



Sensitization Session

ISAY- India Safe Abortion Youth Advocates



15th August, 2018

Mumbai

Youth Champion Ravi Chauhan, after attending the Sensitization Workshop and the Youth Advocacy Institute along with ISAY and ASAP, decided to conduct a session for a group of his friends (16 participants) sensitizing them around issues of gender patriarchy, sexuality and abortion. All the participants were non-medical students studying commerce majorly and has never been spoken to on such topics. The session was stretched over a period of 4 hours and the topics of discussion were;

1. Gender and Sex
2. Transgender individuals- problems faced by them, more sensitive approach, more acceptability
3. Sexism in daily life
4. Sexuality- stigma, curbing female sexuality, patriarchal concept of virginity
5. Sexual assault- victim blaming, examination of a rape victim
6. Contraception
7. Abortion- need for abortion, MTP, abortion needs/rights

The participants realized that a lot of their values were based on living in a patriarchal society. They understood that sexism has become unknowingly a part of our lives without much questioning. Further discussions were around how gender roles dictate the decisions we make in terms of our jobs, family and behavior. On initially conversing with them he realized a lot of the participants were unaware of the term contraception which provoked the discussion around various aspects of contraception for eg. availability, affordability, right to information regarding a method and the responsibility (often assumed to be a woman's). Later, the discussion covered the facts and politics around abortion, barriers women tend to face to seek an abortion and so on. After the sensitization session, the participants were able to acknowledge the gravity of the situation and were looking forward to engage themselves more around discussions on topics of SRHR.

