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ASAP QUARTERLY REPORT

APRIL - JUNE

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Greetings from ASAP!

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

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

In the interest of building cross movement solidarity we are focussing on 'Building Inclusive Movements' as our guiding principle for 2021. The organization is working towards finding synergies and developing solidarities between various human rights, sexual and reproductive rights, and social justice movements in order to encourage them to integrate safe abortion rights within their advocacy agenda and program strategies even as we include their issues within our work. While we are incorporating these principles functionally, we are also focussing on raising awareness on the need for solutions, to make safe abortion services truly accessible to all.

ASAP Activities

The Big Picture with ASAP

This year we launched an audio and video podcast series called the Big Picture with ASAP, with the hope to bring to the forefront some core themes that need deeper reflection and some people who can shed a light on these complicated issues, unpack the controversial ones and enlighten us with their unique perspectives on old problems. In our last two episodes we did a deep dive into the politics of labour and how it affects the personal lives of individuals working in the unorganized sector like sex workers or domestic workers.



The Big Picture Ep 4: Politics of Labor and Reproductive Justice

[Youtube](#)

[Soundcloud](#)



The Big Picture Ep5: Politics around Domestic Workers' Reproductive Rights in Hong Kong

[Youtube](#)

[Soundcloud](#)

GynopediaIt : Editathon | ASAP & Gynopedia | 7th April

In order to make information more accessible to people looking for safe abortion services ASAP, Gynopedia and Stories to Action (led by alumni Youth Champion, Iris Pi from China) ran an Asia wide campaign from March- July.

The aim was to update the Gynopedia country pages for Asia and raise awareness about this crowdsourced platform, while also increasing the visibility of Country Advocacy Networks and other regional organizations working on SRHR and safe abortion access.

As part of the campaign we held a training session, where CANs and some other participants joined Gynopedia founder Lani, to learn how they can edit their country pages on the website with the latest information.

Read the summary of the campaign [here](#).

#GYNOPEDIAIT

In countries where abortion laws are restrictive, the maps may even be locked away. You know someone who knows someone, who is willing to trust you and provide the key.

Much valuable time is lost in this and sometimes many valuable lives are lost before the key reaches them.

This needs to change.



As our campaign came to a close, Dr Dalvie shared the importance of critically viewing the 'maps' that limit access and even re-drawing new ones, that are inclusive and in line with everybody's human rights.

Read full blog [here](#).

Webinar - 50 Years of MTP Act: Gaps, Gains and Goals | MASUM, ISAY & ASAP | 9th April

Supported by ASAP, MASUM had undertaken a rapid assessment 'Mapping women's "choices" in accessing abortion services' along with partners from seven states of India. A national level consultation was held on 2nd March, 2020 in Delhi with policymakers and government officials and on 3rd March, 2020 with civil society partners in order to disseminate the findings and to create a community of advocacy around the key issues.

As a result of the lockdown declared in March 2020 in the country, further plans for sharing the study findings and advocacy work could not be carried out on ground. In order to ensure that the testimonies and situation analysis obtained through the study were utilized in an optimal way given the difficult and unpredictable circumstances, we launched a series of online events which will allow partner organisations to create visibility on the specific issues affecting their community and constituency and allow us to create a dialogue and deliberation. We were able to bring in a wide range of civil society partners who helped create a wider base for the discourse and facilitated future advocacy efforts for safe abortion access concerns at district, state and national level.

The webinar titled, 'Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act : Gains and Gaps' was organized with key stakeholders to unpack the concerns around the current MTP Act and the proposed amendments. Partner organisations representing specific constituencies joined in to explain the usefulness of the Act and how it helped access safe abortion services, or the ground realities that kept access to safe abortions away from a vast majority, and the limitations of the recent amendments..

Throughout this year we will be talking about important issues with regards to accessing services under the law, with a series on online events such as webinars and photo campaigns.



The poster is for a webinar titled "50 Years of the MTP Act- Gaps and Gains". At the top, it features the logos of MASUM (Medical Association of South India), ISAY (Indian Society for the Study of Abortion), and ASAP (All India Society for the Advancement of Reproductive Health). The main text reads: "Join us for this discussion as we attempt to map women's access to safe abortion services in India." Below this, it specifies the date and time: "9th April (Friday), 2021 from 2pm to 3pm." It also includes a registration link in the description and mentions support from the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. The poster is flanked by two blue vertical bars and features illustrations of women at the bottom corners.



Watch full video by clicking on the image

Building Inclusive Movements | ASAP with CANs | 22nd April 2021

This year we are working towards finding synergies and developing solidarities between various human rights, sexual and reproductive rights, and social justice movements in order to encourage to integrate safe abortion rights within their advocacy agenda and program strategies. At the same time, we are also encouraging our members and partners in the safe abortion rights movement to step up as a strong ally for the various marginalized groups and be more inclusive of their issues and concerns. We will work together to create synergies for developing a powerful collective voice to demand freedom, equality, and rights, including the right to choose.

Objectives:

1. To work closely with People with Disabilities (PWD) in order to be more inclusive with our information, capacity building and advocacy programmes.
2. To engage with the LGBTQIA+ movement and proactively create spaces for trans sensitive issues around safe abortion rights and access.
3. To strengthen the partnership with the sex workers' rights movements for ensuring that their voices and issues are included in all relevant advocacy agenda and program strategy.

Global Safe Abortion Dialogues : Youth leadership: The future of the safe abortion rights movement. 23rd April 2021



The third Global Safe Abortion Dialogue was a gathering of frontline activists, service providers, implementing partners, policy makers, funders and other stakeholders from across the world who came together to share their strategies and perspectives on how best to strengthen national and global movements for safe abortion. The Dialogue took place virtually from April 15-29th 2021, organised by AmplifyChange, Ipas, MSI Reproductive Choices, Sida, and Trust for Indigenous Culture and Health. ASAP led the dialogue on adolescent health and youth led advocacy, with panellists from our Country Advocacy Networks - Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Paucity of Data on SRHR | Rangeen Khidki | Menstrual Hygiene Day, 28th May

Rangeen Khidki, an organization working on reproductive health of marginalized women in India brought together field narratives around menstruation, contraception, abortions across India, which they collated and shared with their followers on 28th May. As part of this report launch, alumni Youth Champion and Co-Founder of RK, invited Assistant Coordinator Nandini Mazumder for a panel to know more about her experiences while working in the space of menstruation and/or contraception and abortions and how we at ASAP navigated this paucity of data to ensure that your programs actually create impact.



You can watch the full video [here](#).

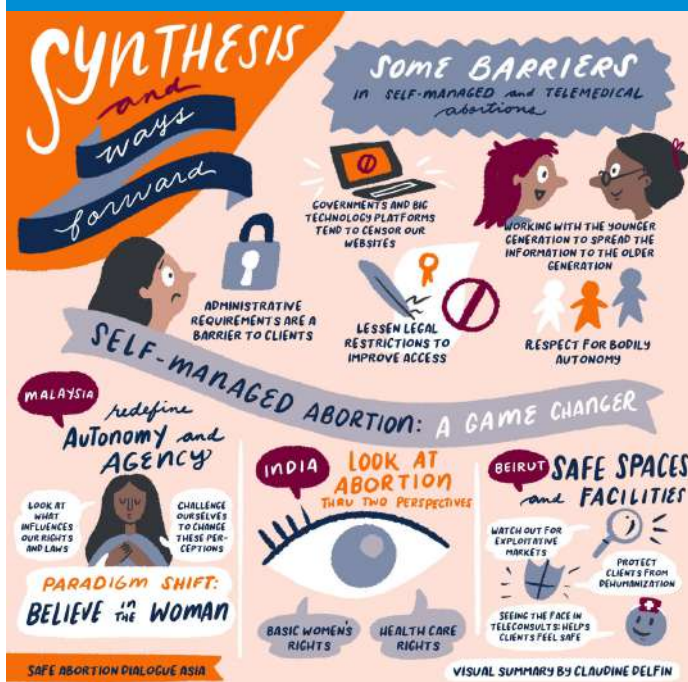
Safe Abortion Dialogues Asia (SADA): Adolescent Access and Youth Led Efforts | Session by ASAP & CANs | 18th June 2021

As a part of the Safe Abortion Dialogues Asia (SADA), Asia Safe Abortion Partnership hosted the 3rd session on Adolescent Access and Youth Led Efforts, with the help of our CAN representatives and partners from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Philippines, Nepal and Sri Lanka and Thailand..The objective of the session was to help the participants understand the potential and importance of youth led advocacy as well as recognizing the challenges faced by young people in safe abortion access and how they can be managed.

SADA: Self- managed and telemedicine abortion | ASAP and IPPF | 25th June 2021

ASAP along with IPPF hosted the second session of SADA focussing on the context of self-managed and telemedicine abortions within the larger political shifts in bodily autonomy and agency.

The aim was to recognize the challenges and identify strategies for integration of self-managed and telemedicine abortion within existing systems of healthcare. Through this discussion we also hoped to understand the policy and program investments required for rights-based, gender transformative safe, quality abortion care provision. which is provided within a gender and rights framework.



Medical Abortion Factsheet - Vietnamese and Audio version

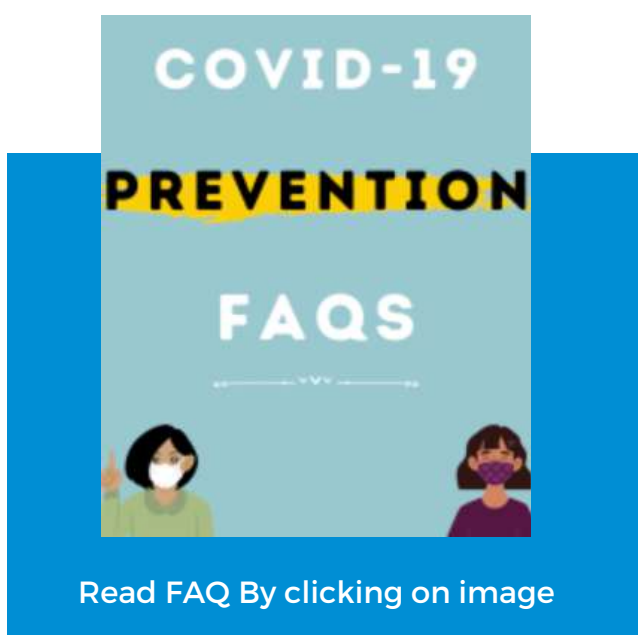
After publishing our MAF in Japanese last quarter, we're glad to share with you that now it's available in Vietnamese and an English audio version as well.



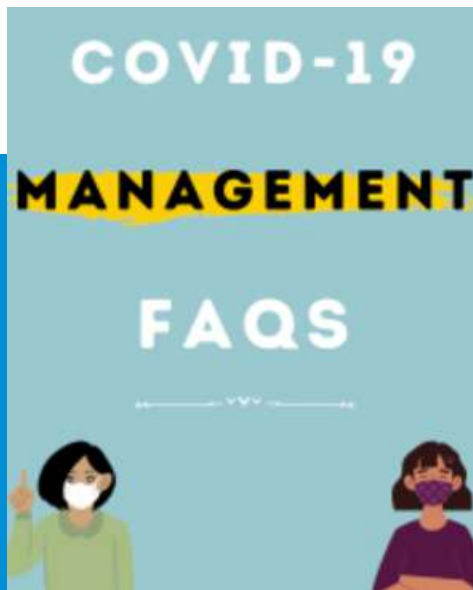
[Access all factsheets by clicking here.](#)

ASAP COVID Response

COVID Prevention, Management and Vaccine FAQs



In order to handle the acute phase of the second wave in India and many other countries, ASAP collated and shared evidence based relevant information on diagnosis and management of COVID as well as information on the vaccines, on social media platforms and the website for the benefit of members and partners.



Read FAQ by clicking on the images.

List of Organizations seeking donations for relief work



Access list [here](#).

ASAP collated a list of organizations looking for funding to support marginalized groups affected by COVID. We shared this list with our network personally, through website and social media. You can access the list [here](#).

ASAP wins the SM4E Award | ASAP & FII



You can know more about the campaign [here](#).

Along with Feminism in India, we won the Social Media for Empowerment Award, for our campaign from 2019; AbortionMeraHaq / AbortionMyRight where we used social media to raise awareness regarding safe abortion rights and laws in India. The category was Communication, Advocacy & Development Activism.

International Safe Abortion Day | 28th May

Like each year, this year too ASAP interacted with the Youth Champions, Country Advocacy Networks and partners across Asia, to amplify the voices of the community with regards to safe abortion access. We received a great response as a lot of women raised their concerns with the abortion laws in their respective countries.

This year we held an 'Instagram Story Challenge' which received a great response from across Asia and gave an important insight into some common & some bizarre misconceptions with regards to abortion across the region!



Read all responses [here](#).

BLOGS

Read each blog, by clicking on the image.



ASAP  Apr 7 • 4 min

50 Years of MTP Act: Gaps, Gains and Goals – Dr Suchitra Dalvie

The MTP Act Amendment Bill 2020 was passed by the Lower House of Parliament (Lok Sabha) on 17th March 2020 and by the Upper House (Rajya...




ASAP  Apr 22 • 6 min

Unheard before, continue to struggle battling COVID19: Voices from...

Our guest today is Laxmi Chetri from The ANT, Assam in conversation with Nandini Mazumder, Assistant Coordinator, ASAP. These are the...




ASAP  May 13 • 4 min

'The Dawn of the Pro Choice Movement in Bhutan.' By Wangchuk...

When I first started out as an advocate for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) eight years ago, I had no idea how...



ASAP  May 20 • 10 min

Palestinians: fighting oppression and covid-19

As part of our series ASAP Conversations Nandini Mazumder spoke to our member M from Palestine who is a citizen of Israel. This...

BLOGS



ASAP
Jun 15 • 4 min



'An Independent Man- the need of the hour' by Saraswati Palnitkar

For countless centuries, women were bound by gender roles that were made to restrict and suppress their dreams. As women's rights were...



ASAP
Jun 23 • 2 min



Managing Abortions during COVID19 in Philippines- Experience ...

M began her experience in harm-reduction counseling after attending a training about it in the early 2000s. Since then, she has been...



ASAP
Jun 29 • 2 min



'Re-drawing maps'. By Dr Suchitra Dalvie

Albert Einstein once said 'You can't use an old map to explore a new world' And who are we to argue with geniuses?! This new world that...

Publications



IndiaSpend

CORONA COVERAGE

EARTHCHECK

EDUCATION CHECK

FACTCHECKER

SPECIALS ▾

WEB STORIES

Home / Specials / GenderCheck

Amended Abortion Law Still Gives Doctors, Not Women, The Final Say

The amended abortion law has allowed termination of pregnancy up to 24 weeks but only for special categories of vulnerable women. Abortion is still not available on demand and a woman's agency is not recognised

By Akshita Nagpal | 27 April, 2021



Common menstrual problems and when you should see a doctor

By - SPOTLIGHT

Created: Jun 11, 2021, 13:51 IST



FACEBOOK



TWITTER



PINTEREST



SPONSORED STORIES



LIVA Miss Diva India 2021 goes digital



Ranjan Chandel's journey to Bollywood



Times Alternative Career Survey: East Zone



Decoding ovarian cancer: Early signs

Interview

Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie was interviewed by 'Makers India' for their series on Abortion rights. You can watch all episodes here.



MAKERS India

Dr Suchitra Dalvie: On Being A Feminist Gynecologist In A Patriarchal World Of Medicine

When Dr Dalvie started her journey as a medical practitioner, initially she didn't have the language to adequately grasp or articulate the patriarchal frameworks and sexist biases that inform institutionalize...

Jun 13



MAKERS India

Dr Suchitra Dalvie: How The Pandemic Hindered Access To Safe Abortions

The pandemic has hit several healthcare services making people turn to online platforms seeking vital information and emergency resources to sail through the difficult times. Amid this ongoing crisis, Dr...

Jun 11



MAKERS India

Dr Suchitra Dalvie: Role Of Youth Leadership In Advocating Rights-Based Approach To Healthcare

Dr Dalvie believes that the youth are the leaders of tomorrow and have the imagination to create. Most of her initiatives have been towards enabling safe spaces for the youth. She runs a dedicated program...

Jun 09



INDIA

0.45 / 6.27 We had no internet, no social media. VQ CC

Dr Suchitra Dalvie: Understanding Patriarchy And Misogyny In The Medical Practice

MAKERS • 4 June 2021 489 views

CAN Activities

Bhutan -Druk - Youth Initiative of Sexual Advocacy (D-YISA)

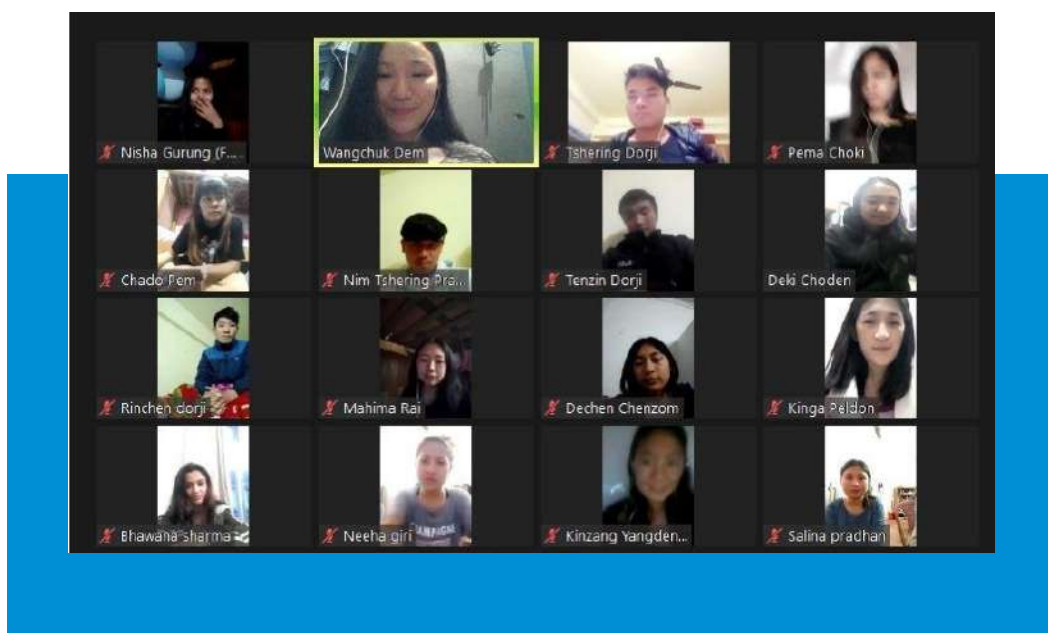
Sensitization Program on Safe Abortion for Sex Workers | D-YISA | 1st May 2021

D-YISA conducted this session with an aim to create awareness among sex workers, regarding the existing safe abortion laws in Bhutan. They not only debunked myths associated with abortion, but also engaged with them to know their opinion on safe abortion access. Though the session started with some hesitancy, by the end, many participants were convinced for the need of having a rights based abortion law in the country and sessions



Online Sensitization Programme | D-YISA | 8th May

D-YISA conducted their first online sensitization program on Safe Abortion Rights in Bhutan for first year students of Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Studies. There were 18 participants some of whom had already attended similar programs on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) conducted by Y-PEER (youth peer education network) which is supported by the Government on raising awareness regarding SRHR.



Sensitization Programme for LGBTQIA+ Youth | D-YISA | 26th June

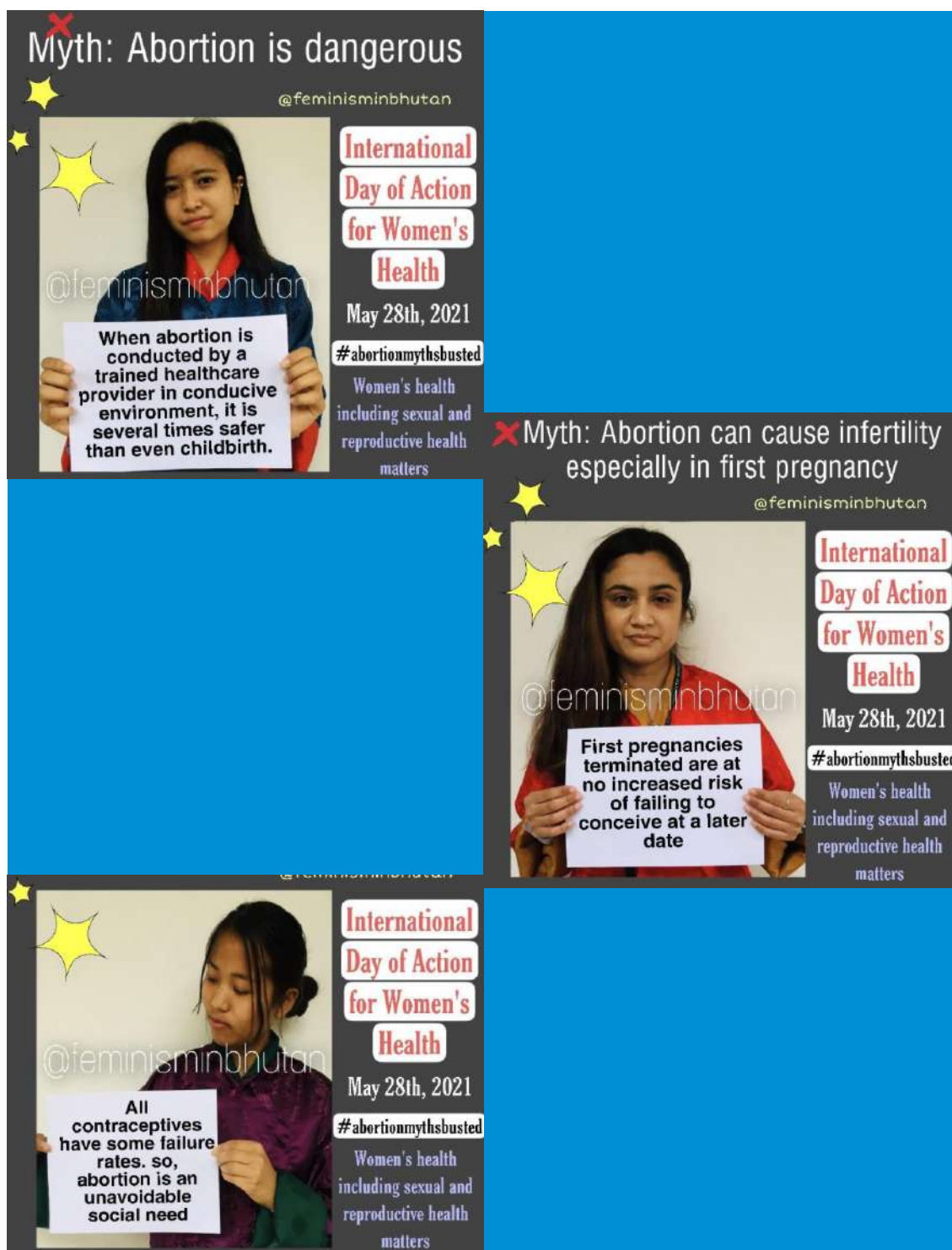
D-YISA conducted an awareness session with 26 members of the community. Most of the participants were young but for almost all of them this was their first session on issues related to abortion rights.

While everyone knew about abortion, there were some different viewpoints with regards to the 'morality' of terminated an unwanted pregnancy, often propagated by normalizing phrases like 'throwing out the baby'. These myths and stigmas associated with abortion in Bhutan were busted by D-YISA and the participants felt encouraged to be more open about their reproductive and sexual health and rights.



International Day of Action for Women's Health | 28TH May

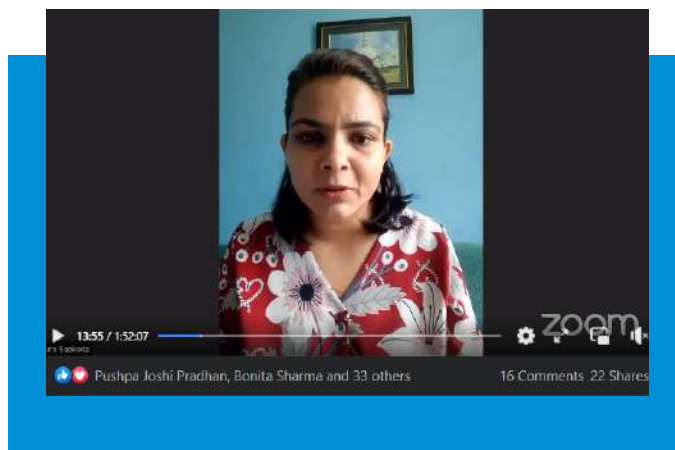
D-YISA members came together to run an awareness campaign called 'abortion myths busted'. They had 6 young people from Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Studies (KGUMS) who participated in the campaign to bust most common misconceptions related to abortion in the country.



Nepal - Youth Led SRHR Advocacy Nepal (YoSHAN)

Milijuli talk series with the representatives of the 'Covid special nurse group

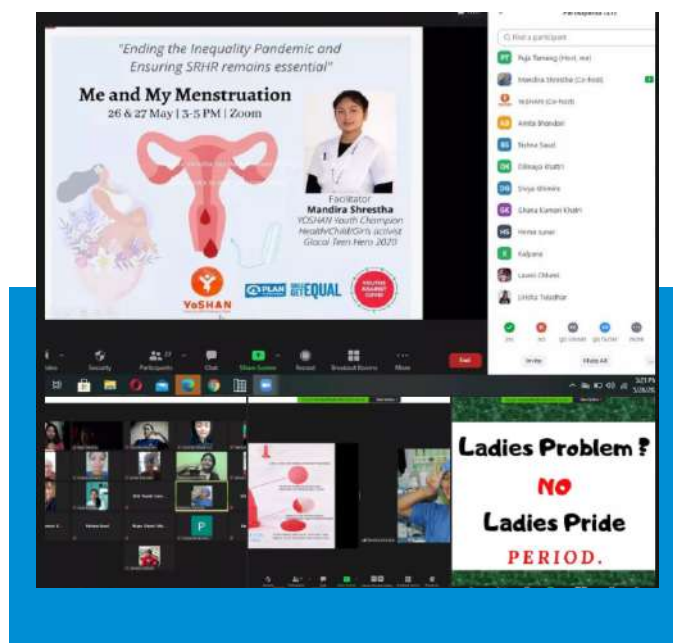
On the occasion of International nurses day, YoSHAN in collaboration with Network of Youths against COVID organized Milijuli talk series with the representatives of the 'Covid special nurse group' to honor the initiatives of nurses in Nepal who have been providing counseling and other health services to people during this difficult time of the covid pandemic.



'Me and my menstruation' | YoSHAN | 26th & 27th May

YoSHAN held a comprehensive discussion on the topic where more than 30 young participants joined in. Some of the topics covered during the workshop are as follows:

- Menstruation
- Hygiene during menstruation
- Pain management
- Nutrition during menstruation
- Myths and misconceptions/ harmful practices
- Menstruation during the time of covid



Nepal - YoSHAN

Milijuli Talk Series on Sexual and Reproductive Health of Queer Individuals

YoSHAN organized Milijuli talk series on sexual and reproductive health rights of queer individuals which was live streamed on the Facebook. The discussion was moderated by YoSHAN youth champions Manisha Hada and Safal Lama; one of them is also a queer individual active in the queer movement. The guest speakers were Rubina Tamang (Transwoman activist), Bipin Kadayat (Intersex activist) and Pratik Thapa (Transman Activist). In the session, all the guest speakers shared their own experience of discrimination while accessing SRH services in health service centers in Nepal and also emphasized on queer friendly health service centers and providers. The discussion reached more than 1200 people via Facebook live.



Nepal - YoSHAN

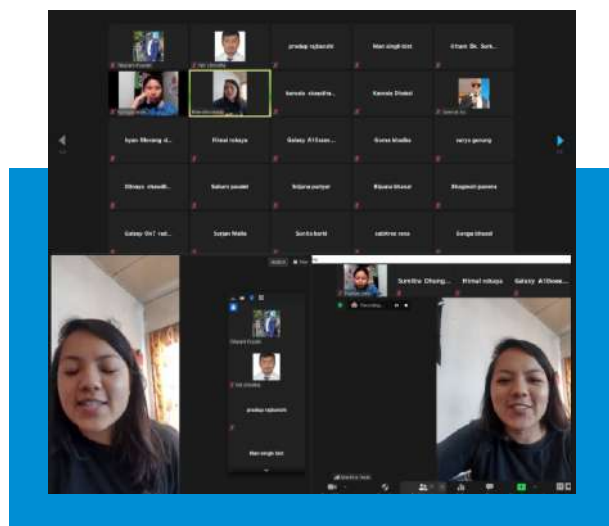
Guff4youth on women's health | YoSHAN | 23rd June

YoSHAN organized Guff4youth, an informal youth-friendly discussion program on women's health issues including safe abortion rights on 23rd June. The discussion took place between the youth champions Lirisha Tuladhar, Pushpa Joshi, Akansha Dahal, Anjali Tiwari and Manisha Hada and other participants were also encouraged to contribute.



Orientation program on safe abortion rights for young people with visual impairment | YoSHAN

YoSHAN in collaboration with Blind Youth Association Nepal- BYAN organized an orientation program on safe abortion rights for young people with visual impairment. Youth champion Nir Shrestha coordinated, while Manisha Hada and Pushpa Joshi Pradhan facilitated the event.



THANK YOU!

For regular updates you can follow us on Social Media

