



Youth Advocacy Institute in Bangladesh
22nd-24th October, 2018

REPORT

Organised by

Asia Safe Abortion Partnership and Youth
Advocacy Institute for Development

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Acronyms:

ASAP: Asia Safe Abortion Partnership

CAN: Country Advocacy Network

MR: Menstrual Regulation

MRM: Menstrual Regulation with Medication

SRHR: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

WHO: World Health Organisation

YAI: Youth Advocacy Institute

YouthAID: Youth Advocacy Institute for Development

Introduction:

Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP) and its Country Advocacy Network (CAN) in Bangladesh, Youth Advocacy Institute for Development (YouthAID) organised the first Youth Advocacy Institute (YAI) in Dhaka, Bangladesh. 18 youth participants from different NGOs in working on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) issue participated the workshop.

The three days' workshop was organised to clarify the concepts around unsafe abortion, gender, sex and sexuality and enhance the understanding of different effective communication channels in affecting change in behavior and attitude towards sensitive topics in SRHR.

The aim of the workshop was to sensitize and train young people from Bangladesh on these issues so that they can facilitate the ongoing advocacy work of ASAP and YouthAID on accessing to safe abortion services in Bangladesh.

Dr. Suchitra Kale Dalvie, Co-Founder and Coordinator of ASAP, Dr. Manisha Gupte, the Co-founder of MASUM and Anika Binte Habib, Youth Champion of ASAP and Coordinator of YouthAID facilitated the workshop.

Day 1:

The day 1 started with the introduction of the participants. Dr. Dalvie welcomed the participants and shared the objectives of the workshop. Participants shared their expectations from the workshop and some of these are highlighted below:

1. Clear understanding on sexuality and gender
2. Clear understanding on safe abortion
3. Clear understanding on sexual rights

After that, Dr. Manisha Gupte started her session on gender and patriarchy. She explained the definition of gender and sex and how gender is a social construct which leads to unequal opportunity for women and sexual minority groups. She also clarify the concept of patriarchy and gender biases which is very much rooted to our daily life.

In this session, she explained the politics associated with gender and the deep rooted cause of genderism which is used for controlling the property distribution and power of male in the society. She explained the basis of patriarchy; the concept of oppressing an individual based on their ideology which is considered "perfect".

She says, "Motherhood is a necessity, but fatherhood is uncertain".

This means, a man must oppress and control woman in order to be certain that it's his child. She added that, how this has domino effect on the control over different resources and health care services.



After this session, Anika introduced the concept of gender stereotyping and sexism in mass media to the participants. She explained how media uses gender stereotyping which leads to sexism. She explained the harmful factors of gender stereotyping and how women are presented in the media. She showed some TV commercials and bill board advertisements to the participants and discussed the factors how media manipulates the messages which evoke the social life.

Following to her discussion, Dr. Gupte clarified the concept of human rights and sexual and reproductive rights. She explained the definition of sexual and reproductive rights and clarified its vital linkage with human rights. She discussed in detail about the paradigm shift of human rights at the ICPD and how it recognized individual's reproductive rights.



She later introduced the concept of rights based approach versus needs based approach to the participants. She stressed that, we must support and recognize the right based approach.

After this session, Dr. Dalvie and Dr. Gupte conducted the value clarification session. The aim of the session was to help participants understand the impact that 'social value' can have on individual rights. The statements helped participants to understand how the idea of right and wrong are based on the social context.



Following this session, Dr. Dalvie facilitated the activity called Powerwalk. The participants were assigned with different characters and the facilitator read statements and questions. This session helped participants to realise how society discriminates against individuals based on their social status, age, sex and so on and how our various identities can make it difficult to access resources which are our right.

DAY 2:

The day 2 started with recap and review of the day 1 and what was that one thing they learnt.

Many of them mentioned, they liked the session on right based approach and need based approach as the concept was very new to them. They also found the value clarifications session important and interesting as it was challenging their ideas of right and wrong based on their social context. Gender and mass media was also interesting for them as it helped them to realise how media uses gender stereotyping that leads to unequal opportunities for women and girls.

The first session of the day was basic updates on reproduction, contraception and safe abortion. Dr. Dalvie clarified the technical details of menstruation, conception, contraception and abortion.



Participants were asked to draw male and female reproductive systems.

Dr. Dalvie then showed them the accurate drawing and explained the functionalities. Firstly, she explained the different hormonal processes and different phases of menstrual cycle. She also explained how pregnancy occurs. After that, participants discussed different contraceptive methods. She clarified different myths around conception and contraception. Participants shared that they knew many myths

around oral pills and other long term birth control methods such as men in Bangladesh think vasectomy can lead to impotency.

Dr. Dalvie explained how sex is used to prove power in the society and how men control women. Participants also shared different myths around abortion. Dr. Dalvie helped the participants realise why women need to terminate unwanted pregnancies.

She discussed that it is important to understand why unwanted pregnancy occurs and she shared different reasons such as unsafe sex, contraception failure, rape and so on.



She discussed different consequences of unsafe abortion.

Later, she shared two methods of safe abortions which are Manual Vacuum Aspiration and Medical Abortion in the first trimester.

These two methods are also used in Bangladesh. We then discussed Menstrual Regulation with Medication (MRM) which is basically using Mifepristone- which is anti-progesterone and Misoprostol. She also shared that World Health Organisation (WHO) has included Misoprostol on the essential drug list in every country as it serves different medical purposes such as post-partum hemorrhage.



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A group activity was followed by this session. Participants were divided into three groups and was told to play the role of technical advisory team who would choose one woman who should get the safe and legal abortion.

Participants shared the final candidate and why she should get the abortion. The discussion on who should get the safe abortion helped the participants to realise that there is a fine line between right based approach and need based approach and these decisions are not easy to make.

After that, some short videos were shown to the participants.

After the lunch break, Dr. Dalvie shared abortion laws and policies in Asia. She discussed the MR policy in Bangladesh and abortion policy in India, Nepal, Philippines and so on. She mentioned that, countries from South and South East Asia criminalizes medical abortion as these countries inherit penal codes from colonisers- British, Spanish and Dutch. She told that many countries in Asia allow women to get safe abortion only to save the life of women only.

She also discussed positive laws which allow women to get safe abortion.

After that, participants were divided into three groups and were asked to read some literatures. Later they discussed those literatures.

Anika facilitated the session on interpersonal communication. The objective of the session was to understand different learning style for communications and the importance of message and medium.

She discussed the definition of communications and communications loop. In her session, she also shared three different learning styles- visual, aural and kinesthetic. She said that it is important to understand different learning styles of the targeted audience. Different mediums and messages should be used for the target audience based on their learning capacity.

DAY 3:

The last day of the workshop started with the recap and review. Participants shared one thing that they learnt from the second day.

They mentioned they learned a lot from the session on reproduction, contraception and safe abortion. They said that the session clarified the misconception related to contraception and safe abortion. They also mentioned the group activity also helped them to realise every woman should have the right to accessing the safe abortion services. Abortion laws and policies in Asia was also helpful for them as they did not know about this before. They mentioned that, different learning style was new for them and it would help them to design more effective communications tools for their advocacy work.

After the recap, Dr. Dalvie conducted the session on “What does it mean to be pro-choice?” She explained what means to be pro-choice and clarified that there is no such thing pro-life vs. pro-choice because pro-choice people are pro-life too as they are pro-life for the women. In her discussion, she

clarified the reason why you work together as the change agent and how we can do it effectively. She discussed the advocacy cycle and how it works. She explained that once we identify the problem, we need to gather evidence and information, make actions and evaluate and this continues. For our advocacy work, it is important to lobby to the decision makers to bring changes in the policy. We need to advocate for safe abortion as right of the women.

She also talked about subversion- the technique of using what is already there like literatures, films and so on to bring some important issues and how to deal with them. She discussed how we can use subversion- by reversing the established socially constructed values and beliefs.

She also spoke about the importance of facts and figures when we do our advocacy work.

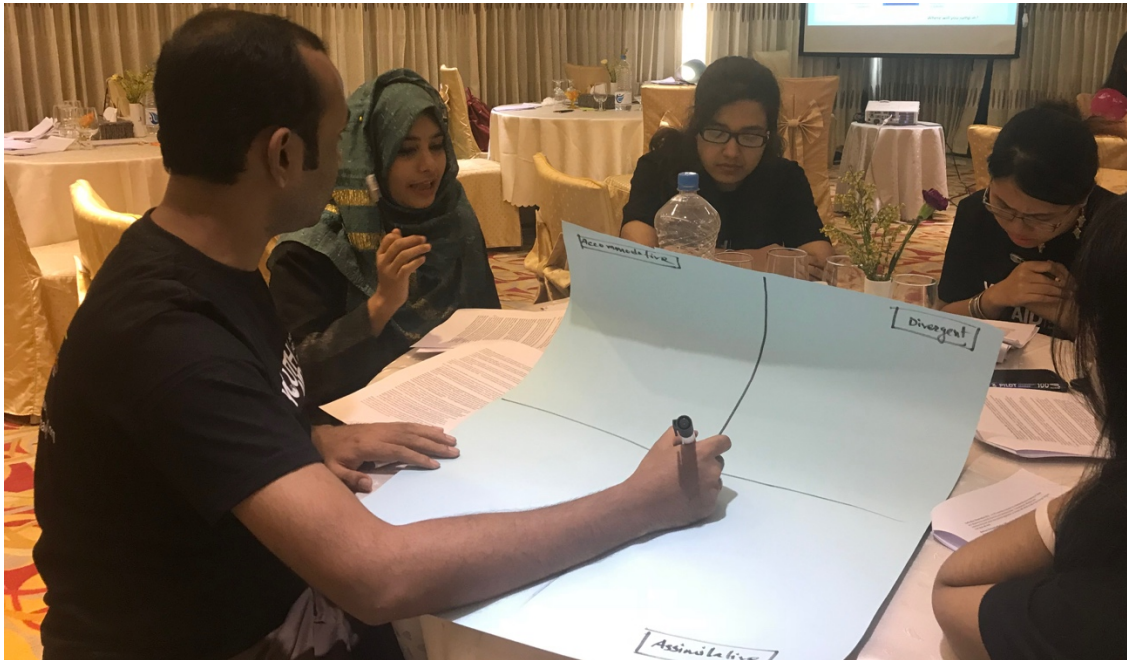
She also showed some videos such as America War Song, George Carlin's pro-choice videos where very powerful messages are shared in a funny way.

After this session, Anika conducted the session on different learning styles in designing communication tools. She started her session with a self-assessment where participants identified their learning style profile. Then she explained that learning is the process whereby knowledge is created through the transformation of experience. There are four processes of learning which are watching, thinking, feeling and doing.

Effective learning is seen when a person progresses through a cycle of four stages:

- (1) having a concrete experience followed by
- (2) observation of and reflection on that experience which leads to
- (3) the formation of abstract concepts (analysis) and generalisations (conclusions) which are then
- (4) used to test hypothesis in future situations, resulting in new experiences.

She shared the concept of concrete experience, reflective observation, abstract conceptualisation and active experimentation. Then she discussed that, when we do our advocacy work, there are different types of advocacy tools that should be designed based on the stakeholders we intended to reach out to and convey our message. Therefore, it is important to analyse the stakeholders and identify what kind of tools can be developed. After the discussion, participants were divided into three groups and given to identify different advocacy tools for different stakeholders.



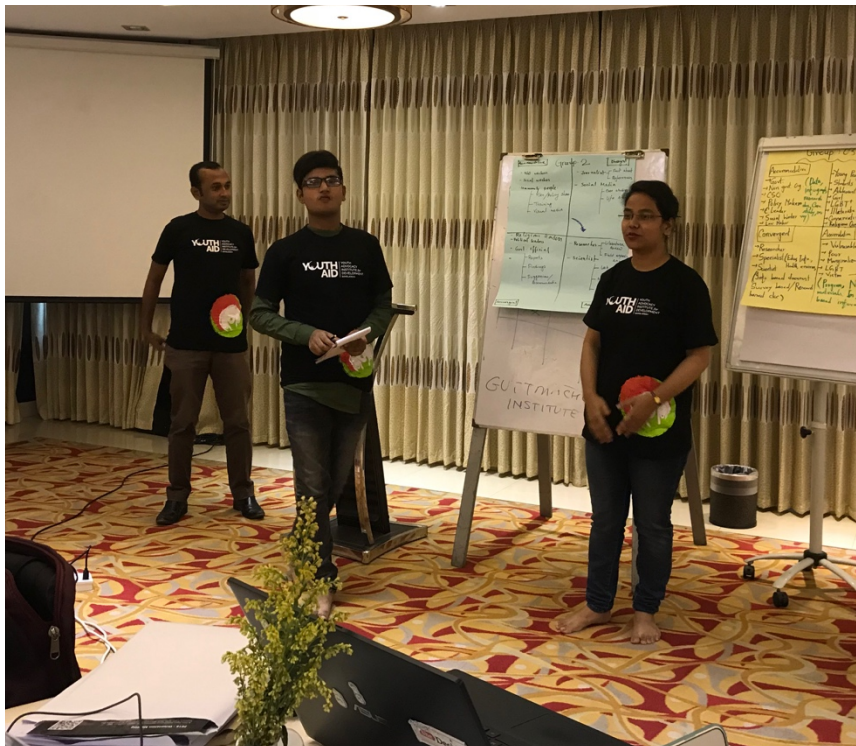
After her session, Zubayer Zakir Khan, Communications Specialist from RedOrange took the session on how to curate and create content. He discussed that before creating content, it is important to identify the what we want to achieve and who is the target audience. He shared different types of

communications tools which can be used for creating content. Later, he divided participants in 6 groups and asked them to create content for their advocacy work on safe abortion rights in Bangladesh.



6 groups came up with 6 different communication tools.

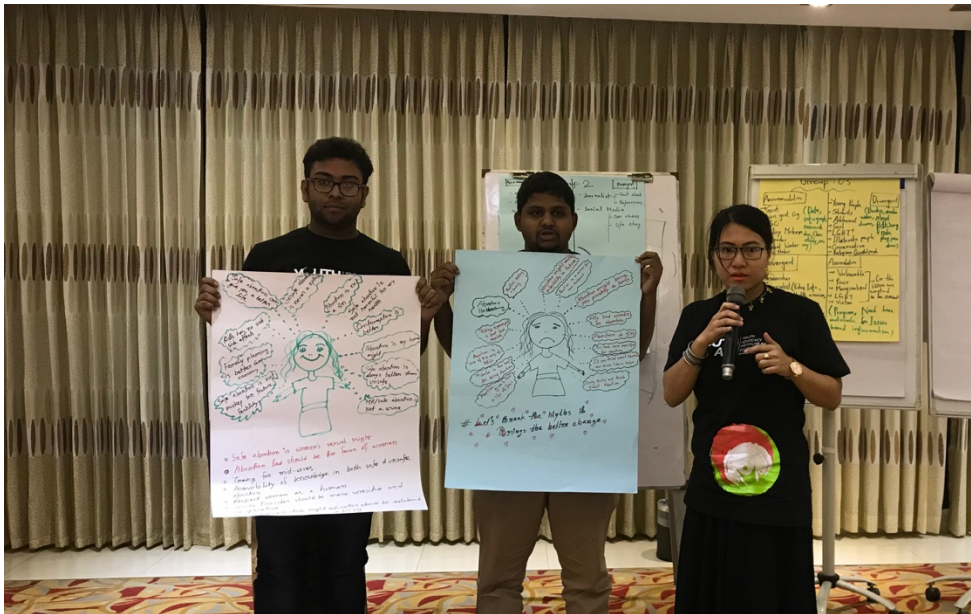
Group one played a drama which focused on how same sex men are trapped in marriage with women as their sexual orientation and love for men will never be accepted.



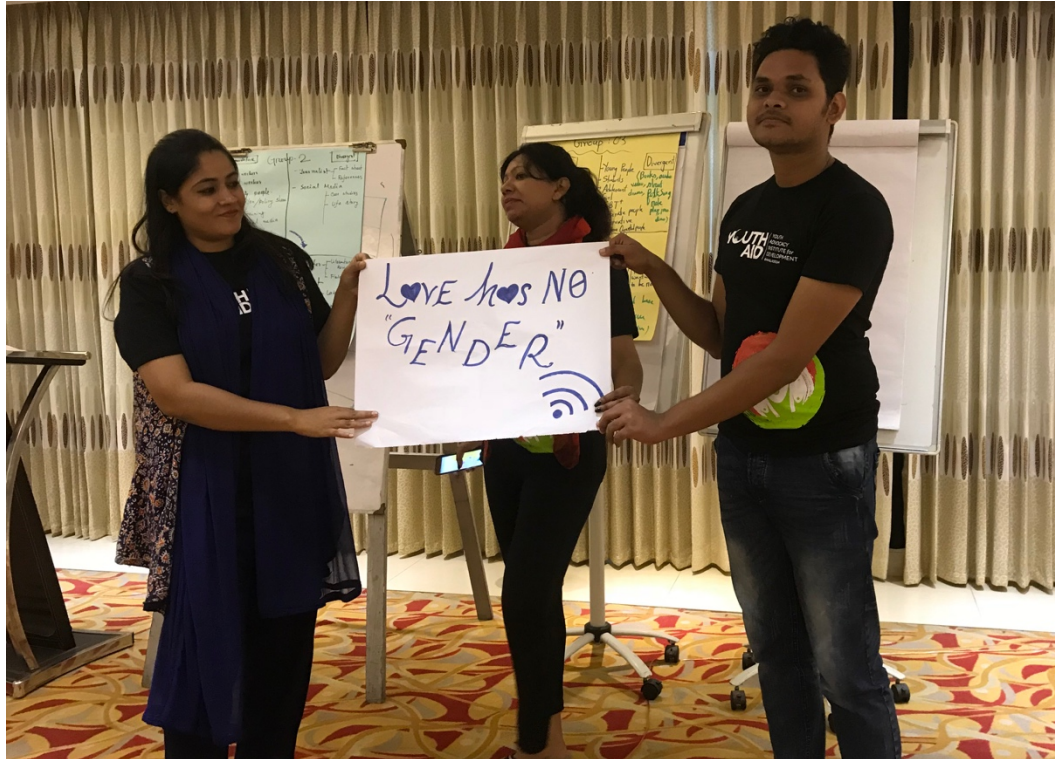
Group two shared a poem that talked about how motherhood is important to the society and how society fails to recognise women's choice.



Group three did a poster presentation and busted the myths of safe abortion.



Group four created a small video where it highlighted the rights of same sex couple and said that love has no gender.



Group five also played a drama which highlighted the need of safe MR of unmarried girls/women and the importance of right information.

Group six presented a power-point presentation where they talked about the MR rights in Bangladesh.



After the group presentation Dr. Dalvie explained the advocacy work that ASAP has been doing and how the youth champions can foster the advocacy effort in the country.

After that, Dr. Dalvie thanked everyone and concluded the three days workshops with the certificate ceremony.

Annex 1:



Asia Safe Abortion Partnership

The Safe Abortion Advocacy Institute for Youth Champions

Dates: 22nd – 24th OCT, 2018

Venue: Bengal Blueberry Hotel

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 ongoing basis through the online network as well as through participation in relevant meetings.

Agenda

Day one 9-9:30am

Welcome, Introductions and Expectations

Suchitra Dalvie, Anika Binte Habib

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
11:00-11:30 am	Tea Break		
11.30-12 noon		Gender and sexism in mass media + FB/ social media	Anika Binte Habib
12-1 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.	Manisha Gupte

		<p>4. Understand the significance of the paradigm shift at the ICPD, from demographic goals to individual reproductive rights.</p> <p>5. Obtain clarity on the rights based perspective towards safe abortion.</p>	
1:00-2:00 pm	<u>Lunch</u>		
2-3.30 pm	<p><u>Session 2:</u></p> <p><u>Values</u></p> <p><u>Clarification and</u></p> <p><u>Case Studies</u></p>	<p>Objective: At the end of this session the participants should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>Suchitra Dalvie & Manisha Gupte</p>
4.00-4:30 pm		Tea break	
4.30-5:00 pm		Power Walk and Intersectionalities	YC
5:00 – 7:00 pm		<p>Film screening</p> <p>Dirty Dancing</p>	

Day Two

9:00 – 9:30 am	Recap and review		
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9:30 a.m. -11:00 am	<u>Session 4:</u> Basic updates on reproduction, contraception, safe abortion.	Objective: At the end of this session the participants should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand how pregnancy occurs and how it can be prevented Clarify myths and misconceptions around these issues <p>Explain safe abortion techniques and related concerns in simple language to a layperson</p>	Suchitra Dalvie Participatory session
11.00-11.15am	Tea Break		
11.15-12:00 pm	<u>Session 5</u>	Role plays on contraception	Suchitra Dalvie
12:00 – 1:00 pm	<u>Session 6</u>	Short clips and discussion	Suchitra Dalvie
1:00 - 1.45 pm	Lunch		
1.45- 3:00 pm	<u>Session 7:</u> Abortion laws and policies	Objective: At the end of this session the participants should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the implications of the law and its impact on services Understand the barriers created by laws and practices to safe abortion services Discuss positive amendments to country laws which would facilitate access. PCPNDT, MTP, relevance, amendments 	Suchitra Dalvie
3:00 - 3.30 pm	<u>Session 8</u>		Suchitra Dalvie

		Group work and literature review--Critique of articles and publications.	
3.30 - 4:00 pm	Tea Break		
4:00 - 4:45 pm	<u>Session 10:</u> Interpersonal communication	Objective: At the end of this session the participants should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding learning style for communication • Understand the communication loop and the importance of message and medium 	Anika Binte Habib

Day Three

9:00 – 9:30 am	Recap and clarifications		
9:30 - 10:15 am	<u>Session 10:</u> What does it mean to be prochoice?	Objective: At the end of this session the participants should be able to understand how to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for safe abortion as a choice and a right for women (with sex selection as an issue) • Communicate clear messages about pro-choice issues via social media and other channels • Being a change agent. • Role of Subversion 	Suchitra Dalvie
10.15 - 11.00 am	<u>Session 11</u> <u>Internet Politics</u>	Objective: At the end of this session participants should understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Politics of the internet Identify and analyze good campaigns	Anika Binte Habib

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using social media for advocacy 	
11.00 - 11.15 am		Tea break	
11:15 – 12:15 pm	<u>Learning Styles in designing communication tools</u>	The Kolb learning style “Kolb's experiential learning theory works on two levels: a four-stage cycle of learning and four separate learning styles.”	Anika Binte Habib
12:15 – 1:00 pm		Exercise and group work	Anika Binte Habib
1.00 -1.45 pm	Lunch break		
1.45 -2.45 pm	<u>Session 14: Creating Content</u>	<p>Objective: At the end of the session participants understand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What effective communication entails How to produce content: curating and creating 	Zubayer Zakir Khan
2.45 - 3.30pm		Sharing content and feedback	
3.30 – 4:00 pm		Tea break	
4:00 - 4.30 pm		Brainstorming on ways forward/ advocacy planning	Suchitra Dalvie
4.30 – 5:00 pm		Valedictory and closing	Suchitra Dalvie