

ASAP QUARTERLY REPORT

April – June
2022



GREETINGS FROM ASIA SAFE ABORTION PARTNERSHIP!

After 2 years of lockdowns, quarantines, observing physical distance and being confined to online workshops and meetings, ASAP team was finally able to come on ground in the 2nd quarter of 2022 and reconnect with our partners and country advocacy network members from across the region.

Even though staying connected just online was challenging, it is the passion of our Youth Champions and solidarity of our network that kept us going, so it was truly overwhelming and inspiring to meet some of them and to celebrate the resilience and solidarity and support that helped all of us make it through these difficult times!

It is true that tough times don't last, tough people do!





ASAP ACTIVITIES

Youth Advocacy Institute | ISAY and ASAP | 8th - 10th
April 2022 | Mumbai, India

India Safe Abortion Youth Advocates (ISAY) conducted the first in-person YAI post pandemic. The participants were medical students from across India, who had been a part of ISAY's 'The Abortion Curriculum (TAC)' which is a series of online sessions organized by their core team to unpack the patriarchy in medicine and textbooks and connecting them to the importance of having a feminist approach, as future doctors and service providers.

You can read the full report [here](#).



'17-21': Back and Forth? Play Screening | MASUM | 12th May 2022 | Online

Mahila Sarvangeen Utkarsh Mandal (MASUM) with support of ASAP recently created a pioneering and unique one- of- its- kind play on safe abortion rights in India, covering a wide range of related issues including patriarchy, stigma, services, laws. . The play is written and performed in Marathi (regional language) but is being subtitled in English is a path breaking effort and a legacy that the safe abortion rights movement can use for advocacy, capacity building and learning.

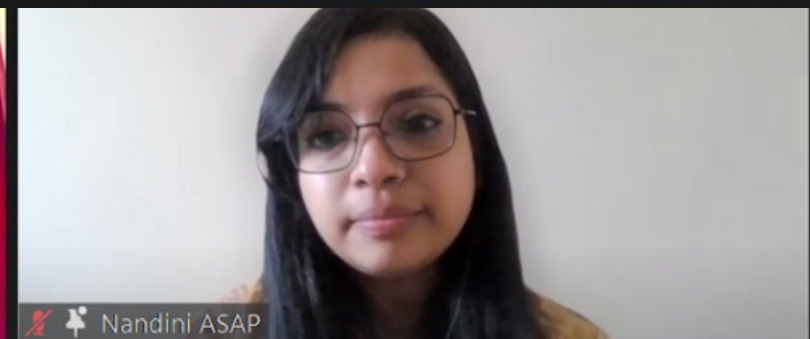
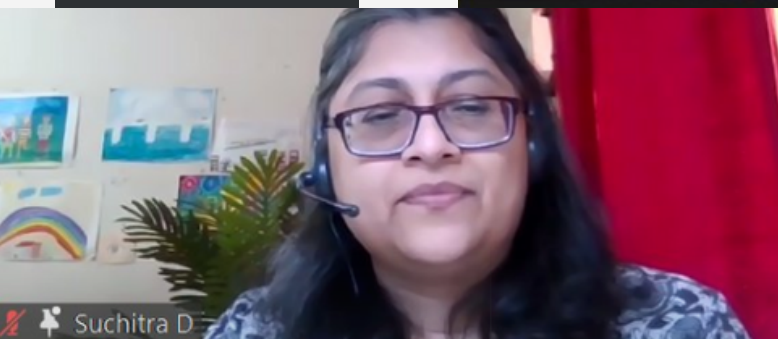
You can watch the trailer [here](#).

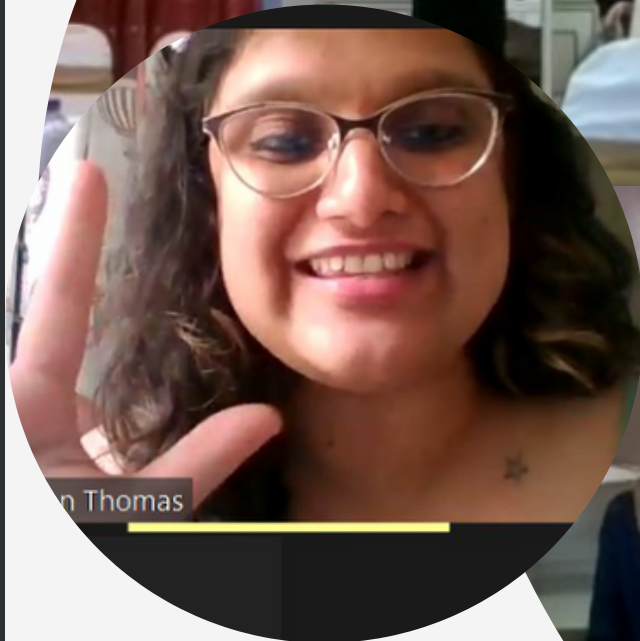
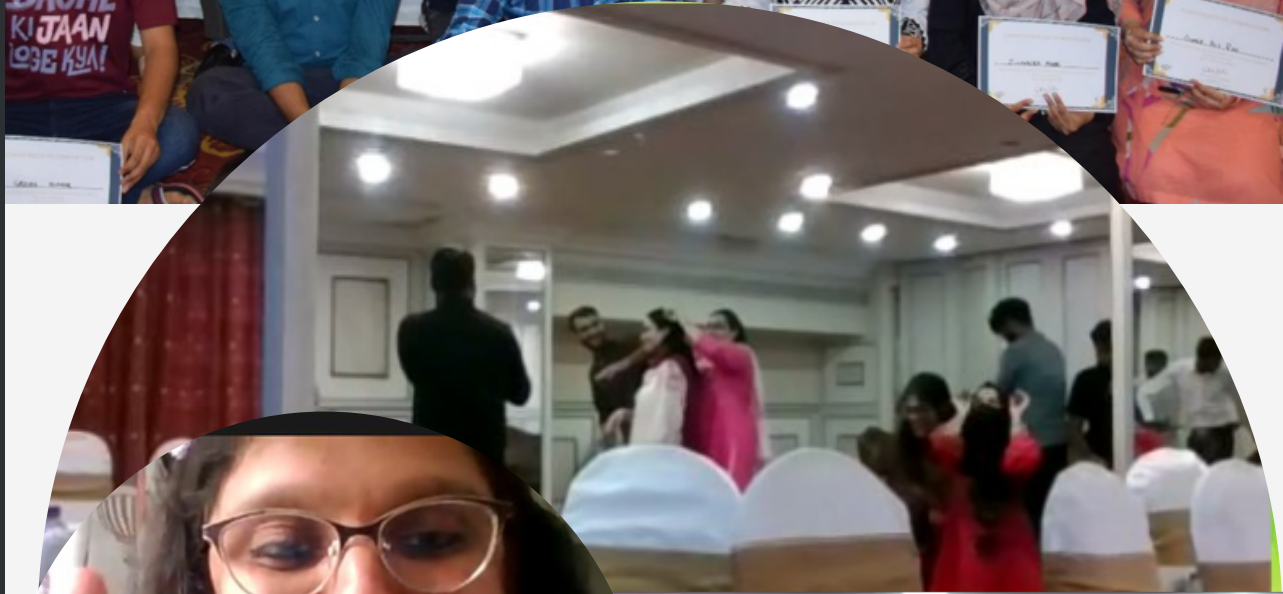


Youth Advocacy Institute | Pakistan Advocacy Network (PAN) and ASAP | 13 - 15th May 2022 | Karachi, Pakistan

Our Pakistan CAN organized the first ever national YAI in the country, which was also the first hybrid YAI ever organized by our network. Due to restrictions in traveling, the ASAP team joined the workshop via Zoom video conference over the 3 days. The participants were selected by the PAN core team and they came from diverse backgrounds in the country.

You can read the full report [here](#).





International Day of Action for Women's Health | 28th May 2022 | Online

'Inform Us Dont Conform Us'

As we held another campaign on various 'social media platforms' to amplify our message on International Safe Abortion Day, we at ASAP wanted to take a step back and look at how info related to safe abortion, contraception, sexual health, is suppressed by these very platforms. This year our photo campaign was a call to action against the hypocrisy of social media platforms in censoring content, but was also meant as a wake up call for SRHR activists online so that as we navigate online spaces, we do so keeping in mind the safety of ourselves as well as others.

You can see all pictures [here](#).



Dr Suchitra Dalvie
@ddalvie

Hate speech and sexism fine but information on safe abortion gets blocked?!"

#InformUsDontConformUs
#ResistAndPersist
#WomensHealthMatters #IDAWH2022



Samira
@samira

Facebook we humbly request you to stop shadowbanning and labelling everything related to sexual health of women and non binary persons as 'pornographic content'

#InformUsDontConformUs
#ResistAndPersist
#WomensHealthMatters
#IDAWH2022



Ananya
@ananya

Can we please have 'Community Guidelines' that actually support communities rather than just tokenistic words, that almost never hold perpetrators accountable

#InformUsDontConformUs
#DigitalFeminists
#LikeForAbortionRights





 **Dhwani**
@dhwani

Here for the otherwise suppressed voices of marginalized communities, who, thanks to social media, have a platform to share their opinions and build solidarity across cultures and borders!

[#InformUsDontConformUs](#)
[#ResistAndPersist](#)

[LikeForWomensHealth](#) [InformUs](#) [#IDAWH2022](#)



Pushpa
@pushpa

During the Covid pandemic, internet was the only space where we could amplify our work and connect with the young people. However, the censorship imposed by these platforms on issues related to sexuality, sexual and reproductive health, and women's bodies has challenged the ongoing works of activists.

[#InformUsDontConformUs](#)
[#ResistAndPersist](#)
[#WomensHealthMatters](#) [#IDAWH2022](#)



 **Harshita**
@Harshita

Widespread mis/disinformation on issues related to abortion online, have further stigmatized this issue and movement. A collaborative effort is needed to make internet an empowering space for advocates.

[#InformUsDontConformUs](#)
[#ResistAndPersist](#)
[#WomensHealthMatters](#) [#IDAWH2022](#)



 **Ayesha Bashir**
@ayeshabbash

If we keep advancing our technologies, without the gender lens, soon we'll have Artificial Intelligence & computers being outright sexist & it'll be acceptable. They already are!

[#InformUsDontConformUs](#)
[#ResistAndPersist](#)
[#WomensHealthMatters](#) [#IDAWH2022](#)



Nandini
@nandini

Together we have to work towards a free and just world, with space for our dissent and desires. A world where human rights and safe abortion rights are no longer contested and people's autonomy and agency is respected unconditionally and without hierarchies.



 **Romil**
@romil

The dark web, is infamously known for all the illegal and wrong things, but in many cases has been used for underground humanitarian purpose where mainstream platforms haven't been too helpful.

[#InformUsDontConformUs](#)
[#DigitalFeminists](#)
[#LikeForAbortionRights](#)



Saraswati
@saraswati

Anonymity is a powerful tool that the internet offers, for those who cannot be as vocal in their real lives, but on the flip side it can be taken advantage of by abusers. Tech platforms definitely need to do better in filtering out those doing more harm,

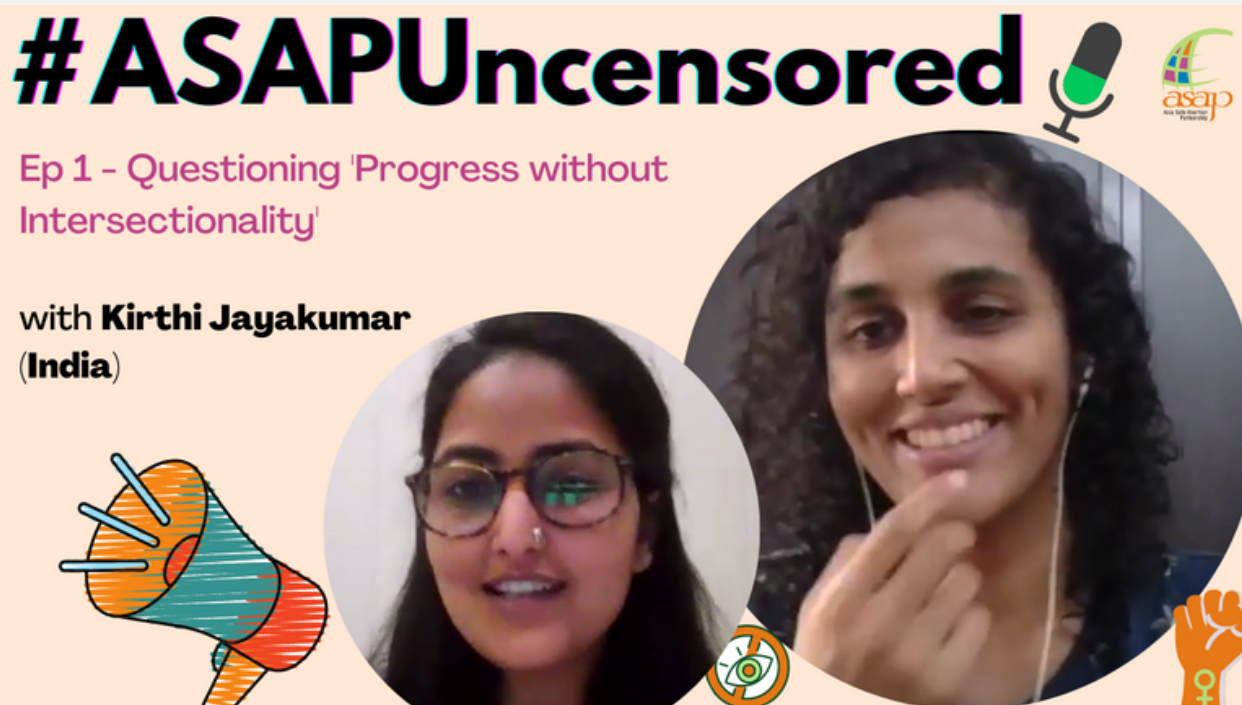
[#InformUsDontConformUs](#)
[#DigitalFeminists](#)
[#LikeForAbortionRights](#)



Shaping Safer Online Spaces & #ASAPUncensored | Ongoing

Continuing with our theme of the year focussing on Shaping Safer Online Spaces, we continued sharing important updates on things that safe abortion rights advocates need to be careful of while navigating online spaces.

On 28th May, as part of our #InformUsDontConformUs campaign, we launched our new series of interviews called 'ASAP Uncensored'.

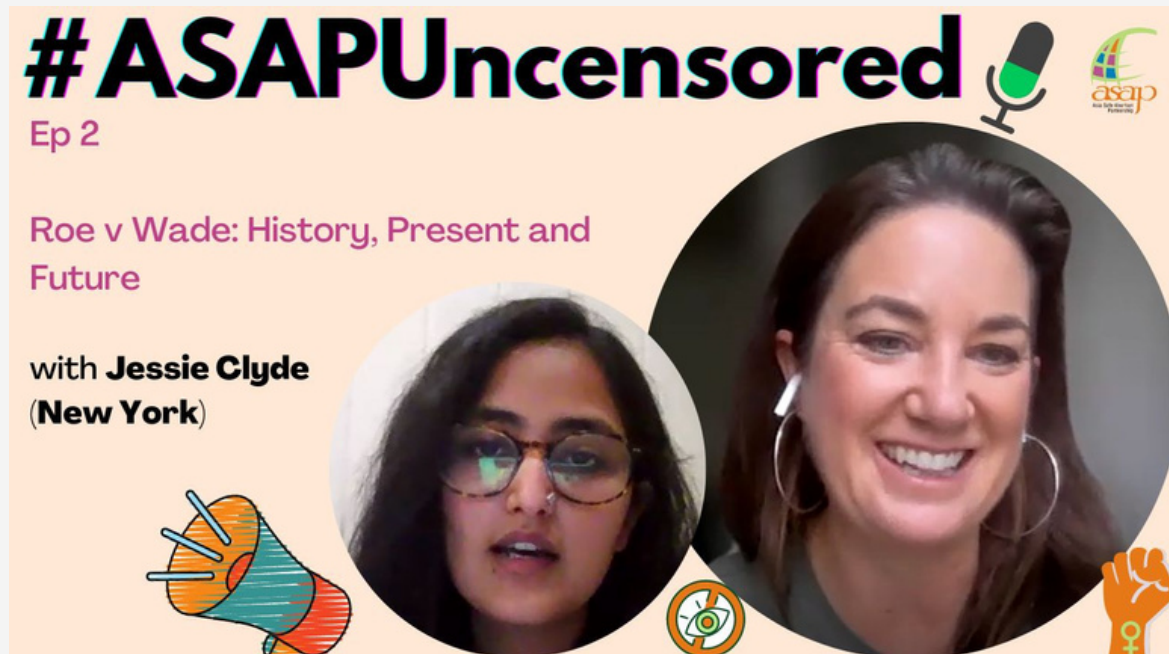


Proud to launch our new video series [#ASAPUncensored](#) with [@kirthijayakumar](#) as she unpacks the dangers of 'progressive ideals, without intersectionality' & shares more on her [#app](#) & helping over 40k survivors of domestic violence since [#COVID19](#) in [#India](#) youtu.be/QP0Iz8bc3xY ✓



With this series we wish to further challenge the efforts of tech and social media platforms trying to censor & restrict circulation of information on safe abortion and other sexual health issues along with encouraging more nuanced & uncensored discourses on the internet on topics like safe abortion or bodily autonomy & online sexuality and much more.

We have till now released 2 episodes, both of which can be accessed [here](#).



ASAP @asapasia · Jun 16

[#ASAPUncensored](#) Ep 2

Jessie Clyde from [#USA](#) with over 2 decades of being involved with the [#abortionrights](#) movement in the country & in [#asia](#) [#latinamerica](#) [#MiddleEast](#) as an advocate & funder. Here's what she said on [#RoeVWade](#)'s journey & future.

youtube.com/watch?v=eyBqTe... ✓



ASAP @asapasia · Jun 16

A very interesting conversation as she spoke about the flaws that've always existed in [#RoeVWade](#) & the role those with privilege & power e.g - funders can play going forward. Do tune in!

Youth Advocacy Institute | YoSHAN | 22nd - 24th June | Kathmandu, Nepal

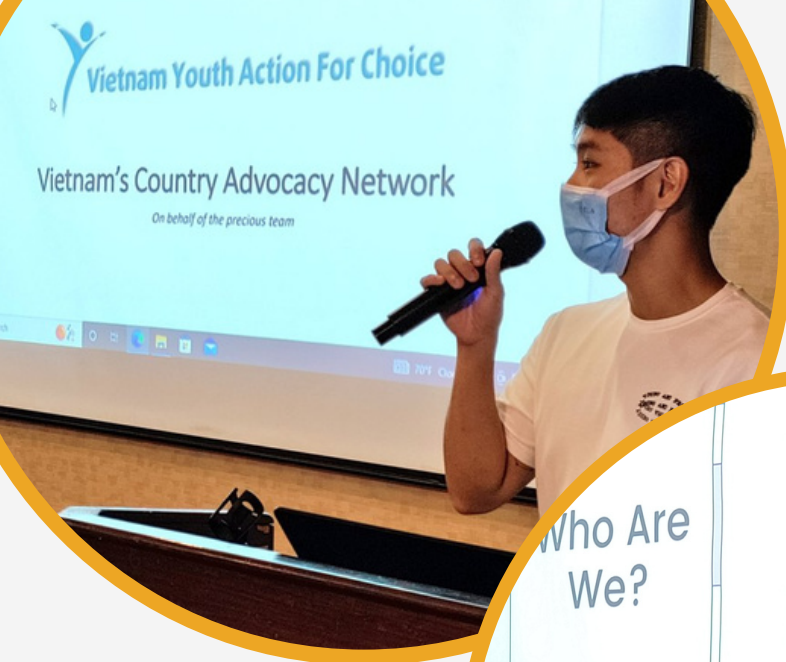
Youth Led SRHR Advocacy Nepal (YoSHAN), the Country Advocacy Network of ASAP in Nepal, organized their national YAI, with over 20 participants from different fields of work like lawyers, medical students, doctors and nurses .



Youth Advocacy Refresher | ASAP | 24th - 26th June | Kathmandu, Nepal

We conducted the first in-person Regional Refresher Institute post pandemic. This workshop was not just a refresher for all those who had been attending our online YALs (2020-2021) but also a reunion for the ASAP network, as it saw participation from members from all our CANs. While we held our refresher workshop with the new participants, we were also able to hear from each of our 8 CANs about their journeys and have an in - depth conversation regarding the challenges they faced during the pandemic, while figuring out the way ahead.







ASAP @asapasia · Jun 25

Big step back for [#reproductiverights](#) but mainly for [#HumanRights](#). The ruling may not directly impact people across Asia, but it's ideological impact on rising [#rightwing](#) Govts, can be devastating. And we all know it won't stop here..

[#RoeVsWade](#) [#ABORTIONS](#) [#RoeOverturned](#)

'They Just Hate Women!'



Asia Safe Abortion Partnership
Stands in solidarity with the Women & Trans Men
across US whose bodily autonomy and life is directly
being attacked by the overturning of Roe Vs Wade

0:00 267 views



Abortion & Privacy | Hidden Pockets | 7th June 2022 | Online

Hidden Pockets invited ASAP for a Tweetathon on accessing safe abortion in India and how it directly and indirectly affects the privacy and security of individuals seeking the services. It was an insightful discussion which raised serious concerns around the privacy policies of not just hospitals and clinics but also pharmacies and online apps.

Q2

Do chemists keep a record of pills you buy from a pharmacy? If yes, does this violate an individual's right to privacy?



#ABORTIONANDPRIVACY

www.hiddenpocketscollective.org



Q4

How are personal data privacy and bodily autonomy linked?



#ABORTIONANDPRIVACY



Mongolian Medical Abortion Factsheet Launched | Available Online

We're extremely glad to announce that our factsheet now has a Mongolian version, which was translated and designed by our country partners Women For Change.

You can access this along with our MAFs in 7 other languages, on our website [here](#).

Эмээр үр хөндөх

🩺 Эмээр үр хөндөх гэж юу вэ?

Эмээр үр хөндөх гэдэг нь эм, эмийн нэгдлээр жирэмслэлт зогсоохыг хэлнэ.



✅ Хэр найдвартай вэ?

Маш найдвартай! Эмээр үр хөндөх нь бусад аргаар үр хөндөх, хүсээгүй жирэмслэлтийг үргэлжлүүлэхтэй харьцуулахад эрсдэл нь ТУН БАГА. Эхний 12 долоо хоногтоо жирэмслэлт зогсоох эм хэрэглэсэн ЗУУН эмэгтэйн ТАВаас цөөн эмэгтэйд хүндрэл үүсэж эмнэлэгт хандах магадлалтай байдаг. Энэхүү 2 эмний комбинаци гэж нэрлэдэг арга нь Монгол улсад ч хэрэглэж буй.

🩺 Жирэмслэлтийн аль үед эмээр үр хөндөж болох вэ?

Дэлхийн Эрүүл Мэндийн Байгууллагын зөвлөмжийн дагуу сарын тэмдгийн мөчлөгийн эхний өдрөөс тоолсноор 24 долоо хоногийн дотор букуу жирэмсний эрт үед эмээр үр хөндөж болно.

Үр хөндөлт эхний гурван сард хийсний дараа ямар дашрамын нөлөө гарах вэ?



🩺 Цус гарах

Мифепристон уусныхаа дараа хэрэглэх том ариун цэврийн хэрэглэл бэлтгээрэй. Сарын тэмдэг ихээр ирж буй мэт нөжтэй цус гарна.

🩺 Өвдөх базлах

Гэрийн нөхцөлд халуун устай сав, халуун бигнүүр тавих, халуун шүршүүрт орох зэргээр өвчин намдааж болно. Мөн биений юм ирсэн үедээ уудаг өвчин намдаагчаа юм уу парацетамол, мефенамикийн хүчил, ибупрофений төрлийн эм ууж болно. Өөр зүйлд сатаарч, завгүй байх нь мөн тус болно.



Эмийн аргаар үр хөндөх тухай



Women for
change



ASAP AS PARTICIPANT

SheDecides + 5 Conference | Brussels | 19th - 20th May

Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie who is the She Decides Champion for Asia Pacific, attended the SheDecides + 5 conference in Brussels which saw representation from various organizations individuals working on SRHR but also from the Belgium Government who through this conference reaffirmed their support to the SheDecides movement.

Why Digital Rights Are Reproductive Rights | Women's Link Worldwide | 12th May | Online

Communications and Network Officer Ayesha Bashir attended this webinar which had panelists from organizations like Article 19 & Women on Web speaking about increased restrictions on online information sharing and how collectives are overcoming challenges being faced due to tech platforms like Facebook or Youtube which are taking down their accounts, for 'going against their community guidelines'.

This was an important discussion, as ASAP too has faced similar barriers online and we too are currently working towards trying to address these issues through Shaping Safer Online Spaces



READ MORE

BLOGS


SOLIDARITY WITH
ASAP CONVERSATIONS DURING COVID-19

PALESTINE IN
THESE EXTREMELY
CHALLENGING AND
DANGEROUS TIMES.

ession and covid-

'The D
Bhuta



ASAP  Apr 7 • 3 min


Sex Selection and Safe Abortion: Unravelling the Gordian Knot. By Suchitr...

The authors have been involved in the safe abortion rights as well as sex determination issues in India as individuals and through their...

104 views 0 comments

3 



ASAP  May 12 • 1 min

'Patriarchy's Spell' by Khushi Mehta

No one questioned when she picked up the car But he was not given the choice to pick a Barbie with a star She was questioned when she...



PUBICATIONS

We are proud to share a snippet of the article; 'Sex Selection & Safe Abortion: Unravelling the Gordian Knot' by Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie and Manisha Gupte, co-founder of Mahila Survangeen Utkarsh Mandal (MASUM) and ASAP country partner. The article was published by Family Planning Association of India and It draws a comprehensive picture, of how the issue of 'Sex-Selection' evolved & affected access to safe abortion in India.

For more info, visit the link [here](#).

Women are **still shamed** and made to feel guilty after giving birth to a girl child, and often subjected to violence and/or abandonment.

Neglect and discrimination of girl children continues as well resulting in a **higher death rate for the girl** children below six years of age, even as the policy and programme efforts are on to ensure that more of them are being born.

The conversation and rhetoric around **sex ratio** became more visible and mainstreamed in the 1990s.

Unfortunately this resulted in making the sex ratio a priority as a number to be 'fixed' and deflected attention from the **core issue of gender-based discrimination** which is the reason why daughters are unwanted and sons are desired in India.

PUBLICATIONS



"I recognized that when you really unpack the various layers of patriarchy, all the oppressive frameworks of patriarchy, the core of it really is the need to control women's sexuality. Because unless you can make sure that a particular woman has sex only with her husband, and that too, only after marriage, there was no way in the earlier days to ensure that the son she bears is that of the man. Right from the high premium on virginity before marriage, to the kinds of controls on women's mobility on their work, on their education, the entire focus is to make sure that you're a good wife, and therefore, eventually, a good mother. And in the context of some countries like India, Nepal, Vietnam and China, the whole sex ratio issue is not just about being a mother, it's about being a mother to a son."

- Dr Suchitra Dalvie

PUBLICATIONS

Abortion Is Legal In India But Rules, Stigma Make It Hard To Access

Shreya Raman

May 9, 2022



"*“There is a very strong stigma attached to abortion, which emerges from socio-cultural notions and the glorification of motherhood,” Suchitra Dalvie, a gynaecologist and coordinator of Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP) told Behanbox. “As a result, it is seen as something that ‘good women’ won’t do.”*

“This stigma affects the thinking of medical practitioners as well, said Dalvie. “Just because there is an abortion law in the country does not mean all gynaecologists are pro-choice,” she said. “Medical education is very much about biomedical training and does not incorporate gender rights or the socio-cultural context [of medical practice].”

- Dr Suchitra Dalvie

SOCIAL MEDIA

FAQs On Medical Abortion

FAQs on Medical Abortion

What is a medical Abortion?

Medical abortion is the termination of pregnancy through the use of a medicine/pill/drug

Abortion by pills?! How safe would that be?

and considerably less than the risks of continuing a pregnancy to term, or any of the other methods that you may resort to terminate unwanted pregnancies.

It was as early as in the 1980s, when working class women in Brazil, who did not have access to safe abortions and lived in a restrictive circumstances, discovered the drug as a way to induce an abortion safely.

<https://asap-asia.org/information-booklets/>

women use the medical abortion pills, less than 5 of them would need further medical care for any complications.

In the late 1990s, when Rebecca Gomperts was a young activist, she travelled to countries where abortion was illegal and met woman after woman whose lives and health had been warped by unwanted pregnancies or unsafe procedures. But Gomperts had an idea.

Twelve miles off a coast, in international waters, local laws don't apply – instead, vessels must follow the laws of the country whose flag they fly.

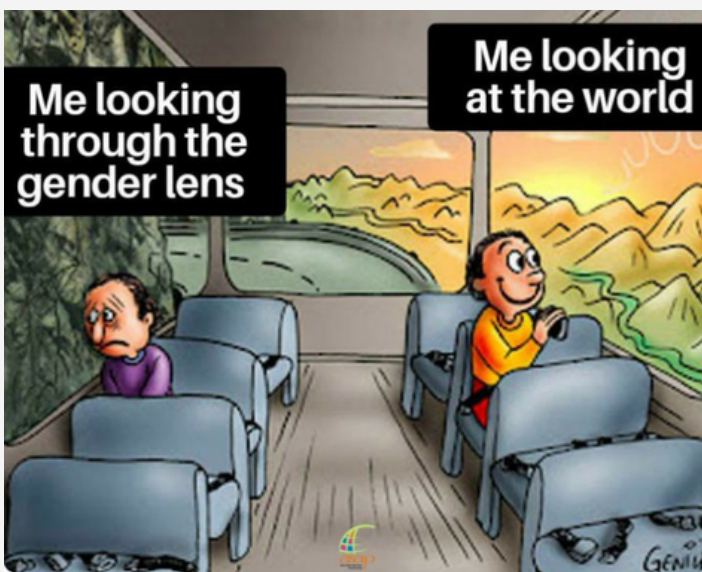
BANNED

YOU ARE HERE

AVORTANT LLIUR / GUTUT

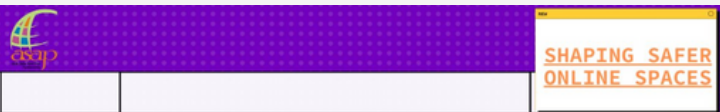
SOCIAL MEDIA

Memes



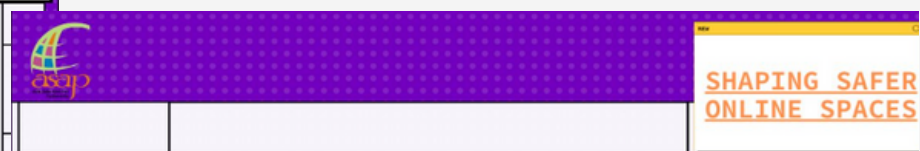
SOCIAL MEDIA

Shaping Safer Online Spaces



India has now joined the list of countries which have partially restricted VPNs in one way or another; **China, Turkey, UAE and Uganda.**

We encourage Feminist and other activists in the country, to regularly follow the updates on this latest regulation and take the necessary steps to ensure their privacy and safety while advocating online.



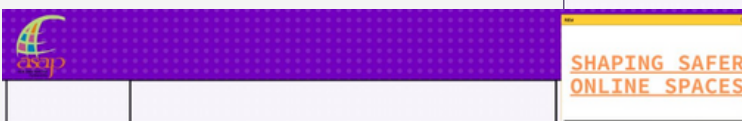
New research from the Center for Countering Digital Hate, shows that:

- Instagram failed to act on 90% of abusive DMs reported using the platform's tools.
- Instagram failed to act on 9 in 10 violent threats sent to women over DM and reported using its tools.
- Instagram failed to act on any of image-based sexual abuse reported using its tools within 48 hours.

Hidden Hate: How Instagram Fails to act on 9 in 10 reports of Mysogyny in DM

Center For Coutnering Digital Hate

256K



The company actually has a policy in place that **prohibits employees** from opinions or debates **about abortion being right or wrong.**



256K

COUNTRY ADVOCACY NETWORKS

India Safe Abortion Youth Advocates (ISAY)



The Abortion Curriculum (TAC) | 16th-17th July | Mumbai, India

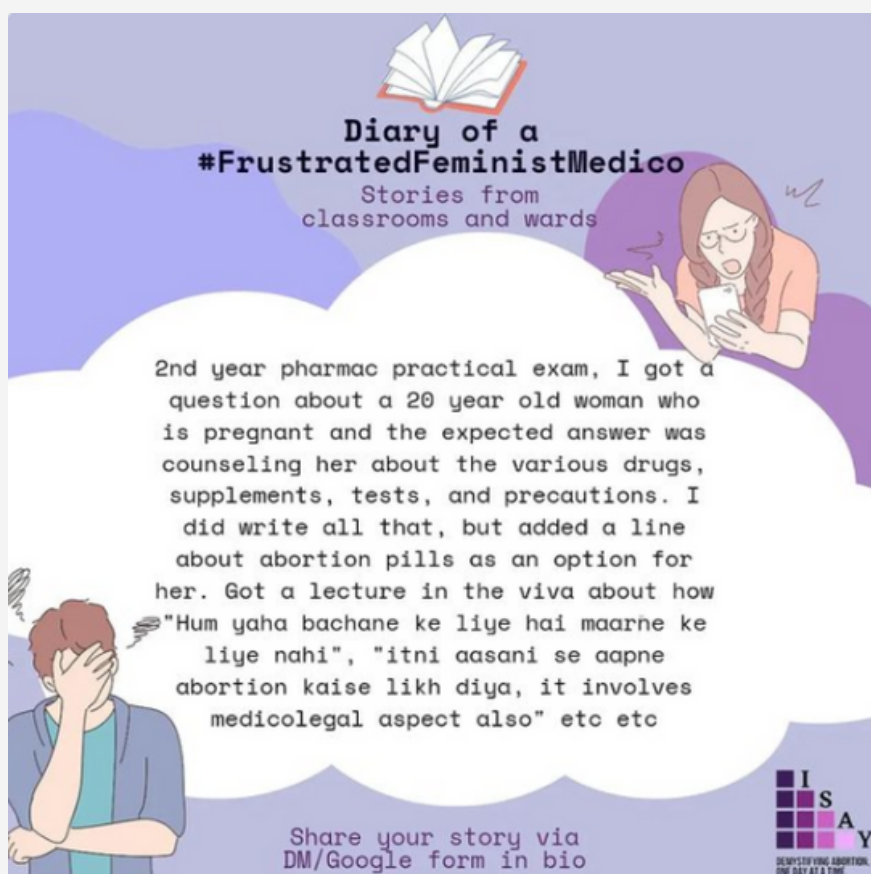
The ISAY team conducted TAC, which is a sensitization workshop, for 16 medical students from 1st and 2nd M.B.B.S of Grant Medical College.

The Workshop introduced the students to ideas around gender, sexuality etc. It also enabled them to gauge the current understanding of the related topics, within the medical curriculum.

COUNTRY ADVOCACY NETWORKS

The Diary of a Frustrated Feminist Medico | Ongoing | Online

On 24th July, ISAY launched a social media campaign giving space to medical students to share their stories reflecting their experiences in dealing with patriarchy in the medical infrastructure.



2022

THANK YOU

Follow us on Social media for
more regular updates

