



Vietnam Youth Action For Choice



QUARTER 2 VYAC 2019 REPORT

April - June 2019



1. The 2nd Empowerment Festival on SRHR, April 28th, Hoa Binh province

Link to a video of the 2nd Empowerment Festival: <https://tinyurl.com/2ndFest-video-VYAC>

Link to pictures of the 2nd Empowerment Festival: <https://tinyurl.com/2ndFest-album-VYAC>



In the last week of April, VYAC was with the Junior High School in Xuat Hoa, Hoa Binh province successfully organized the 2nd EmpowerFest on SRHR. The festival attracted more than 250 audiences including students, parents and local officials. By using game with ball as a tool to engage communities, especially to encourage female youth to participate in sport, as well as promoting the involvement of young male in discussing and understanding the knowledge about Gender and Sexual Health and Rights. VYAC still retained the tradition of organizing the booths of knowledge and skill, members of VYAC provided students with knowledge of gender equality, puberty, contraception, and rights. In addition, with the present of Dr. Phan Bich Thuy, parents also had a safe and inclusive space to discuss these interesting topics.

After participating in the festival, 76.7% students said that they knew about the sexual and reproductive rights, compared to 27.3% of students did not know about it before the festival. The number of students knew that condoms can prevent STIs and unwanted pregnancy increased from 15.6% to 73.3%. The percentage of students had accurate knowledge on gender and sex rose significantly from 3.9% to 60% after the festival.

Most of the participants responded that they were interested in the festival. 75% of students responded that they would participate in these kind of activities in the future and more than 60% of students said that they would introduce this activity to their friends and family. Especially, some

parents said that they were very inspired by Dr. Phan Bich Thuy and they were equipped with some knowledge and skills on how to protect their children from sexual abuse, and knew how to communicate with their children about sexual and reproductive health.

2. Birth control - awareness campaign on International Day of Action for Women's Health, May 28



Women's Health Matters

VYAC shared accurate information about birth control methods and options to raise public awareness in order to celebrate May 28. Details, how to use, side effects, and FAQs of all 18 contraceptive methods were given clearly to ensure the precise understanding. VYAC also emphasized that even if people use contraception perfectly, they still can get pregnant due to its effectiveness, even female sterilization, or "[getting your tubes tied,](#)" is more than 99% effective but still not perfect. This aimed to bust the abortion myth that using contraception correctly will not lead to pregnancy and abortion. In addition, we have supported 11 people who contacted VYAC via Facebook Page to get more information about the availability and effectiveness of those methods based on Vietnam's context.

3. Understanding about Abortion stigma and its impacts on women's health and well being



Putting the focus on reproductive rights, it is vital to remind audiences of VYAC Facebook's Fan page about the abortion's right. On 26th June 2019, VYAC has drawn the attention to abortion stigma, one of the obstacles and dilemmas for women to get a safe and legal abortion service globally. A collective album including four thematic posts on this issue has been released in between 26th June to 3rd July. The posts cover the literature review on how abortion stigma impacts on women's physical health, mental health and economic hardship with up-to-date academic research papers worldwide.

The posts claim the perspective in which the health impacts among women who have abortion are gradually caused by the stigma against women whose abortion is wanted and also health professionals who provide the services while abortion itself is commonly seen as a reason

to poor women' health and well-being. Abortion stigma is significantly associated to physical health issues from the mild level of pain to the mortality risks due to unsafe abortion. Besides, it can remain poor situation of women's mental health from the pre to post- abortion terms, cause more distress, anxious feeling, and isolation particularly when they have no support from society. Finally, stigma surrounding abortion potentially makes women burden an economic hardship, especially among women living in low-income areas. Overall, VYAC recommends a collective action to reduce abortion stigma in community as well as a better legal framework on the access to safe abortion services for women who are seeking for support including rights-based counselling and mental health services.

In two weeks after 7th July, results about Facebook engagement were collected and it showed a gradual number of people reacting to VYAC's posts. In terms of Facebook engagement data, the average reach indicator for one post is approximately 1300, outstandingly the post on abortion stigma and its impacts on mental health achieved 1900 reaches. The post on abortion stigma definition got 72 likes, the rest three posts on its impacts on women's physical health, mental health and economic hardship got 45, 76, 41 likes, respectively.