks a rights-based framework. The law is doctor-centric and over-medicalises abortion, stripping pregnant persons of their right to bodily and decisional autonomy and vesting the decision to abort with the doctor. On 17th March, the Lower House (Lok Sabha) of the Indian Parliament passed the MTP Amendment Bill 2020, a new set of amendments to this nearly five-decades-old law. Sadly, this Bill fails to measure up to the existing reproductive rights jurisprudence developed by the Supreme Court of India ² and the fundamental rights to autonomy, bodily integrity, and privacy.

How Essential Abortion Services Are Inaccessible in the Lockdown | The Quint | 13th May 2020

Dr Suchitra Dalvie was quoted in the article 'The chances of surgical abortions becoming costlier during the pandemic are high for multiple reasons. "Abortions are mostly accessed from the private sector. Some have had to shut down because of positive cases among their staff, others have had to scale down their facilities, and we have been hearing that many who remain open have increased the price charged for abortions. A rise in the hospital's input costs in terms of holding additional screenings for the virus, implementing social distancing, and buying Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the health workers have increased their expenses, which could make them charge higher for surgical abortions. The private sector is also facing financial issues because of low profits and low admissions for other conditions and illnesses,"

How 'Essential' Abortion Services Are Inaccessible in the Lockdown

Millions of women and couples have been finding it impossible to access contraceptives and abortions on time.

SAAKHI CHADHA
Updated: 10 Jul 2020, 04:21 PM IST

CORONAVIRUS
8 min read



Abortion Using Misoprostol Pills: A Guide for all pregnant people seeking to self- manage their abortion | IWHC | 28th May

ASAP contributed to the development of this evidence based guidance by IWHC. It has been informed by the latest information from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Federation of Gynecologists and Obstetricians (FIGO). It explains how pregnant people can end a pregnancy with Misoprostol, because everyone has the right to safe abortion care'. Often sold in pharmacies, Misoprostol is inexpensive, easy to store and handle, and is a safe method for people seeking to end their pregnancy. The medication softens and dilates the cervix, causes uterine contractions, and pushes pregnancy tissue out. Misoprostol's multidimensional use in medicine makes it more accessible when compared to other abortion pills, like Mifepristone. Misoprostol is 85% successful in inducing abortion in the first trimester, when used as recommended.

Abortion Using Misoprostol Pills: A Guide For All Pregnant People Seeking to Self-Manage Their Abortion

Download instructions for inducing abortion with misoprostol in Arabic, English, Español, Français, or Português.

Globally, millions of pregnant people have safely ended their pregnancies using misoprostol.

Often sold in pharmacies, misoprostol is inexpensive, easy to store and handle, and is a safe method for people seeking to end their pregnancy. The medication softens and dilates the cervix, causes uterine contractions, and pushes pregnancy tissue out. Misoprostol's multidimensional use in medicine makes it more accessible when compared to other abortion pills, like mifepristone. Misoprostol is 85% successful in inducing abortion in the first trimester, when used as recommended.

The attached evidence-based guide was developed by IWHC and informed by the latest guidance from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Federation of Gynecologists and Obstetricians (FIGO). It explains how pregnant people can end a pregnancy with misoprostol, because everyone has the right to safe abortion care.

Where to Purchase Misoprostol:

Aid Access consults and prescribes misoprostol to residents of the United States for miscarriage management. (English and Spanish)

Cytotec Mexico has comprehensive information on mifepristone and misoprostol, and confidentially sends abortion pills to residents of Mexico. The cost of pills ranges from approximately 40 USD to 75 USD depending on dosage; prices are listed on the website in pesos. (Spanish)

TelAbortion sends abortion pills as part of a US-based study into the effective delivery of telemedicine abortion. The price of this service may vary from state to state and person to person. Services are currently available to eligible residents of Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, New Mexico, New York, Maine, Oregon, and Washington State.

Women Help Women provides various contraception options and mifepristone and misoprostol to people living in countries with restricted or no access to legal abortion. The United States is not on the list of supported countries, but residents of other countries can complete a confidential consultation online to evaluate if they are eligible to receive the medical abortion pills for a donation. (English, Spanish, French, German, and others)

Women on Web provides mifepristone and misoprostol to people living in countries with restricted or no access to legal abortion. United States residents cannot use this resource, but Women on Web offers the pill regimen to residents of 90+ countries across the Americas, Africa, Europe, and Asia for a sliding scale donation fee that may be waived in some circumstances. (English, Spanish, French, German, Chinese, Russian, and others)



Dr Suchitra Dalvie has been invited to join the Clinical Evidence and Recommendation Review Group for The Safe Abortion Guidelines, Third Edition, W.H.O'.

An article written by Dr. Suchitra Dalvie on the concerns around safe abortion access during Covid 19 was published in Loksatta

An article on the lack of sex and sexuality education for medical students was published in the TARSHI journal: In plainspeak

Medical Abortion Guidance Publication | Gynuity Health Projects and CEDES

Gynuity Health Projects and CEDES led the development of a Guidance for Providers Offering Misoprostol-Alone for Abortion Amidst COVID-19. This resource is for providers who have access to Misoprostol to ensure that safe medical abortion can still be offered during the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with social distancing practices. The guidance reviews the steps of providing Misoprostol medical abortion and makes evidence-based recommendations for limiting contact and reducing in-person visits. It was produced in collaboration with ASAP, CLACAI, REDAAS and Women Help Women



CAN ACTIVITIES

BHUTAN D-YISA

D-YISA Sensitization Program for indigenous people on abortion laws in the country | Ngawang Dramtey Village, Bhutan | 25th January

Samtse is one of the 20 districts in Bhutan and is situated in the southern foothills of the country. D-YISA identified an indigenous village of the district called Ngawang Dramtey which has more than 160 girls and women. Ugyen Dema organized and arranged a program with them, to raise awareness on the abortion rights they have in Bhutan. At the beginning of the session, they believed abortion is wrong and illegal, but after detailed discussion and busting myths around reproductive health, some did agree that abortion is a choice of the woman and she should have rights over her body.



Her Abortion, Her Health | D-YISA | International Day of Action for Women's Health, May 28th

D-YISA conducted an online awareness campaign called “Her abortion, her health” to mark the International day of Action for Women’s Health on May 28th whereby those interested could share a picture of themselves in a unique pose along with a strong statement that defends women’s rights to safe abortion as a healthcare measure whenever they need it.



Poetry Competition | 28th September

D-YISA through its social media accounts conducted an online competition, wherein participants were requested to send self-composed and written songs, that highlighted the issue of safe abortion in the country. D-YISA also conducted an essay competition amongst its youth champions.

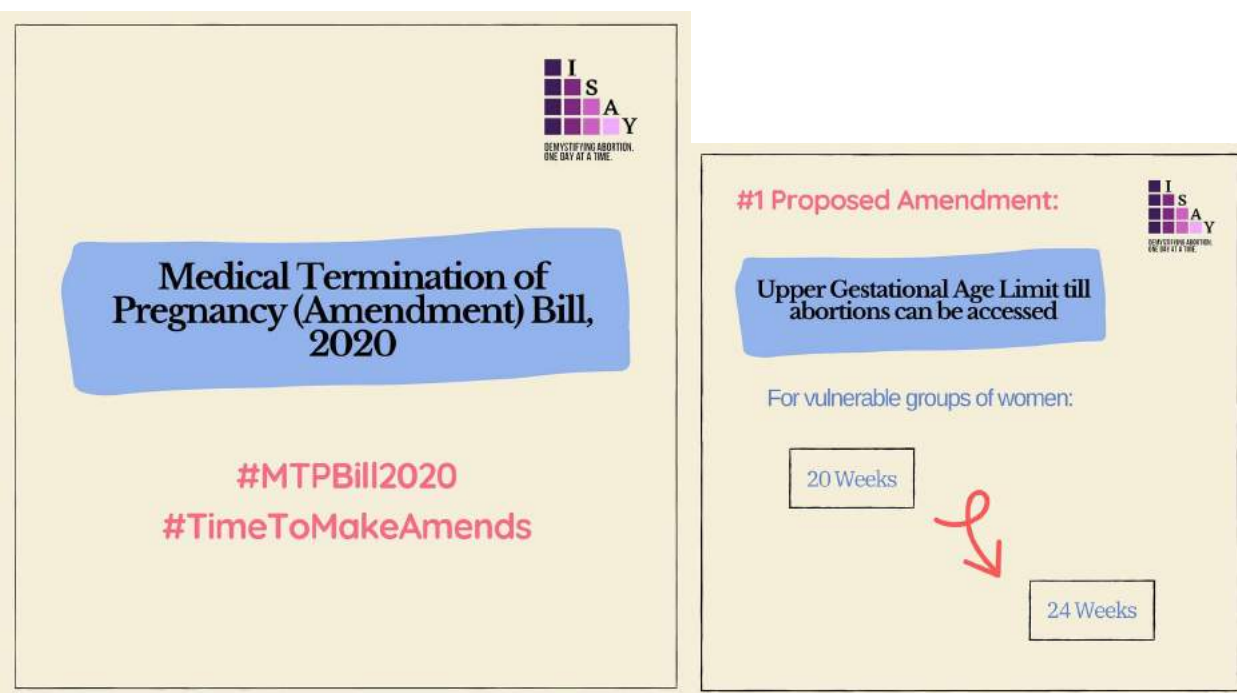


INDIA
INDIA SAFE ABORTION
YOUTH ADVOCATES
(ISAY)

Time To Make Amends | Online Campaign

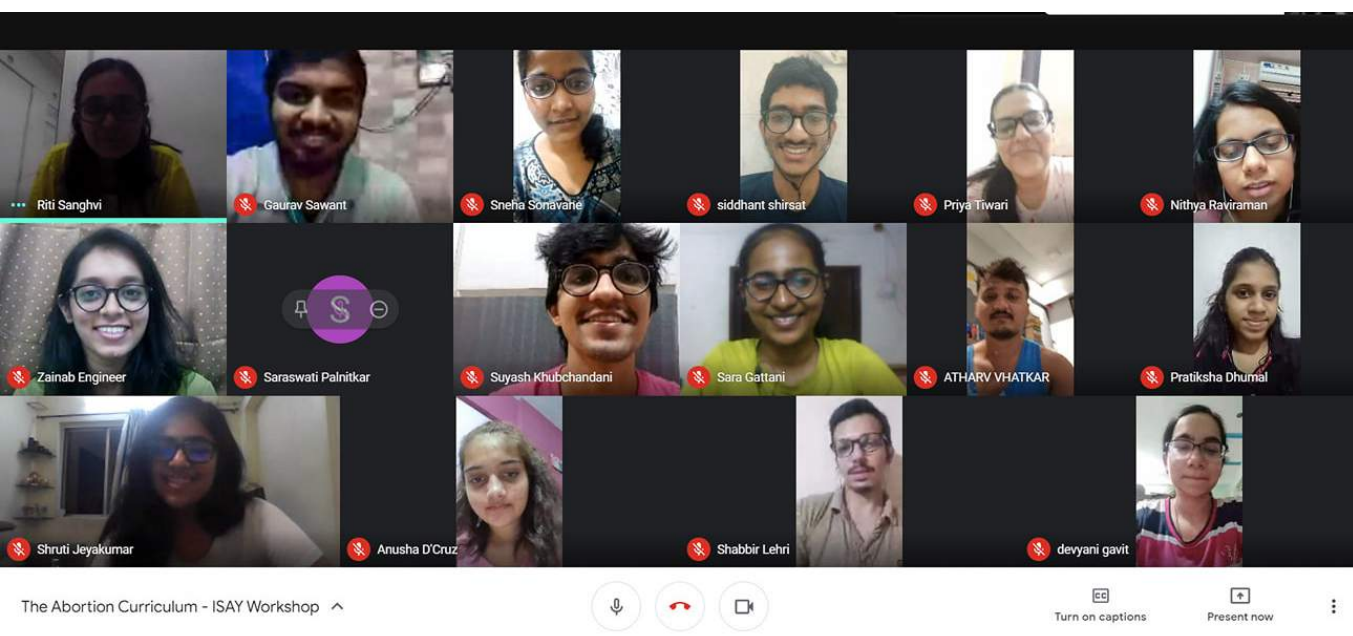
The last few months have shown us the universal need for universal access to health care services, including safe abortion. In shadow of this pandemic lower house of parliament in India passed an amendment to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.

Although some of the proposed amendments are progressives many simply fall short of truly giving seekers the autonomy and the ability to make a choice for themselves. ISAY launched a social media campaign to create awareness about the way the pandemic has hampered access to safe abortion services in India, the impact it has had on unintended pregnancies and how the brunt of it is borne disproportionately by vulnerable people. This ongoing campaign is also highlighting issues with the proposed amendments to the MTP Act. To follow the campaign you can visit them on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



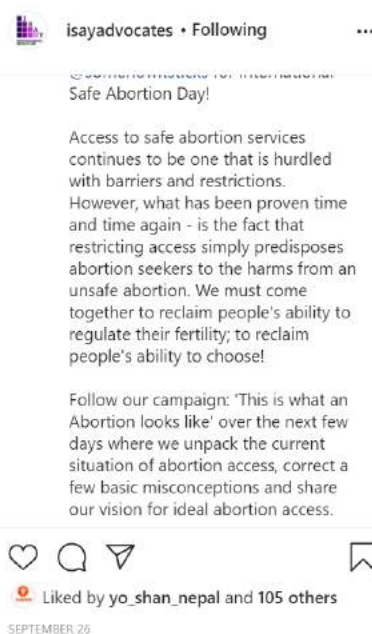
The Abortion Curriculum | Online coaching

This is an initiative by ISAY, in order to establish a rights- based approach to abortion among medical students in Maharashtra, India. The intersectionalities between gender, sexuality, patriarchy within medicine and the social determinants which influence access to safe abortion services makes it an important to discuss with medical students. This project is funded by the Youth Champions Initiative of Rise Up. They have successfully completed all their workshops with medical students from 6 different colleges across Maharashtra. At the end of the 4th day, the participants created relevant content to convey key messages they learnt.

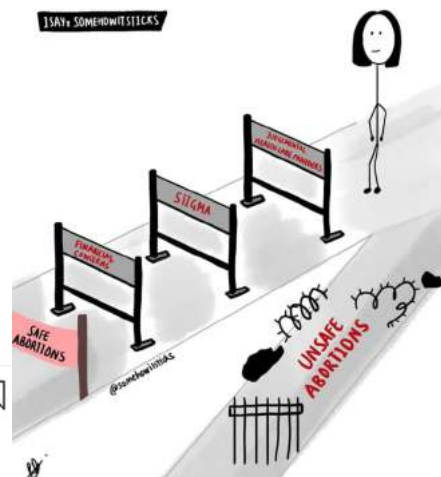


International Safe Abortion Day | This is what an abortion looks like | 28th September

This campaign was launched by ISAY in collaboration with a participant from their TAC workshop, who runs an Instagram page called Somehow it Sticks, to unpack the current situation of abortion access in India, correct misconceptions and sharing a vision for ideal abortion access.



ISAY x SOMEHOWITSTICKS



PAKISTAN PAKISTAN ADVOCACY NETWORK (PAN)

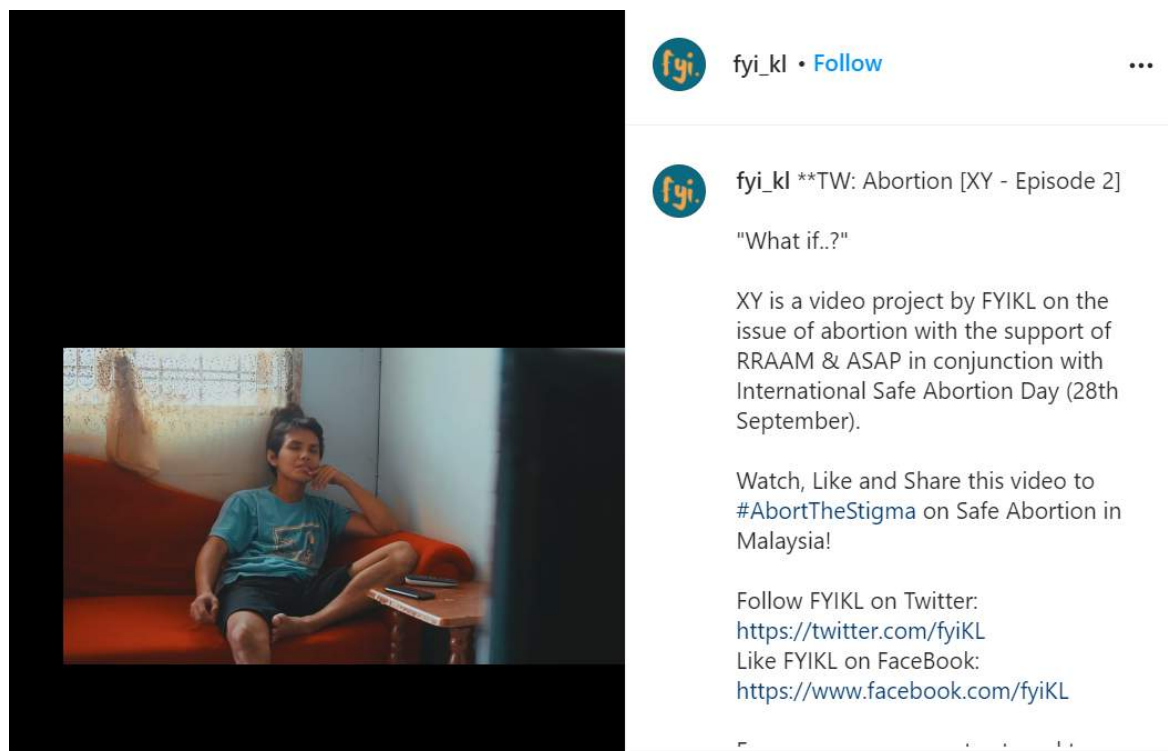
Theater of Taboo | 2nd-4th March

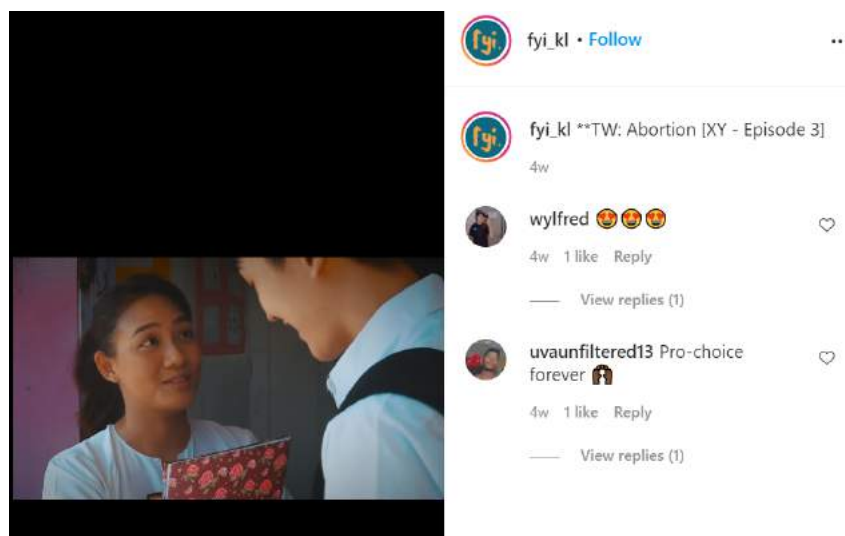
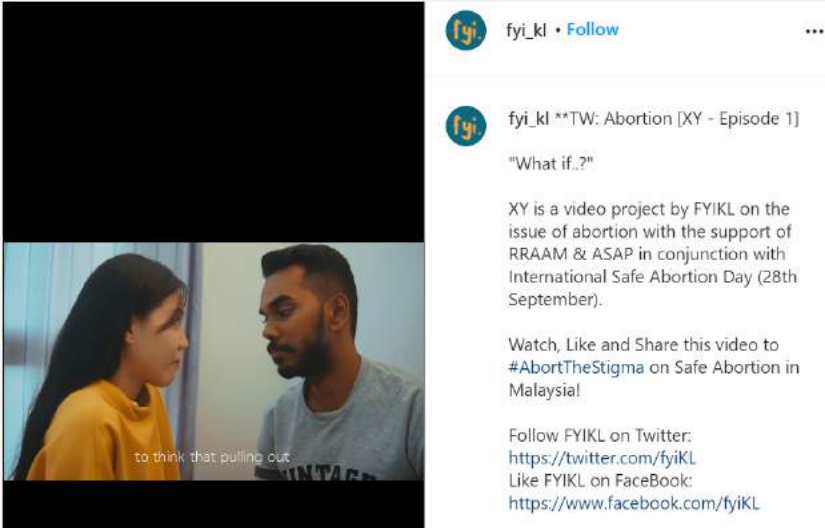
With 11 new participants through this workshop PAN introduced the concept of SRHR, Gender and Safe Abortion using theatre. Over the 3 days, the discussion delved into taboos related to sexual health and the importance of demystifying them. On the last day participants were asked to prepare plays on Topics such as Sex Workers, Trans community with overlapping themes of right to safe abortion, gender and SRHR.

MALAYSIA FOR YOUTH INITIATIVE KUALA LUMPUR (FYIKL)

#GugurkanStigma Workshop 2.0 | FYIKL with Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance | 19th July

This workshop was designed to sensitize crew members who were involved in filming 3 short stories that were submitted and selected from Abort The Stigma event held in 2019. The workshop consisted of 5 sessions conducted by RRAAM, ASAP, FYIKL and a movie director. Dr Dalvie represented ASAP and was accompanied by Ayesha Susan Thomas who's an alumni Youth Champion and celebrated theatre practitioner from India. You can watch the short stories by clicking on the images below.





NEPAL YOUTH LED SRHR NETWORK (YOSHAN)

YoSHAN Meeting with Brick Factory Owners for SRHR Sessions [Bhaktapur, Nepal | 2nd February]

YoSHAN organized a coordination meeting with proprietors of seven different brick factories in Bhaktapur. The aim of the meeting was to get their support to conduct session on sexual and reproductive health right sessions especially on contraception and safe abortion to the women working in the factories. Since this meeting, Youth Champions of YoSHAN have conducted four sessions with the women factory workers on sexual and reproductive health rights with particular focus on safe abortion service and rights.

YoSHAN Guff4Youth Episode 5 | Kathmandu, Nepal | 7th February

Guff4Youth's 5th episode, "Looking at gender beyond two and sexuality beyond opposite" was conducted by YoSHAN where Rukshana Kapali, a young queer activist facilitated the session on sex, gender, sexuality beyond heteronormative framework. The session was helpful for the participants to understand various terminologies and for inclusive advocacy in the future. YoSHAN's Guff for Youth is a platform created by them to discuss issues and question norms that the society enforces on us but does little to explain. In just a short amount of time they, have not only gained acceptability for talking about taboo topics (abortion, rape culture, sexuality etc), but are changing the way reproductive health or gender rights are viewed in the country. '



YoSHAN Gender sensitization workshop with Midwifery instructors and educators | Kathmandu | 15th February

Realizing the fact that the curriculum followed by the midwifery institutions only consists technical aspect on Safe abortion, Menstruation, Family Planning and child birth. YoSHAN organized this workshop with the aim to sensitize the Midwifery educators and instructors who can mould the next generation of providers towards delivering holistic quality care based on human rights principles.

Looking into the lockdown through a gender lens | FB Live by YoSHAN | 25th April

YoSHAN in collaboration with 'Who decides' conducted a Facebook live on the topic 'Looking into the lockdown through a gender lens' where youth Champion Anjila Thapa reflected on the impact of lockdown on women's rights, sexual and reproductive health rights and also spoke about the need for gender inclusive approaches while responding to the pandemic.



Milijuli Talk series 1: Mental Health in Covid-19 | YoSHAN | 27th April

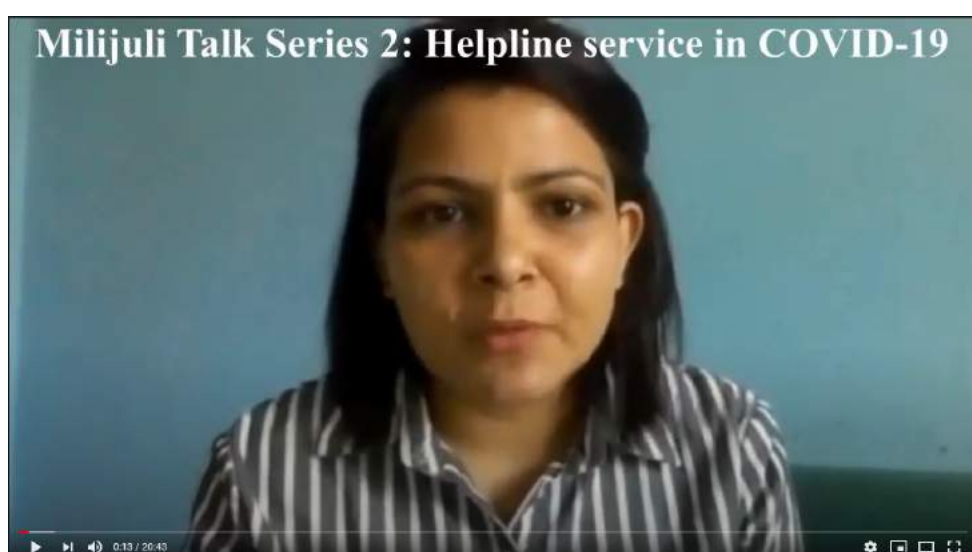
YoSHAN conducted a Milijuli talk series on Mental Health in Covid-19 where Sonal Dhanani, founder of Parindey (an organization working for mental health in Pakistan) was invited as the speaker. The discussion was moderated by Youth Champion Shreejana Bajracharya. The speaker highlighted why mental health matters during this pandemic and how one can cope with it.

Milijuli Talk Series 1: Mental Health in COVID-19



Milijuli Talk Series 2 : Helpline Services in Covid-19 | YoSHAN | 29th April

YoSHAN member Durga Sapkota conducted another talk where they had a conversation with three young midwives from MIDSON who have been independently running a helpline during the lockdown related to SRH services including counselling for pregnant people.



Milijuli Talk Series 3: Menstrual Health in covid-19 | YoSHAN | 2nd May

In this talk Dr. Sneha Rooh spoke about changing narratives of menstruation and sexuality in India through art theatre and dialogue. She is a palliative physician and founder of Orikalankini



Workshop: Online tools for Feminist advocacy | Orikalankini with YoSHAN | 9th May

YoSHAN with Orikalinkini also conducted a virtual workshop Online Tools for Feminist advocacy. Shreejana Bajracharya, as a facilitator from YoSHAN conducted a virtual workshop on how YoSHAN has been using various online tools like canva, animation app, giphy, etc for advocacy on safe abortion and SRHR.



SRHR in COVID19 Mini Interview:Voices from Humans | YoSHAN | 9th May

Voices of Humans, an organization based in Sri Lanka, working on engagement with men for gender equality approached YoSHAN to discuss the sexual and reproductive health scenario in COVID19. Shreejana Bajracharya was interviewed by Kapila, founder of VoH. You can watch full interview by clicking on the picture.



Global Menstrual Hygiene Day social media Campaign | YoSHAN | 28th May

YoSHAN engaged in conversations with young people and mobilized them to create online content to normalize the conversation on menstruation. All videos and other digital content including posters, memes, and blogs were then shared on their social media. Link of one of the videos submitted by people here. Links of the blogs submitted:

- Pandemic and Menstrual Hygiene
- I Am A Conqueror

Milijuli Talk Series 4: Discussion on pandemic and menstrual health | YoSHAN | 28th May

To celebrate the Global Menstrual Day, throughout the month of May, YoSHAN conducted many talks on the topic Pandemic and menstrual health. The discussion was moderated by Pushpa Joshi and Durga Sapkota and the participants included a researcher, activist, radio program producer and a young change agent.



Virtual Panel Discussion by Wreetu | YoSHAN | 28th May

Wreetu is an organization based in Bangladesh working on menstrual health hygiene management. Each year they celebrate Menstrual Hygiene Day with various programs and this year they organized a virtual panel discussion on “Period Scenario in South Asia Regions”. Shreejana Bajracharya participated as one of the panelists to share the period scenario in Nepal and how YoSHAN is continuing its activism amidst of COVID19. The panelists from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka shared their insights on the menstrual hygiene practices in their own countries.



Informative videos on covid-19 and other issues | YoSHAN

YoSHAN also produced animated videos on the intersection of covid-19 and other issues which were widely shared on social media. Some of the links are as below:

- Video 1
- Video 2

Khuldulee.com Radio Program | YoSHAN

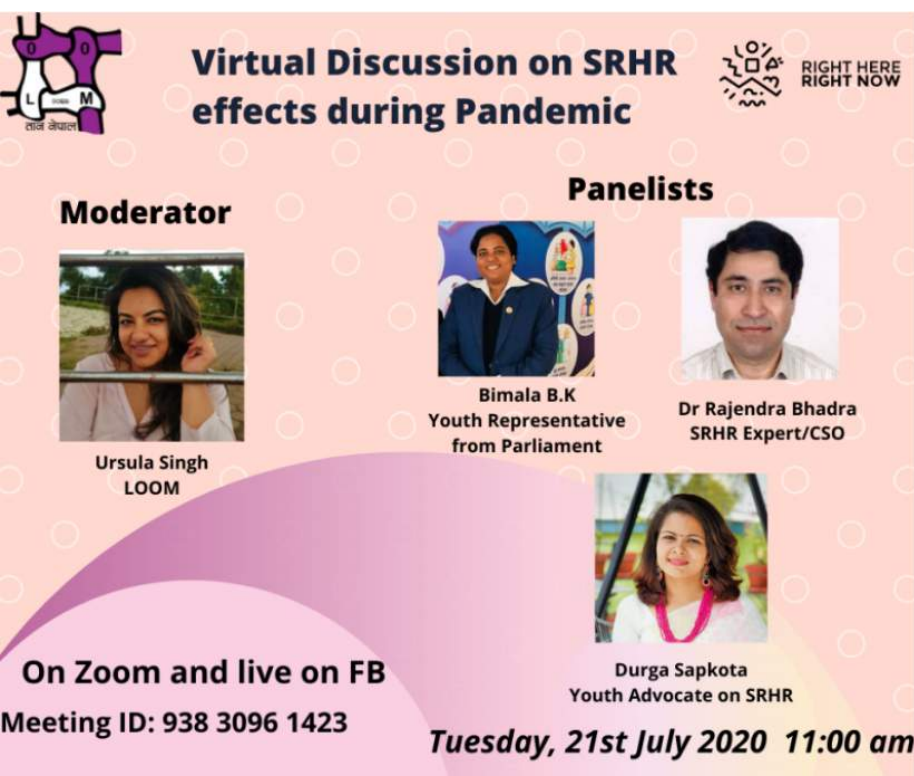
In coordination with the Radio Audio team, YoSHAN was able to design and execute two radio programs during the lockdown. They discussed the problem of increasing gender based violence during this lockdown and what measures should be taken by women and girls to report on time. In another episode, we introduced midwives from MIDSON running helpline numbers and counseling pregnant women.

Khuldulee.com Radio Program | YoSHAN

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Virtual discussion on SRHR effects during pandemic | YoSHAN with LOOM Nepal | 21st July


WHO has urged countries around the world to respect women's choices and rights to SRH care, regardless of COVID-19 status. YoSHAN joined hands with LOOM in organizing the panel discussions with the objective, by connecting the experts who have been active in the field of sexual and reproductive health for a long time with their expertise and suggestions through online medium.




The poster is for a virtual discussion titled "Virtual Discussion on SRHR effects during Pandemic". It features a pink background with a pattern of small white circles. At the top left is a logo with the letters L, O, and M. At the top right is a logo with the text "RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW". The poster lists the Moderator, Ursula Singh from LOOM, and three Panelists: Bimala B.K. (Youth Representative from Parliament), Dr. Rajendra Bhadra (SRHR Expert/CSO), and Durga Sapkota (Youth Advocate on SRHR). It also provides the meeting ID (938 3096 1423) and the date and time (Tuesday, 21st July 2020, 11:00 am).


Virtual Discussion on SRHR effects during Pandemic


Moderator


Ursula Singh
LOOM

Panelists


Bimala B.K.
Youth Representative from Parliament


Dr Rajendra Bhadra
SRHR Expert/CSO


Durga Sapkota
Youth Advocate on SRHR

On Zoom and live on FB
Meeting ID: 938 3096 1423

Tuesday, 21st July 2020 11:00 am

International Youth Day 2020 | YoSHAN with Family Planning Association of Nepal and Bhaktapur Youth Information Forum | 12th August

YoSHAN collaborated with these organizations to conduct a TikTok video contest in celebration of International Youth Day 2020. The video contests invited a TikTok video submission for young people on the theme "Youth Engagement for Global Action" or on Sexual and Reproductive health rights or comprehensive sexuality education issues. They received nearly 12 videos on various issues.

Cut and Action! | YoSHAN | August

YoSHAN launched this campaign as a part of their social media activism in the month of August. They selected various scenes from popular Nepali movies and developed a dialogue between characters in the issues related to consent, sex, contraceptives and abortion.



INTERNATIONAL SAFE ABORTION DAY | 28TH SEPTEMBER

Blog Series

YoSHAN for the month of September encouraged their youth champions from different cohorts to send their creative writings in form of blogs, articles, interviews, experiences, stories and poems delivering messages on Abortion is an Essential service in pandemic like COVID19. They received 15 blogs which were posted on their social media.

Global Gag Rule and COVID19

All Going To Be OK



Ms. Lirisha Tuladhar is our Youth Champion. Ms. Tuladhar is a passionate activist who works in women's right to safe and legal abortion service. Lirisha puts her writing into beautiful words to celebrate the Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion.



Start writing or type / to choose a block

We had fallen in love...

Madly ... Deeply.. Truly..



YoSHAN's co-founder Ms. Shreejana Bajracharya on the occasion of September 28 Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion shares her thoughts on how Global Gag Rule is affecting women in the pandemic COVID19.

Nepal has been adversely effected by the expansion of Global Gag Rule, now we are hit by a pandemic where sexual and reproductive health rights are ignored. Our healthcare system has been negatively impacted by the Global Gag Rule to expand the availability of health care services, created major funding gaps, halted the work of US-funded programs, dissolved collaborative partnerships, and silenced the voices of civil society organizations. The Global Gag Rule has

Animated Videos on Safe Abortion during COVID19 | YoSHAN with LOOM Nepal and Right Here Right Now Network

The organizations together developed a script on safe abortion service availability and accessibility amidst of the pandemic. This video talked about the safe abortion laws in Nepal and where people who need abortion services can go to have quality and safe service.

Video Contest

YoSHAN in September launched a video contest that promoted factual information about safe abortion. The important objective of this contest was to raise awareness on safe abortion as a human right and healthcare service.

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Meet and Greet with Youth Champions

There are around 75 youth champions in Nepal and due to extended lockdown the team was not able to meet in person and share updates on issues that we are fighting together. This was an informal meeting where YoSHAN encouraged youth champions to come -up with poems, songs and write-ups and share with the team.



Safe Abortion Sessions

YoSHAN was approached by a youth from Rupendehi to facilitate a session on sexual and reproductive health rights for his youth group. Mr. Tara Puri started his SRHR journey as peer educator in the Family Planning Association of Nepal who realized the need of the youth for in-depth information on SRHR. YoSHAN led the session on safe abortion and orient the young people from Rupendehi on Safe Abortion is Human Right. There were 50 young people who participated in the online session.

Podcast on Viewing Safe Abortion Through A Gendered Lens

YoSHAN reached out to Good Health, an initiative on social media to educate people on various aspects of health through inspirational stories. Recently, they aired their podcast on Sexual and Reproductive Health where issue of abortion was also discussed. YoSHAN on realizing the information on abortion was more through technical aspect they contacted them to work in collaboration for a podcast dedicated to safe abortion through gender lens. Core team member Anjila Thapa joined the Good Health team and recorded a podcast to discuss more on Safe Abortion with human right aspect. The podcast has 15,293+ views on Instagram.



SRI LANKA YOUTH ADVOCACY NETWORK SRI LANKA (YANSL)

Men and their support for women's SRHR during COVID | Hidden Pockets | 17th April

An Instagram Live was held during which Dakshitha Wickremarathne of YANSL shared facts on the increase of domestic and intimate partner violence during the lockdown enforced by the government. He also explained how women are overburdened in taking care of the household chores without any support from the other members of the household. The session also went on to discuss the emerging need of engaging men and boys in conversation around gender equality, SRHR and respect. Viewers were mostly from India, Sri Lanka and South Asia.

Men and their support for women's
Sexual and Reproductive Health and
Rights during crisis



Dakshitha Wickremarathne is a development practitioner striving for social justice. His childhood during the times of conflict in Sri Lanka has sparked his passion for peace and equality. His work in the areas of health, gender and reconciliation lead him to be appointed by the UN Secretary-General as the youngest member of the Every Woman Every Child Independent Accountability Panel. As the Co-Founder & the Programme Director of Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka, Dakshitha continues his work On gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights while also shaping strong policies grounded in evidence and science. He is a Women Deliver Young Leaders Alumni and a Board Member with UNFPA, as a Master Trainer, Dakshitha was a Youth Advisor to UN Women's Global Civil Society Advisory Group.



Youth Consultation by The Family Health Bureau of Sri Lanka | YANSL

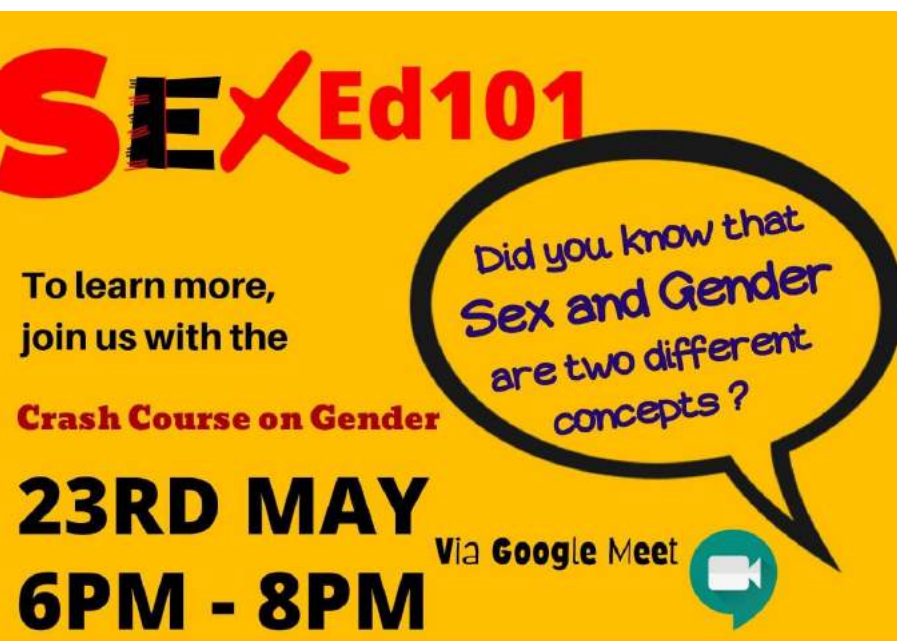
The Family Health Bureau of Sri Lanka conducted a youth consultation on the theme Health and Wellbeing of Adolescents and Youth. This was held during the month of April, on a weekly basis. Shelani Palihawadana, Hansika Hanthanapitiya and Desaree Soysa represented YANSL. In closing, the participants were asked to pitch a project proposal for a strategy to spread awareness about the youth friendly health services (Yowun Piyasa) or to address any relevant gaps. The YANSL team highlighted the importance of addressing the issues of people living with disabilities in their project proposal.

Hidden Pockets : Tweet Chat | YANSL | 29th April

This was conducted by Hidden Pockets in collaboration with YANSL to create awareness around issues of gender inequality, limited access to sexual and reproductive health services, domestic violence during the pandemic and the measures taken by the Government of Sri Lanka. The importance of gender responsive approach to address the crisis caused by the pandemic was also discussed.

Sex Ed 101 BY Rotaract Club of Panadura | YANSL | 23rd May

This online programme was facilitated by Priskila Arulpragasam and Shelani Palihawadane of YANSL and chaired by Sanduni Hettigoda: President of the Rotaract Club of Panadura who is also a volunteer member of YANSL. The topics discussed were gender and gender based violence.



Joint effort by Rotaract Club of Panadura and Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka



APCRSHR Virtual Forum | YANSL | 25th May

The 10th APCRSRHR that was scheduled to take place in May 2020 in Cambodia was converted into a virtual forum in light of the global pandemic. Shelani Palihawadana from YANSL spoke as a panelist at the pre-APCRSRHR Youth Forum. She spoke on the topic “How are youth in Sri Lanka affected by the pandemic, specifically relating to SRHR and the steps taken by the Government of Sri Lanka to mitigate these issues.



MAY 25
11am Cambodia time

10th APCRSR10

ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON REPRODUCTIVE AND SEXUAL HEALTH AND RIGHTS (APCRSHR10)

RIIAC

DIALOGUES



SANGEET KAYASTHA
Founder-Coordinator, Y-PEER Asia Pacific Regional Center, Thailand; ISC member, APCRSR10



SHELANI PALIHAWADANA
Youth Advocacy Network, Sri Lanka and Project Coordinator, "We Hear You"



YUEPING GUO
Youth Representative, China Family Planning Association & Core Member, China Youth Network


www.bit.ly/apcrshr10dialogues | www.apcrshr10cambodia.org

May 28th Online Campaign | YANSL | 22nd - 28th May

During this week YANSL members raised their voices on topics such as the impact of lack of information and lack of access to contraceptives on young girls and women during the COVID 19 pandemic, as well as the domestic violence being faced by young people during the lockdown period. On final day of the campaign they collaborated with Kumudini Samuel: Co-founder of Women and Media Collective and with Dr. Suchitra Dalvie of Asia Safe Abortion Partnership to share their thoughts on the issue.



මම ඉතාමත් සතුටට ලක්වෙතවා YANSL නැතහොත්
Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka
நான் மிகவும் மகிழ்ச்சி அடைகிறேன், YANSL அல்லது
Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka

Today on #May28 we commemorate International Day of Action for Women's Health and call on...

Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka - YANSL

Like Comment Share

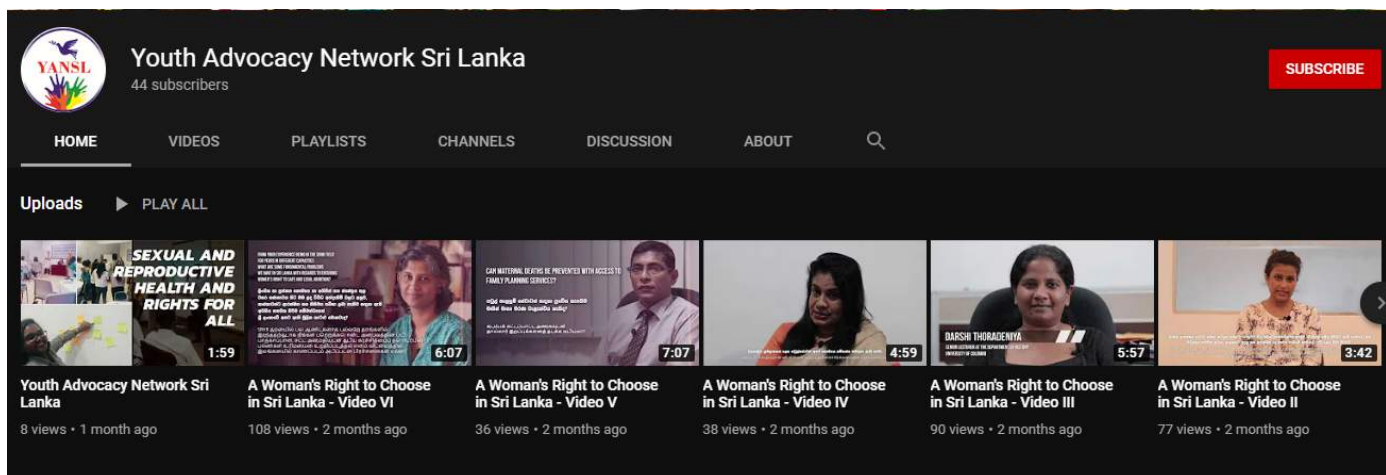
13 shares

Cyber Violence and Cyber Security | The Rotaract Club of University of Kelaniya | 6th July

Desaree Soysa, Shelani Palihawadana and Sajini Wikramasingha of YANSL were invited to participate in this e-session. Cyber violence, its forms, Sri Lankan context and laws and policies to safeguard one-self, were widely explained by the speakers.

Historical and Political Trajectory of Legalizing Safe Abortion | YANSL

This is a project co-chaired by Desaree Soysa and Tharindi Devasurendra of YANSL. Phase one of the project included the documentation of various efforts taken by SRHR and women's rights activists, doctors and researchers in order to legalize safe abortion services in Sri Lanka. Kumuduni Samuel, Anne Marie De Silva, Dr. Darshi Thoradeniya, Dr. Janaki Vidanapathirana, Dr. Kapila Jayaratne and Paba Deshapriya were interviewed. The videos can be viewed by clicking on the picture.



Sexuality and Prevention of Sexual Violence | YANSL with The Foundation Institute for Sustainable Development

Desaree Soysa from Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka conducted the sessions for children that were categorized into three groups according to their age. Two groups with children below the age of eleven years and one group with children between eleven to eighteen years. The sessions were conducted in Rambewa located in the district of Anuradhapura.



10th Asia Pacific Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

YANSL actively participated in the series of webinars conducted from July-September 2020 to commemorate the 10th APCRSR. The topics that were discussed includes; Addressing Barriers to Accelerate progress on SHR in Asia Pacific, Accelerating Rights and Choices for all in a post-COVID Asia and Pacific and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the Pacific.

ONGOING PROJECTS

Phase 03 - Historical and Political Trajectory of Legalizing Safe Abortion in Sri Lanka

Phase three of the project was conducted and finalized during the past quarter.

In this phase the project coordinators: Desaree Soysa and Tharindi Devasurendra collected five stories of unplanned pregnancies that were recorded during the lockdown period. These stories were also documented as blogs and social media posts in all the three major languages of Sri Lanka.

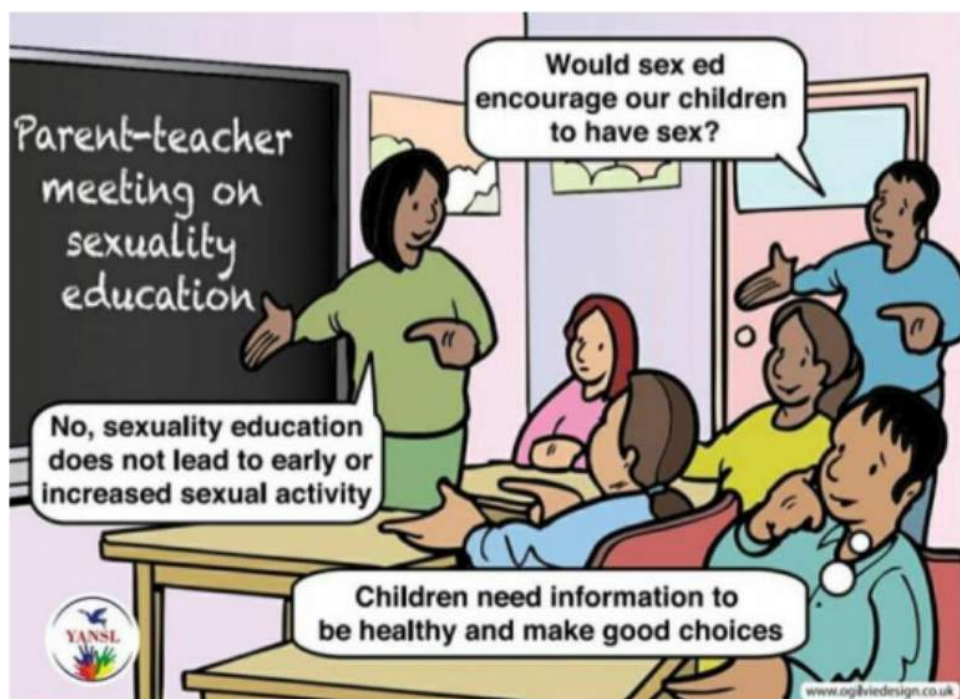
We Hear You

Project We Hear You is another major ongoing project conducted by Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka. Currently a website is being developed which will include data and information on sexual and reproductive health and rights and the website will also be friendly for people living with hearing disabilities.

SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

Comprehensive Sexuality education.

In July YANSL conducted a social media campaign to raise awareness on comprehensive sexuality education. In these posts the common myths surrounding CSE were addressed in relation to statistical data and information.



The Ministerial Election.

The ministerial election was held in August and a social media campaign was carried out to encourage women to vote. The importance of an individual's vote to bring positive change in the society and most importantly a positive change in the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights was highlighted



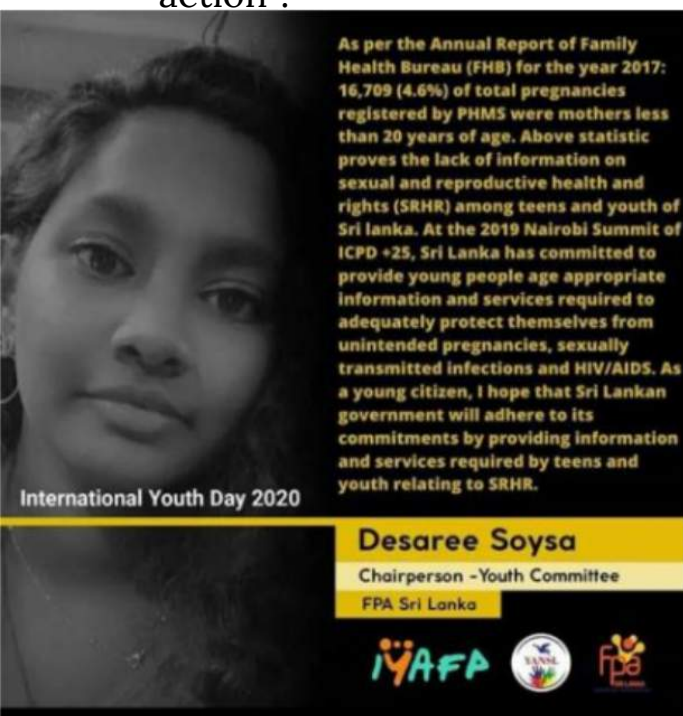
World Day against Trafficking of Persons.

World Day against Trafficking of Persons falls on the 30th of July. On this day YANSL shared several posts to raise awareness on the issue both inside and outside the country as well as its legal consequences.



International Youth Day | YANSL with Family Planning Association of India | 12th August

The International Youth Day falls on the 12th of August each year. YANSL partnered with Family Planning Association (FPA) of Sri Lanka and International Youth Alliance for Family Planning (IYAFA) for an online social media campaign. Youth members from the three organizations shared their thoughts on the topic youth engagement for the global action”.



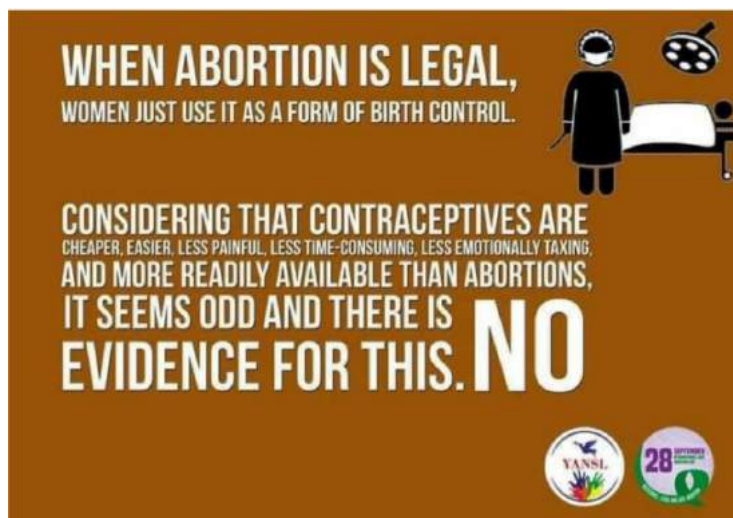
Sex Ed 101 Rotaract Club of Panadura with YANSL | 8th August

Sex Ed 101 is a project carried out by the Rotaract Club with YANSL. On 8th of August a webinar was conducted on the topic HIV and AIDS and the project was facilitated by Priskila Arulpragasam and Shelani Paliawadane of Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka.



International Safe Abortion Day | 28th September

Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka conducted a social media campaign to advocate on the issue of unsafe abortions in Sri Lanka and across Asia.



Sexuality and Prevention of Sexual Violence | YANSL with The Foundation Institute for Sustainable Development

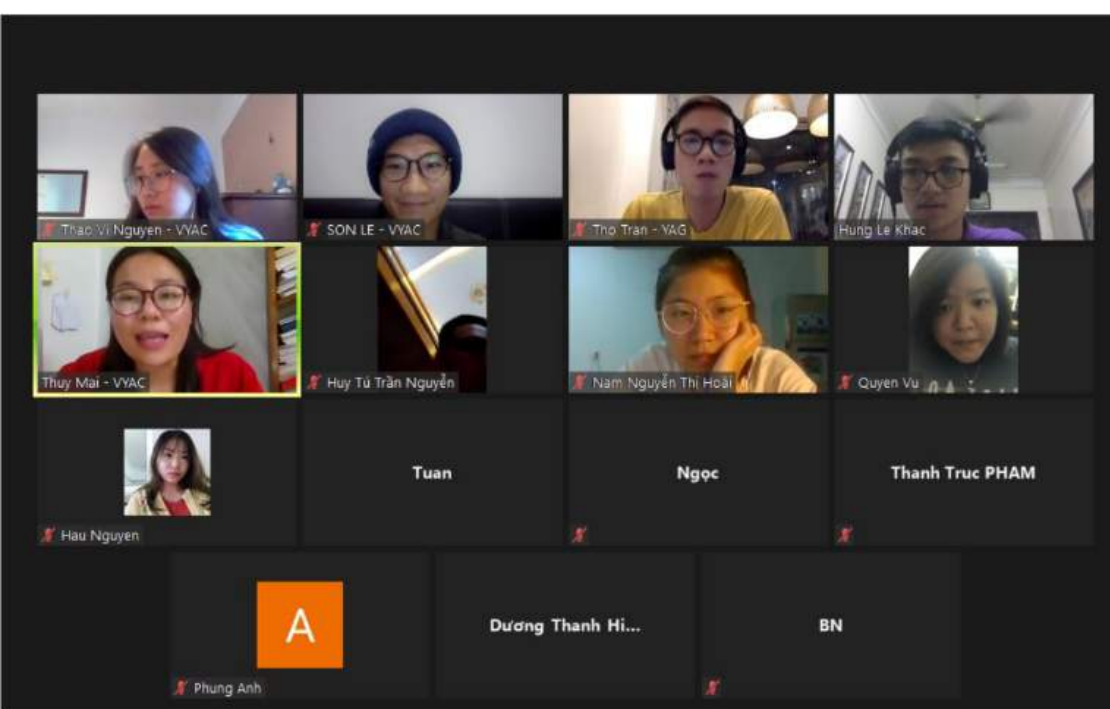
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VIETNAM
VIETNAM YOUTH ACTION
FOR CHOICE
(VYAC)

We Talk: Online Discussion | VYAC | 28th May

On the International Day of Action for Women's Health, VYAC held an online meeting named “We talk” with 21 young people to discuss Decision No. 588 posted on the government’s website. This Decision signed by Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc plans to raise the fertility rates in some low fertility localities in the country by about 10% in 2030.

The PM encourages Vietnamese couples to get married before 30 and start having children early. In the online discussion, VYAC shared that Decision No. 588 did not indicate anything related to abortion. However they are concerned, that in order to reach desired fertility rate targets there may be a return to strict abortion laws. VYAC also shared that the Vietnam Ministry of Education and Training has approved and published a guideline for the National SexEd Programme, but it does not specify detailed sexual orientation, nor does it mention safe abortion.



Youth Engagement Day | VYAC | 6th June

The engagement day aimed to connect youth networks working for the development and sustainability in Ho Chi Minh City and Southern areas of Vietnam and building a small online forum where groups can share educational opportunities and help each other when needed. VYAC got 27 requests to participate in the engagement from 22 networks and 5 individuals. Each group had a chance to share their works, missions, and goals and how they expect members in the forum help one another to grow and help raise the youth voice. VYAC also shared that it needs local volunteers to help women and girls access a safe abortion in Vietnam across the country.



YSRHR Training VYAC | 6th July

VYAC organized a training course for 22 core members of Youth Social Work Center and Youth Union of Ho Chi Minh City. The participants are in charge of a Youth Help Hotline and usually work with young people in rural areas and universities. Keeping that in mind VYAC focused on debunking myths around contraceptives. While addressing the issue of safe abortion, VYAC emphasized the importance of helping girls and women make informed choices instead of advising them to continue the pregnancy when talking with help seekers via the hotline.

THANK YOU!

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA
FOR MORE REGULAR UPDATES**

