



INTERNATIONAL SAFE ABORTION DAY

28th Sep 2019

Report by ARPAN

ORGANISED BY

Society For “Advancement Of Rural People And Natural Resources” (ARPAN)
Near Govt. Primary School, Dobhetta - (Nangal)
Distt. Ropar (Pb.) 140124.

SUPPORTED BY COMMONHEALTH

INFORMATION ABOUT ORGANISATION

“ARPAN” is a Social Service Society established in 1994 with the aim of rural development people especially the weaker section of the society who till today living in sub human conditions due to the lack of knowledge awareness, and sources etc. it is a non-profit making non-political organization registered under Societies Registration Act 1860 on 24th March 1995. “ARPAN” has initiated grass root development work among the most marginalized sections of the community with an emphasis on Dalits, Women and Children etc. Over the years, the organization has been trying to move from a need based approach to a rights based one. “ARPAN” has done some pioneering work from time to time to achieve the objectives of Organization.

ABORTION IN INDIA

Abortion in India is legal in certain circumstances. It can be performed on various grounds until 20 weeks of pregnancy. In exceptional cases, a court may allow a termination after 20 weeks. When a woman gets a pregnancy terminated voluntarily from a service provider, it is called induced abortion. Spontaneous abortion is when the process of abortion starts on its own without any intervention. In common language, this is also known as miscarriage. Till 2017, there was a dichotomous classification of abortion as safe and unsafe. Unsafe abortion was defined by WHO as "a procedure for termination of a pregnancy done by an individual who does not have the necessary training or in an environment not conforming to minimal medical standards." However, with abortion technology now becoming safer, this has been replaced by a three tier classification of safe, less safe, and least safe permitting a more nuanced description of the spectrum of varying situations that constitute unsafe abortion and the increasingly widespread substitution of dangerous, invasive methods with use of misoprostol outside the formal health system.

- Safe abortion: provided by health-care workers and with methods recommended by WHO.
- Less-safe abortion: done by trained providers using non-recommended methods or using a safe method (e.g. misoprostol) but without adequate information or support from a trained individual.
- Least-safe abortion: done by a trained provider using dangerous, invasive methods.

Comprehensive Abortion Care (CAC), a term "rooted in the belief that women must be able to access high-quality, affordable abortion care in the communities where they live and work", was first introduced in India by Ipas in 2000. The concept of CAC encompasses care through the entire period from conception to post abortion care and includes pain management.

Globally, 56 million abortions take place every year. In South and Central Asia, an estimated 16 million abortions took place between 2010 and 2014, while 13 million abortions occurred in Eastern Asia alone. There is significant variance in the estimates for the number of abortions reported and the total number of estimated abortions taking place in India. According to HMIS reports, the total number of spontaneous/induced abortions that took place in India in 2016-17 was 970436, in 2015-16 was 901781, in 2014-15 was 901839, and in 2013-14 was 790587. Ten women reportedly die due to unsafe abortions every day in India. The data, which is dynamic in nature, can be accessed on the Health Management Information System (HMIS) portal here. The Guttmacher

Institute, New York, International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai and Population Council, New Delhi conducted the first study in India to estimate the incidence of abortion. The results from this study were published in Lancet Global Health journal in December 2017 in the form of a paper titled 'The incidence of abortion and unintended pregnancy in India, 2015'. This study estimates that 15.6 million abortions took place in India in 2015. 3.4 million (22%) of these took place in health facilities, 11.5 million (73%) were done through medical methods outside facilities, and 5% are expected to have been done through other methods. The study further found the abortion rate at 47 abortions per 1000 women aged 15-49 years. The study highlights the need for strengthening public health system to provide abortion service delivery. This would include ensuring availability of trained providers, including non-allopathic providers by amending the MTP Act and expanding the provider base as well as streamlining availability of drugs and supplies. Another strategy is to streamline the process of approving private-sector facilities to provide CAC services and strengthening counseling and post-abortion contraception services in efforts to strengthen quality of care for women seeking CAC services. Prior to this study, the last available estimate for incidence of abortion at 6.4 million abortions per year in India was from the 'Abortion Assessment Project – India'. This was a multicentre study of 380 abortion facilities (of which 285 were private) carried out across six States. The study found that "on average there were four formal abortion facilities (medically qualified though not necessarily certified to carry out abortions) per 100,000 population in India and an average of 1.2 providers per facility". Out of the total formal abortion providers, 55% were gynecologists and 64% of the facilities had at least one female provider. The study further found that only 31% of the reasons for seeking abortion by women were within grounds permitted under the MTP Act, the other reasons being unwanted pregnancy, economic reasons and unwanted sex of the fetus. It is estimated that 15.6 million abortions take place in India every year. A significant proportion of these are expected to be unsafe. Unsafe abortion is the third largest cause of maternal mortality leading to death of 10 women each day and thousands more facing morbidities. There is a need to strengthen women's access to CAC services and preventing deaths and disabilities faced by them. The last large-scale study on induced abortion in India was conducted in 2002 as part of the Abortion Assessment Project. The studies as part of this project estimated 6.4 million abortions annually in India.

INTERNATIONAL SAFE ABORTION DAY-2019

28 September is International Safe Abortion Day. The day was first celebrated as a day of action for decriminalization of abortion in Latin America and the Caribbean in 1990 by the Campana 28 September. In 2011, the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR) declared 28 September as an international day. The date was chosen to commemorate the passing of the Law of Free Birth passed by the Brazilian parliament in September 28, 1871. This law was a key legal reform intended to provide freedom for the children of enslaved people in Brazil at the time. The day's name was changed to International Safe Abortion Day in 2015, that year 83 activities were organised in 47 countries by national, regional and international NGOs and activists. 2016 was the biggest International Safe Abortion Day ever celebrated. In 2018, September 28 marked a mobilization in Argentina against the cuts made to the Ministry of Health by the conservative government. These cuts had substantial impacts on women's welfare and access to abortions in the country.

For 2019, Theme was: "Abortion is healthcare" and My Abortion My Health because unintended and unwanted pregnancy and abortion are part of women's lives: 25% of all pregnancies worldwide ended in an induced abortion, 4.7-13.2% of maternal deaths are attributable to unsafe abortion, most in the poorest countries 25 million abortions each year are unsafe, and 7 million women and girls end

up in hospital needing treatment for complications of unsafe abortions (WHO data, 2018). Almost all complications and deaths from unsafe abortion could be prevented if safe abortion were accessible, affordable and available from the healthcare services in our countries the means, the technology and skills all exist and can be provided at very low cost if the will exists to provide them.

The fact is, abortion is an essential part of women's sexual and reproductive lives and health and is essential to women's right to bodily autonomy. And the human right to life and to health can only be achieved for women and girls if they have access to safe abortion if and when they need it. International context theme "Abortion is healthcare" is especially appropriate this year because of three upcoming international meetings, which are addressing healthcare, sustainable development and sexual and reproductive health and reproduction rights:

- Universal Health Coverage, 23 September 2019, during the United Nations General Assembly meeting, New York City – Theme: "Moving Together to Build a Healthier World".
- Sustainable Development Goals, 24-25 September 2019, during the United Nations General Assembly meeting, New York City – Theme: "Review progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)".
- ICPD+25, 12-14 November 2019, Nairobi, convened by the Government of Kenya, the Government of Denmark and UNFPA – Theme: "Accelerating the Promise". Call to Action We call on all our leaders to support the goals outlined for these three conferences. To reject any push-back on sexual and reproductive health and rights. And to make sure that the right to safe abortion as health care is endorsed and upheld – 25 years after ICPD agreed that unsafe abortion was a serious public health problem, because it still is.

PROGRAMME AND ACTIVITIES

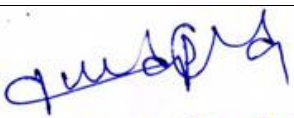
ARPAN celebrated International Safe Abortion Day on 30th September with help of CommonHealth in Collaboration with BBMB Canal Hospital Nangal Distt. Rupnagar Punjab in MPHWS (Female) training School Nangal Distt. Rupnagar Punjab. About 85 persons including Health workers from different villages and areas attend this programme. In this programme Head and PMO of BBMB Canal Hospital Dr. Manjit Singh was Chief Guest and Madam Kailash Thakur Social Worker Member Juvenile Justice Board was special guest. In this Programme different Resource Persons delivered the lectures and provide information about women Reproductive Health Rights, MTP, Abortions, in detail. Madam Ritika Health Worker ARPAN told about the objective of this programme in detail. She told about the Health problems of women in area. Madam Monika Health worker ARPAN told about the activities being run by ARPAN for Women and Adolescent Health in area. Madam Shivani Health worker ARPAN told about the Problems of Reproductive Health of Women in Area. Madam Neelam Saithi Principal Tutor MPHWS (Female) Training School told about the MTP included in the syllabus of MPHWS (Female) Training. Parminder Sandhu Social Worker told about the legal aspects of Abortion. Mr. Kuldip Chand Director ARPAN share the information about the provisions of Abortion in MTP. He also told about some important orders of different courts about abortion of pregnancies. He share information about abortion in detail through different slides on Projector. He share data about abortions with participants. Madam Kailash Thakur Social Worker member Juvenile Justice Board told about problems phasing for taking services of MTP specially to Rural women and Girls. Dr. Manjit Singh

told about the provisions of MTP and PCPNDT in detail. Mandeep Kaur and Group present short play about Reproductive Health Rights of Women.

ARPAN is thankful to Punjab CommonHealth for their support and help for organizing the programme about International Safe abortion Day-2019 in this area. We are thankful to Dr. Manjit Singh Head and PMO BBMB Hospital Nangal for their support and coordination. We are also thankful to Madam Neelam Saithi and Staff of MPHWS (Female) Training School Nangal for cooperation. We are also thankful to the participants who participated in this programme. We are also thankful to the different Resource Persons who spare time for this programme and delivered lectures in this programme and provide knowledge and information about Abortion to participants.

List of Speakers and Resource Persons

SR. No.	Name	Field/Organisation
1.	Dr. Manjit Singh	Doctor and Head of BBMB Hospital
2.	Madam Neelam Saithi	Principal Tutor MPHWS (Female) Training School
3.	Madam Kailash Thakur	Social Worker Member Juvenile Justice Board Punjab
4.	Parminder Sandhu	Social Worker AG Rotary Club
5.	Kuldip Chand	Director ARPAN, Member CommonHealth, Member Child Welfare Committee Punjab
6.	Madam Ritika	ANM and Health Worker ARPAN
7.	Madam Monika	ANM and Health Worker ARPAN
8.	Madam Shivani	ANM and Health Worker ARPAN
	Mandeep Kaur, Narinder, Jaswinder, Sangita, Arshdeep, Deepika, Priya, Bhawna, Kanchan Team	Short Play about Women Reproductive Health


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KULDIP CHAND
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