



SAFE ABORTION ADVOCACY INSTITUTE FOR YOUTH CHAMPIONS

Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP)

India Safe Abortion Youth Advocates (ISAY)

29th to 31st March, 2019

Grant Medical College, Mumbai, India



Introduction

The Youth Champions from the India Safe Abortion Youth Advocates (ISAY) conducted a 3-day Youth Advocacy Institute along with the Asia Safe Abortion Partnership, from 29th to 31st March 2019, for a total of 17 participants who had earlier attended a sensitization workshop. The organization's goal is "To promote, protect and advance women's sexual and reproductive rights and health in Asia by reducing unsafe abortion and its complications, by promoting access to comprehensive safe abortion services.

Objectives of the Institute

1. To create a community of trained and sensitized youth champions who have an understanding of access to safe abortion as a gender and sexual and reproductive rights, as well as human rights issue.
2. To facilitate the utilization of social media and other community level networking and communication by the youth champions through capacity building and ongoing mentoring.
3. To support the ongoing engagement of the youth champions, within and outside their community to ensure implementation of the above strategies in order to advocate effectively for improved access to safe abortion services, including medical abortion.

The alumni will be facilitated to emerge as a community with a strong voice on this discourse at local, national and regional levels and to engage with the issues on an on-going basis through the online network as well as through participation in relevant meetings

Introductions and Expectations

The workshop started off with quick introductions of all the participants and youth champions. After this, everyone was asked to jot down what they expected to learn in this workshop and ended with a quick description of the ground rules.

Some of the expectations expressed by the participants were

- I would like to learn more about the methods of abortion
- Learn effective ways to debate with anti-choice people
- Gain knowledge about the laws regarding abortion
- Learn more about the LGBTQI community
- Reality of abortion accessibility

Day 1, Friday, 29th March, 2019

Session 1: Understanding Gender and Patriarchy and its linkages with Safe Abortion Issues

The first session was taken by Dr. Manisha Gupte, the founder of MASUM, an organization working towards welfare and development of women in Pune.

Surprisingly, the session didn't start off with the audience learning anything, but unlearning what the 'system' had led us to believe, which ironically, ended up being one of the most important things i.e. to let go of the prejudices, and start-over with an open mind. She conducted the session talking about the differences between 'Sex' and 'Gender', prevalence of patriarchy in our society and how it all is closely related to our agenda.



After which, she spoke about what normal is, and how it's not right or wrong that determines normality. It's the accepted view of society, and that keeps on changing as we learn and unlearn- like using violence to discipline an offspring was considered normal, and still might be in certain families. That is a prime example of social learning.

Then she went on forward to speak about how subtly we are responsible for cultivating gender roles since a very young age. This resonated with the audience once she explained this through a story of twins, Munna and Munni, and the dilemma was what to gift them on their birthday. Munna would get a cricket bat, as a result of which, he'd go out and play- being taught independence and having an unsupervised friend circle, and hence learning how to survive in the outside world. In contrast, Munni would end up getting a doll house, having to stay at home to play it, having a supervised friend circle, learning the in-house work. But that isn't where the problem lies. It's the fact that there the society would look at Munna playing with the doll and Munni playing cricket, as 'abnormal'. That is the problem! And all of this, that isn't related to the biological sex, is called gender.

The session then went on to cover what purpose gender serves. It brings power to the man, and makes the woman powerless. She spoke about protectionism- which is basically brought out through statements like, "Don't travel alone", "Don't be out late". She said, on behalf of all women in the audience, WE DON'T NEED PROTECTION. WE NEED RIGHTS.

Lastly, patriarchy was talked on as the 'Fathers Rule'. Even if a woman doesn't take her husband's last name, she's still carrying forward her Father's name. And if she takes her mother's name, she carrying her Mothers Fathers name. Many scenarios in the real world were spoken about. Some of them being how when a man smokes, everyone is concerned about his health, but when a woman smokes, it suddenly becomes a social issue. And how women in the royal families are married off as property mergers. She ended her talk by briefly covering Antonio Gramsci's theory of cultural hegemony.

Session 2: Gender and Sexism in Mass Media



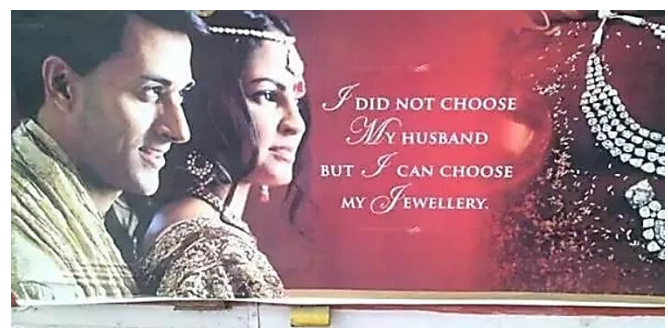
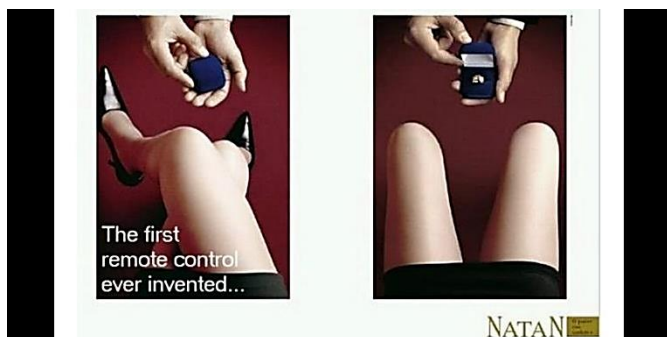
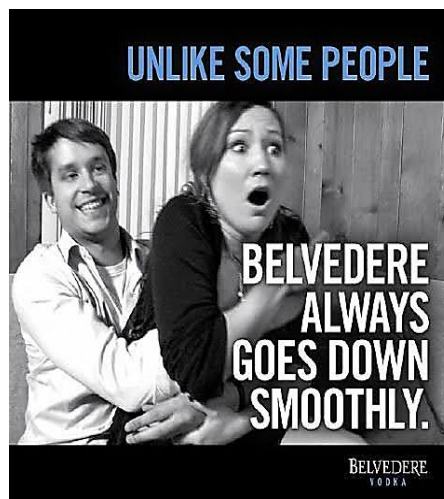
In this session conducted by YCs Riti Sanghvi and Shruti Jeyakumar, aspects about how the mass media played with gender stereotypes in order to market products or brands to the masses. The session started off by asking two questions to the audience- 'What is mass media?' and 'What are stereotypes?' They elaborated on how the media plays a vital role in influencing ideologies.

Once that was cleared up for the audience, they went on to show various photos and videos, observations were made on how advertisements exploited gender stereotypes, blatantly sexualising bodies of women, portraying their place to be in household chores, and showing them as superficial, so as to be bought by materialistic objects, like jewellery. It was also a common occurrence to market a product for a particular gender based on its ability to attract the opposite one. All the advertisements were discussed with the audiences. The session concluded with raising issues of marginalization and less representation of all genders in the field.

Link to the content:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FgxywFbiyGo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICVodxIGDFg>



Session 3: Human rights, sexual and reproductive rights



The session was once again conducted by Dr Manisha Gupte. She started off by talking about human rights- how they're not something that need to be given, but every individual is entitled to them. This led to an in-depth discussion about the rights, focusing on sexual and reproductive rights. She spoke about how human rights are universal, inalienable, indivisible and interdependent.

The discussion led forward to following a needs-based approach versus a rights-based approach in case of a woman seeking an abortion. It was agreed unanimously that a rights-based approach was the way to go!

Later, she discussed the difference between Reproductive and Sexual rights, and why they needed to be separate rights and not clubbed together. She also spoke about sexual equity, which works towards removing historical discrimination. Lastly, with thoughtful questions, and the audience giving their views on the topic, the session ended leaving everyone with something profound to think about.

Session 4: Values Clarification and Case Studies



The next session on values clarification was taken by Dr. Suchitra Dalvie, Manisha Gupte and YC Anushka Kale. The session started with defining 'Values'. The values are defined on the basis of what a person thinks as right or wrong. The factors which were brought up were family, surrounding, culture, religion etc. With the help of an image, discussion on how the perception of the event/action varies for every person and thereby making these 'values', a dynamic system and its

definition as 'Subjective'. Participants were asked to stand in a neutral space. Statements were displayed on the screen and they had to choose one side – Agree or Disagree and move to the corresponding space. The first statement being-

'A woman should stay with her husband even if he beats her, if he truly loves her'

Where the significant point brought up was the fact that someone always opposes cultural argument. In fact, in the name of religion, people have arguments as irrational as rape exists in India not Bharat.

‘A sex worker cannot be raped’

This statement opened up with the question of ‘How does a person defines a sex worker? which addressed the prevalence of dress code judging and thereby ‘looked down upon’ in the society. Abolishing sex work with violence isn’t the right answer. The case of legalizing sex work in Netherlands and Amsterdam with documentations makes the work even more difficult and the solution lies in the decriminalization of sex work.

‘Women who have HIV/AIDS should not have babies’

Brought up an existence of selectivity in the society where after comparing the subject of AIDS with poverty, the government and other sectors of the society sympathize with the latter.

‘Choosing the sex of one’s child is a reproductive right’

It was discussed on the hypothetical situation of a society with 1000 men and 800 women. Some of the points were brought up to reason the skewed ration being unrelated to the prevalence of rape for instance considering the existence of marital rape.

The controversial nature of these statements made it difficult for the participants to choose a side. Many interesting points came up during the discussion. By giving all the participants a platform to speak their minds, it gives them an opportunity to listen to different views and widens their horizons. Dr. Gupte urged the participants to have the instrumentalist approach to be aware of the external reality rather than solely relying on the theoretical terms. The session with urging the participants to think about the issues discussed, along with the usage of their ‘moral compass’



“Smash the Patriarchy”

A cake cutting session was organized by Dr. Suchitra Dalvie where participants celebrated their resistance against the patriarchal system. The idea was initiated during one of the previous YAls when a male participant shared a story about his friend teasing him when he asked for a birthday cake citing that it was “too girly”.

Session 5: Power Walk and Intersectionality



This session was conducted by YCs **Raunaq Bir Chaudhry** and **Suyash Khubchandani**. There participants were given identities at random which included a 16 year old married girl, a 22 year old sex worker, 15 year old girl in a wheel chair, 18 year old boy in a boys' hostel etc.



The walk was based on the questions asked like- if the participant with the given identity could ever have heard about sex, get information on contraceptives, if aware about what to do with unwanted pregnancy and so on. This was done in order to enlighten the fact that even though everyone is born “equal”, the identities placed every participant in a different position in the society also speaking about privilege. The factors like education, age,

financial situation, gender, influence etc which decide these positions were brought up by the participants. The fact of being ‘heterosexual’ makes it easy to move forward in the society was brought up by one participant.

Session 6: Film Screening



The movie “Hysteria” was screened at the end of the day which is a story of two doctors in Victorian England that use manual stimulation of female genitalia to cure a disease called hysteria among women. The movie not only showcases the rampant disregard of the rights of women in that age but also brings to light how small acts of resistance can lead to big changes, which was the main aim of screening this particular movie for the participants.

Day 2, Saturday, 30th March, 2019

Recap and review

The day began with Dr. Suchitra asking participants to reflect on the sessions yesterday and recollect one new thing they learnt. Participants spoke of the gender as a social construct, rights based perspective, hegemony and counter-hegemony and sex selective abortions. Participants also stated how they felt that there was a need to unlearn and question all that has been taught to them so far before going ahead in their advocacy. She also brought up the concept of the glass ceiling in a discussion surrounding gender in the workplace. Participants also learnt of the glass elevator, which refers to the way men are put on a fast track to higher up positions when entering women dominated sex-segregated professions.

Session 7: Abortion from a gender and rights based perspective + Role plays on contraception



The session began with a discussion on menstruation. Madhurya explained the physiology of menstruation and went into details of how the hormones work and play a role in this body cycle. Then, Dr. Suchitra took the discussion to contraception by asking participants about the reproductive behaviour of the animals the participants chose on Day 1. Most animals had oestrous cycles or would lay eggs and in nearly all species, it was the female who would give birth. Sexual and reproductive practices vary from species to species but as of now, we aren't aware of any other species that use contraception.

We then went on to discuss the movie 'Hysteria' that the participants watched on Day 1. A few participants spoke of how a common theme in the movie was that following rules blindly does not help with creating societal change. Further, they discussed how female sexuality was and still is extremely stigmatized and the notion that any sex that is sex without a man is not pleasurable to women. The 'hysteria' of women was discussed including harmful phrases used in everyday conversations like 'are you on your period' or 'are you PMSing' and it was reinforced by the participants themselves that being on a period does not diminish a woman's capacity to function.

The conversation then shifted to contraception and various methods. Participants discussed condoms, myths surrounding use of condoms, sex education – both in school and in medical curricula, emergency contraception, intrauterine contraceptive devices, oral contraceptive pills and sterilisation. A few common misconceptions we discussed at length included

- 1) Use of 2 condoms at the same time is safer
- 2) An emergency contraceptive pill is the same as an abortion pill
- 3) All OCPs cause cancer

The conversation then shifted to the politics of use of contraceptives as people believed that the aim of sterilizing women was to take her from "reproductive to productive". This reflected a lot on the belief of

the times that a woman with her reproductive organs could not do anything other than reproduce. We also discussed some ethical dilemmas of rewarding individuals for sterilization. Dr. Suchitra spoke further on how funding for research on female contraceptives was much more and there was not a lot of funding and research for male contraceptives. She also spoke of how this shifts the “burden” of contraception use to women and places the onus entirely on one group of individuals to be able to access, afford and negotiate use of contraceptives.



We then shifted the conversation to discussing abortion. Participants were asked to list out reasons why women have unwanted pregnancies. The reasons they listed included: rape, medical reasons – involving the woman or the foetus, if the pregnancy was within one year of previous childbirth, due to the sex of a child, financial constraint, the age of the woman etc. We also spoke a bit on how rates of infanticide are more if the pregnancy was unwanted and how to

decrease the incidence of this the Tamil Nadu government set up cradle crèches for families to leave babies in a temple rather than killing them. We also discussed abortion in the context of unwanted pregnancies and the language of the word ‘foeticide’.

Participants discussed how women could empower themselves and how society could empower itself so that women always have easy access to abortion. We discuss how education was the first step to achieve access but it requires simultaneous ensuring of financial independence of women. Participants also brainstormed on how the law could not be assumed to be the most “just” approach as lawmakers have regressive approaches too.

Delving into the medical aspects of abortion, she spoke of medical abortion pills – how they came into being, the story of the patent for misoprostol (RU – 486), the cost of the pills, and how to access it, including the clap down by the Maharashtra Government in India on use of medical abortion pills. The participants who were medical students discussed access to abortion in their own hospitals and how the numbers of MTP surgeries done each day are very few.

Shifting away from the conversation on abortion for a brief bit, we discussed the politics of maps and why they are designed the way they are. Suchitra ma’am asked the participants thought provoking questions on why the US, UK were in the North or the “top of the world” and African was in the South or the “bottom of the world”. She spoke of how now the more appropriate way to refer to developing countries was the ‘global south’ and this too reflects on the way we perceive the world map and how countries on ‘top’ are assumed to be better than countries at the ‘bottom’. Similarly participants also challenged other language used commonly like ‘why is the black market referred to as the ‘black’ market?’ and ‘why are world wars referred to as ‘world’ wars when not more than 10-20 countries were involved in it?’ Dr. Suchitra then showed the map of countries by maternal mortality rate and how the map gets extremely skewed then. This made the participants consider and reflect more about the way in which we perceive the world.

Session 8: SOGI and access to healthcare services



Sumit Pawar began the session with a conversation on how sexuality isn't simply limited to sexual orientation but is everything that we do. He then spoke of the queer community and all the varying sexual orientations that exist. He spoke more about the Hijra community, a community of transgender women staying in South East Asia and how they live in well-defined and organised gharanas, led by a guru. These communities have consisted over generations of those who are in abject poverty, rejected by, or flee, their family of origin.

He spoke further about transgender individuals and how they might opt for gender reaffirmation surgeries but at the same time, transgender individuals don't necessarily need to have surgery to be transgender. "It isn't genitals but it is own belief that defines gender."

Then, Sumit spoke of barriers to access when it comes to the LGBTQ+ community. He allowed participants to brainstorm on why they feel uncomfortable when they see a trans person and then deconstructed barriers than trans people must face when they step out into the world. He spoke of why trans people resort to begging, sex work and a lot of the discrimination they face from health care providers as well, Participants discussed how the attitude towards trans people must change from discomfort and/or pity to empathy.

Then the discussion shifted to the possible solutions for the upliftment of the transgender population Possible solutions discussed were education and gender sensitization done at an early level, working towards trans friendly language and trans friendly campuses, hiring people not just for token diversity but also for actual inclusivity, understanding what it actually means to be trans and treating the population as more than a "high risk group". The session ended with participants reflecting on their own prejudices towards trans people and deconstructing where this stems from and what they could change on a personal level to correct this.

Session 9: Gender and Patriarchy in Medicine - readings and discussion



The session involved a series of readings followed by discussions by participants on various pieces of literature from a gender and patriarchy lens.

The Beauty and the Beast now live in Silicon Valley

The article discussed the story of an affluent couple having a seemingly perfect life and how the husband used to regularly assault the wife both sexually and physically. Participants spoke of how it actually becomes difficult to leave a situation of domestic violence as in this story the woman tolerated and suffered for so long even though she was extremely educated and empowered. It ended with a comment on the terrible standards of the legal system as the man was only charged with inappropriate touching after beating up his pregnant wife simply because he was really good at his career.

Role of women in Nazi Germany

The next article discussed how in Nazi Germany women were stripped of their right to choose the occupations in which they wanted to work in (female musicians, artists, scientists etc were banned) and the women were instructed to be good mothers. Even the clothes that they wore were restricted and they weren't allowed to wear trousers. The government decided to incentivize women for being good mothers by paying them hefty rewards for having multiple racially pure male babies. The participants discussed how horrifying this was. Suchitra ma'am also commented on this further mistreatment of homosexual individuals that occurred in Germany in addition to the devastating mass genocide that happened.

The True Story behind the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment

The article spoke of the ugly truth behind the advances made in medicine in the diagnosis, understanding of pathology of and the treatment of syphilis. Black men, who weren't informed of the research being done on them, were used to study the effects of untreated syphilis in this population for duration of 40 years even after recorded and documented proof that syphilis could be cured by penicillin. Participants spoke of how incentivising this work, a common theme in a lot of human rights violations we discussed, does not make it okay to carry through and violate these rights. It was only in 1972 that the news of the same broke and there was no punishment awarded to the guilty individuals. Instead the men and their families were only offered monetary remunerations.

Wedding with a rapist

In this article, participants questioned their own ethics and Indian mythology when it comes to forcing women to marry rapists.

Brother of Pakistan

The article told the story of Qandeel Baloch and how her brother murdered her for bringing shame to the family and to set an example for women and families in the rest of the country. This form of honour killing is rampant in India and the participants expressed disgust at the same.

Henrietta Lacks and Medical Ethics

Henrietta Lacks was an African-American woman whose cancer cells are the source of the HeLa cell line, the first immortalized cell line and one of the most important cell lines in medical research. 60000 medical articles were published based on the HeLa cell line, family's whole genome published and it was entirely non-consensual. Participants explored the medical ethics of this and similar potential for ethical violations in the world of medical research.

Session 10: What does it mean to be pro-choice



Dr. Suchitra began the discussion on subversion by discussing Disney princesses and re-analysing those from a gender and rights perspective. This was followed by a video on America and the war and used this as a tool to reiterate the need to unlearn and question everything that we know. A few examples of political satire were discussed with a gender lens including stories of Beauty and the Beast, The Princess and the Frog, a modern retelling of John Lennon's Imagine and more. Suchitra ma'am then went on to speak to the participants about what it means to be Youth Champion (YC), the need for YCs and why it was necessary to have more people involved in the process. She also spoke about the other work that ASAP does, the blogs and some campaigns ASAP has done for May 28th and September 28th.

Session 10: Abortion laws and policies



The session was conducted by Dr. Shilpa and YC Shweta. It started with a simple question - "What is a law?" The question was just a pre-requisite to understanding how abortion laws exist and why it is the only medical procedure to have a law for itself in the first place. The roots of the MTP can be traced back to when the Shantilal Shah committee published the report on increase in the 'maternal' mortality as a result of septic abortions in the country in the 1960s, which then translated into the basis for the MTP Act of 1971.

Most of the penal code laws originate from the colonizers, and some from State opinions, so in India, abortion was criminalized under IPC 312/313 – “if a woman tries to abort/self-administer to abort”. But the answer to why the law came into being in the first place could be summed up to make provision of services safe for both consumers and providers.

Currently, medical abortion – can be prescribe by any medical doctor but only if there is a center for emergency care available in case a woman has excess bleeding or any other complication. As per MDA permissions, 63 days is the permissible allowed gestational age for medical abortion but it is cut off at 7 weeks by law.

However, surgical abortion needs an opinion of one doctor if it is before 12 weeks, and the opinions of two doctors if the pregnancy is between 12 and 20 weeks.

In the South East Asian Region, most countries have a law for legal abortion services if it means saving a woman’s life – even in the most abortion restrictive countries.

Further in the session, certain questions around restrictions on abortion across different countries were discussed. Since 2nd trimester abortions, particularly late second trimester abortions are most frequently used to defend the anti-choice/pro-life campaign – there was a buzzing need for means to making legal access to post 20 weeks abortion services better and safer in our country.

Then, there was the topic of the intersectionality of the PCPNDT Act and the MTP Act. PCPNDT which came in the late 1990s just prevents the sex predetermination of the fetus, in cases when someone wants to have a sex selective abortion, for which they’d need the medical procedure of abortion, besides which there is no need for stigmatizing abortion. However, the two are very often confused and hence access can be restricted even further.

The session concluded with an activity called “The last abortion” wherein participants were required to go through the stories of 6 diverse women and choose their top 3 candidates who “must” get an abortion, if they can only choose 3 women to get an abortion. The exercise made them think that it isn’t easy to decide one over another but when given the power, most people succumb and don’t hesitate to opt for a need’s based approach over a right’s based one.

Session 11: Assorted clips



YC Shreeya conducted this session at the end of Day 2, wherein she showed common previously televised advertisements which had more than just a tinge of subtle sexism and there was a discussion following each of them.

I-PILL AD- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9m1-xAiGC8Y>

The participants could sense how the ambience was secretive, in a closed off environment with windows shut, abortion was referred to as this dreadful outcome to be avoided by any means. The stigma was very evident because even the person the woman seeking an emergency contraceptive pill was talking to is hiding from her own husband.

SAFOLA GOLD AD- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZD80NKvY7Oc&feature=youtu.be>

The ad showed the Indian “ideal” family concept where there is extreme motherly care for everyone in the family. It displayed how the wife needs to take care of the husband’s health, make them watch their diet - reinstating gender roles and norms in the household and the low prioritization of the women’s health needs and priorities.

TALCUM POWDER AD- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=arSM50kqgJM>

The ad was described as “Absurd and infuriating” with an over exaggeration of female features like crying, getting manicures, their love for rose petals and displaying emotions. There were specific subtle hints that reinstate gender based characters like pink for women and blue for men. One of the participant also claimed that it didn’t make any sense for a talcum powder ad to display such serious patriarchal norms for men.

VAGINA TIGHTENING CREAM- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPayFrCOiZM>

It essentially meant a tight vagina = virgin-like, essential for good sex. It also reinstated the idea of marriage = having sex as a given. With the way everyone kept looking at the couple dancing it showed that in an Indian society, love making exists within a room and it’s not about having fun.

GEORGE CARLIN VIDEO- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvF1Q3UidWM>

It was a video on George Carlin’s stand up on topics such as abortion, religion and the pro-life campaign.

Day 3, Sunday, 31st March, 2019

Recap and Clarifications

On asking about one thing that they learnt the previous day, most of the participants talked about the activity with the 5 cases, about how we simply choose any 3 women based on who we think deserve access to safe abortion services more than the others, totally forgetting to question why do we need to choose in the first place, reinforcing the idea that their right to abortion is unconditional. They also talked about how it was nice to realize that medicine is also a system created out of patriarchy and that doctors, themselves, need to be sensitized. The idea of asking a person the gender and not assuming it and to ask what pronoun someone is comfortable with was also appreciated. While talking about the assorted clips, everyone said that it made them realize how we often tend to overlook offensive advertisements.

Dr. Suchitra concluded it by saying that we should question things and not just accept everything that we see passively, but also do it respectfully and use it to help people who will benefit from it.

Session 14: Interpersonal Communication

This session was conducted by Dr. Suchitra Dalvie and YC Priyansh Nathani.

- **Activity 1 - Dance moves in a line:**

Everyone stood in a straight line facing ahead and the last person was shown a series of dance steps. They show the dance steps to the next person only once and they show whatever they remember to the next one. At the end, the dance step was so altered, it barely looked anything like the original step.

- **Activity 2 – Chinese whispers with a twist - both sides passed different messages:**

A long message with too many details was passed on from one side, and a simple and short from the other. The participants were allowed to listen to as well as tell the message to the next person only once. At the end, everyone realized that they could not pass the long and elaborate message accurately and that the simpler and clearer the message, the easier it is to communicate.



- **Activity 3 - Drawing A Happy Face:**

Round 1: Participant wasn't allowed to ask questions and ended up drawing meaningless figures.

Round 2: Participant allowed to ask questions and ended up making a smiley face.

Thus, the conclusion was that when allowed to ask for feedback, information is communicated better.

YC Priyansh also went on to talk about what the different modes of communication are and how each one of them has their own pros and cons. He talked about how we vividly remember information that appeals to us on a personal level. He added that watching something on television is sometimes more impactful than reading from a book, but written documentation has its own advantage of being long-term and concrete. The audio-visual system has the power of recording and hence, the message can be shown in its exact same form over and over again according to convenience as opposed to verbal communication, where though you have the advantage of being direct and engaging, you still cannot recreate it every time. He also said that social media is currently the most popular medium for dissemination of information, but not everything that is out there is always true and that news is often manipulated according to convenience and therefore, we must question and be alert. Also, with being a good and sensitive speaker, we should strive to be a good and sensitive listener to ensure effective interpersonal communication to the best of our abilities.

Session 15: Internet Politics



YC Simran began with a small role-playing exercise where in 10 participants were asked to volunteer to explain the working of an e-mail. The sender and receiver were assumed to be in different countries, who also had different laws governing abortion. The activity showed how the governing body or any third party can constantly monitor information, believed to be private, in the form of encrypted data or as metadata to be

sent across at various levels unless there is end-to-end encryption. This was an eye-opening activity for the participants and helped them understand the importance of safe browsing through VPN, Incognito Mode, Proxies, etc.

YC Simran further continued to talk about some of the famous internet hacks, like the selling of information by Facebook to Cambridge Analytica, the iCloud security scandal and using alternative facts for strengthening the Trump Campaign.

She also discussed concepts like –

- Digital Shadow – how everything that we do on the internet leaves a shadow behind and that nothing gets deleted – therefore what we do on the internet can actually be used to profy/commodify us.
- Deep Face – pasting faces in videos
- How Anti – malware software can give a false impression of security and not all of them are reliable
- Free WiFi at malls or free application basically use us - the consumers, as their product.
- Platform accountability by celebrities.



She added that all this leads to breach of privacy and security and becomes the reason/medium for extortion, smear campaigns, technology – related sexual abuse and exploitation, online wars and also has psychological effect on those directly involved. Hence, she concluded by saying how we should adopt safe browsing and be more cautious in general on the internet while doing advocacy even, because we will be dealing with information that could be deemed sensitive in certain areas and/or for certain people.

Session 16: Analyzing Recent Campaigns

The media is one of the major sources of information in our society and serves as an important medium of education. YC Meera Mokashi started the session by explaining how media contributes and controls our judgment. Media is not just platform for entertainment but also a medium of communication. Online campaigns can be used to normalize a certain topic of conversation and it is a great way of empowering with empathy. Media can also be used to spread negative behavior. Participants added a few good points to the conversation like, how movies normalize the act of an actor stalking the female lead even after her clear disinterest. The recent campaign of Me Too was discussed at length. How this campaign encouraged individuals to speak out about the assault they have faced. Me Too campaign faced a lot of resistance like 'NOTALLMEN' '#HeToo' and this resistance was due to the change in power dynamic. The politics of the online spaces and how it affects our personal space was discussed. Participants were encouraged to make their online presence noted, and to challenge the sexism on these platforms.

YC Zainab then described the various campaigns that ASAP has had over the years. She talked in detail about the most recent campaign ISAY did in affiliation with ASAP – 'That's what she said' – wherein the phrase was reclaimed to what women have to say about being able to access services pertaining to their sexual, mental, physical, spiritual, emotional, reproductive health and not just something a woman would say at or around the time of sex. She showed various images shared online as a part of the campaign and how each of them brings to light issues faced by women while trying to access basic healthcare.

YC Shwetangi then came in to talk about the increasingly rampant commercialization of International Women's Day, March 8th. She talked about how we receive messages about special discounts and offers specially on this day. The purpose is to 'empower' women as consumers in exercising choices and spend 'because they are worth it' but what it actually is doing is promoting the capitalist patriarchy culture endorsing women as 'ideal' wives, mothers, homemakers and office goers who after work take care of family and still fit in the 'image of beautiful women' thus fostering double and triple discrimination against women. YC Shwetangi concluded by saying that though such celebrations do have symbolic appeal in raising the awareness about the women's issues yet, merely commemorating women's day in this fashion could not contribute to the elimination of patriarchal culture because endowing gifts on a particular day neither empowers women or draws attention to their accomplishments or does anything to reduce

struggles they face in their daily lives. Therefore, political and social mobilization around everyday issues by focusing on prejudices, stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes that have denied women of their constitutional or human rights is essential.

Session 17: Brainstorming on ways forward

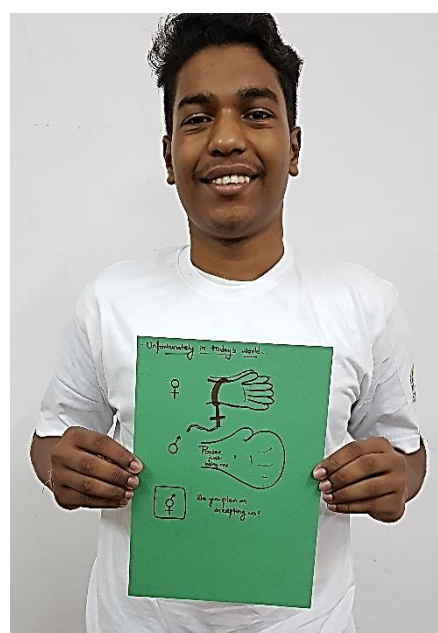
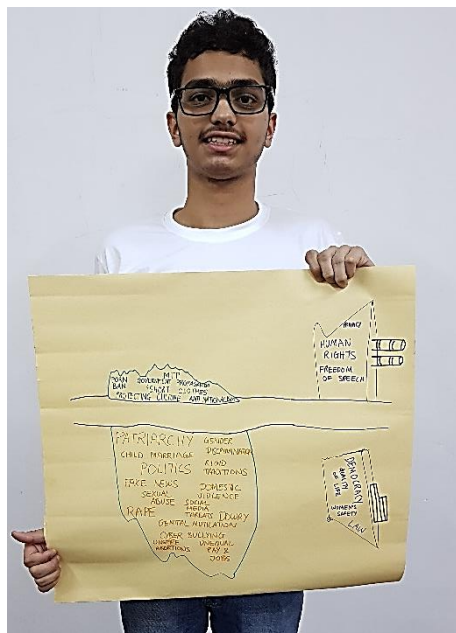
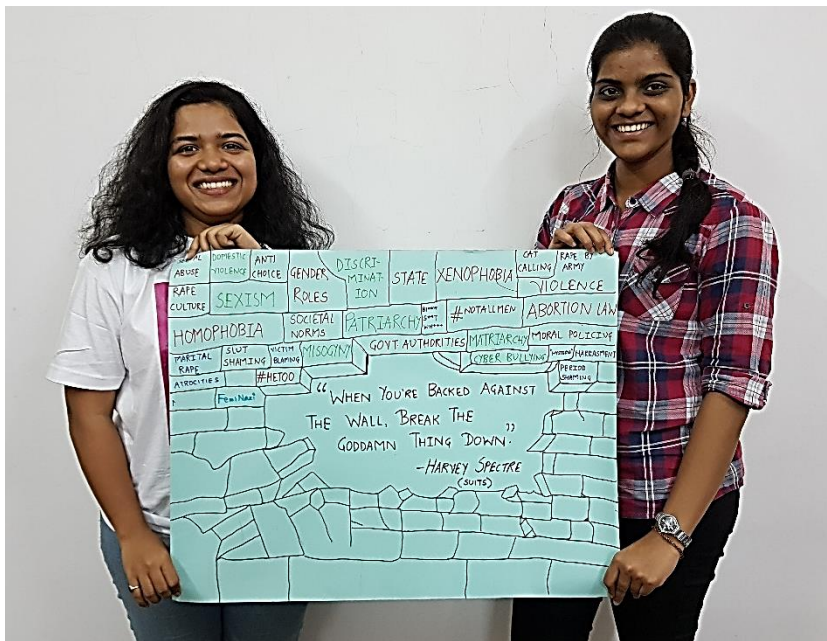
After a refreshing lunch break, YC Zainab and YC Shwetangi talked to the participants about the possible roads ahead. They discussed about the different ways in which they could continue their advocacy – through small grants, conducting more YAIs, abstracts, group discussions, symposia, hospital discussions, talks, social media and training more with ISAY and ASAP, thus, explaining their future role as a Youth Champion and Safe Abortion Advocate.

Creating Content

Coming towards a close, Dr. Suchitra Dalvie along with the other YCs, explained how the youth champions work, producing content which contains more than just originality and creativity; how these reflect upon effective communication and the impact over viewers. The participants were then given time to think out of the box.

The participants came up with some brilliant, witty, artistic and comical pieces to display. A group made a brilliant poster about names of all the feminists who have made important contributions to the Woman's Rights' Movement. Another group made a poster on the wall that needs to be broken and labelled its bricks with issues that women face in their everyday life.

Two YCs wrote fantastic pieces, one of them a classic rhyme, and the other one a 'shayari', both of which highlighted the struggles of a woman's life. A group of 5 people individually came up with satirical memes – a perfect blend of sarcasm with comedy, taking digital creativity to a new high.



NOT COOL



Women are weak

Women are delicate like a princess

Women are strong but men are stronger

Men just want power



Feminism supports women



Feminism gives equal importance to all genders



Abortion should be policed and given to only deserving women



Abortion should be every individuals right



Closing and Valedictory

To conclude the 3 day YAI, Dr. Suchitra handed out certificates to all the new Youth Champions and pictures were captured, smiles exchanged. It had been a different experience for everyone who had entered the hall for the first time, one to remember.



Annexure 1: Agenda

Friday 29th March 9-9:30am

Welcome, Introductions and Expectations
Suchitra Dalvie

Sessions

Day One – Friday 29th March 2019

Timings	Session	Learning objectives	Methodology
9:30-11:00am	<u>Session 1:</u> Understanding Gender and Patriarchy and its linkages with safe abortion issues	Objective: At the end of this session the participants should be able to: 1. Understand the difference between sex and gender, the social construct of gender and the role of patriarchy in perpetuating the gender inequalities. 2. Understand the cascade effects this has on the differential control over resources and decision-making powers especially with reference to healthcare systems	Manisha Gupte
11-11:30 am	Tea Break	Gender and sexism in mass media + FB/ social media	YC Riti Sanghvi and YC Shruti Jeyakumar
11:30-1.00 pm	<u>Session 2:</u> <u>Human rights, sexual and reproductive rights.</u>	Objective: At the end of this session the participants should be able to: 3. Know the definition of sexual and reproductive rights and the linkages with other rights in upholding them. 4. Understand the significance of the paradigm shift at the ICPD, from demographic goals to individual reproductive rights.	Manisha Gupte

		5. Obtain clarity on the rights based perspective towards safe abortion.	
1:00-1:45 pm	<u>Lunch</u>		
1:45-3:00 pm	<u>Session 2:</u> <u>Values</u> <u>Clarification and</u> <u>Case Studies</u>	Objective: At the end of this session the participants should be able to: 1. Appreciate the impact social 'values' can have on individual rights 2. Understand the nuances of policy interpretations being enabling or disabling 3. Counter statements made by anti-choice groups	Suchitra Dalvie Manisha Gupte YC Anushka Kale
3:00-3:30 pm		Power walk and intersectionalities	YC Raunaq Bir Chaudhry and YC Suyash Khubchandani
3:30-4:00 pm		Tea break	
3:30-6:00 pm	Film screening	(For discussion on day 2)	

Day Two – Saturday 30th March 2019

9:00 – 9:30am	Recap and review		
9:30 a.m. -10.30 am	<u>Session 4:</u> Abortion from the gender and rights perspective	Objective: At the end of this session the participants should be able to: 1. Understand how gender and patriarchy impact safe abortion access 2. Recognize the critical importance of abortion	Suchitra Dalvie Participatory session

		access for autonomy and agency 3. Clarify myths and misconceptions around these issues 4. Explain safe abortion techniques and related concerns in simple language to a layperson	
10.30 – 11.00 am		Role plays on contraception	Suchitra Dalvie
11.00-11.15am	Tea Break		
11.15 am -12.30 pm	<u>Session 5</u>	Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and access to healthcare services	Sumit Pawar
12.30-1:15 pm	<u>Session 6</u>	Gender and Patriarchy in Medicine – readings and discussion	Suchitra Dalvie
1.15 pm -2.00pm	Lunch		
2:00- 3:00 pm	<u>Session 7:</u> Abortion laws and policies	Objective: At the end of this session the participants should be able to: 1. Understand the implications of the law and its impact on services 2. Understand the barriers created by laws and practices to safe abortion services 3. Discuss positive amendments to country laws which would facilitate access. 4. PCPNDT , MTP, relevance, amendments	Shilpa Shroff YC Shweta Poduval

3:00-3:30 pm	<u>Session 8:</u> What does it mean to be prochoice?	Objective: At the end of this session the participants should be able to understand how to 1. Advocate for safe abortion as a choice and a right for women (with sex selection as an issue) 2. Communicate clear messages about pro- choice issues via social media and other channels 3. Being a change agent. 4. Role of Subversion	Suchitra Dalvie
3:30-4:00 pm	Tea Break		
4:00-5.00 pm	Assorted clips	Discussion	YC Shreeya Mashelkar

Day Three – Sunday 31st March 2019

9:00 – 9:30am	Recap and clarifications		
9.30-10:15 am	<u>Session 10:</u> <u>Interpersonal communication</u>	Objective: At the end of this session the participants should be able to: 1. Understand the communication loop and the importance of message and medium 2. Using social media for advocacy	Suchitra Dalvie YC Priyansh Nathani
10.15-11.00	<u>Session 11</u> <u>Internet Politics</u>	Objective: At the end of this session participants should understand: 1. Politics of the internet Identify and analyze good campaigns	Suchitra Dalvie YC Simran Garg

11.00-11.15 am		Tea break	
11.15-11.45 11.45-12.15	<u>Session 12</u> <u>Analysing recent campaigns</u>	Objective: At the end of the session participants should be able to understand how campaigns are created and how they evolve and what impact they can have.	Can one of you do an analysis of some of the recent ASAP photo campaigns as well as Me Too campaign and the backlash of Not All men and how it has opened up the space for this conversation?
12.15-1:00pm	<u>Session 13:</u> <u>Reviewing literature</u>	Group work and literature review-- Critique of articles and publications.	Suchitra Dalvie
1.00 pm -1.45	Lunch break		
1.45 pm -2.45 p.m.	<u>Session 14:</u> <u>Creating Content</u>	Objective: At the end of the session participants understand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What effective communication entails • How to produce content: curating and creating 	ISAY Team
2.45-3.00pm	<u>Session 15</u>	Brainstorming on ways forward/ advocacy planning	YC Shwetangi Shinde and YC Zainab Engineer
3.00 – 3.30pm		Tea break	
3.30-4.30 pm		Valedictory and closing	Suchitra Dalvie

Annexure 2: List of Participants

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