



# **International Safe Abortion Day workshop**

28<sup>th</sup> September 2019

## **Report**

Organized by:

Lok Chetna Vikas Kendra  
Nawada, Bihar

Supported by:  
CommonHealth

**Introduction:**

**Lok Chetna Vikas Kendra** [LCVK] has been a CommonHealth institutional member since its inception and is been associated with CommonHealth in its work on safe abortion. In 2018, LCVK in partnership with **CommonHealth** carried out the RFSU-ARROW supported baseline research study on claiming the Right to Safe Abortion at Nawada District of Bihar.

LCVK provided support during the data collection for this study. Data on MTP for Nawada district, interviews with healthcare providers at all levels of health system, interviews with women in the community; CSO leaders and others were facilitated /organized successfully.

As part of the RFSU project, CommonHealth supported LCVK to organize one day awareness programme with SHG leaders, and PRI members on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2019 which is celebrated as an “**International Safe Abortion day**” at Nawada Bihar. One of the highlight of the programme included a quiz on Safe Abortion for the participants for awareness and dissemination of knowledge on safe abortion.

**Objective and strategy of intervention:**

To increase awareness on safe abortion among the following groups in Nawada District of Bihar.

- 1] SHG leaders
- 2] Anganwadi workers
- 3] ASHAs or grass-root social workers
- 4] PRI members

**Targeted geographical area & population:**

Targeted geographical area included Nawada District of Bihar.

**Groundwork:**

SHG leaders from different villages of Nawada, Hasua and Akabarpur block of Nawada district, PRI members and social community workers were invited to attend International Safe Abortion day Workshop at Nawada, Bihar on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

Experts from both public and private healthcare were invited as resource persons and chief guests for the event. It included Civil Surgeon of Nawada, doctors of Sadar Hospital other than private healthcare providers.

Following doctors showed interest and gave their consent to attend the event:

S.No	Name and designation	Facility
1	<b>Dr. Vimal Prasad Singh</b> , M.O. & DS	Sadar Hospital, Nawada
2	<b>Dr. Neelam Kumari</b> , Chief Guest, MO, MTP Trainer and Provider	Sadar Hospital, Nawada
3	<b>Dr. Suniti Kumar</b> MD, ex MO & Private practioner	Nawada

**International Safe Abortion day Workshop** was organized on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at Sumangalam Hall, Postmortem Nawada by Lok Chetna Vikas Kendra. Workshop was scheduled at 10 AM but the program, couldbe initiated only at 12 noon due to torrential rains in the District.

Inauguration of workshop began with a small ritual of lighting of a lamp by Dr. Suniti Kumar MD, Mr. U.N.Sahi Director IIRD, Prof. Taukir Sehansha social organisation, Mr. Uday Shankar convener ‘Jan Chetna Manch’, Mrs. Radha Arya Secretary and Mr. Rajendra Singh Prog Director LCVK in presence of applauding & jubilant participants.

Mr. Rajendra Singh, the Programme Director at LCVK, welcomed dignitaries by presenting them flower bouquet and talked briefly about the significance of celebrating the International Safe Abortion Day. He talked about his experience of working with the issue and highlighted issue of unsafe abortion and its consequence for women and emphasized in detail on not seeking unsafe abortion services.

Mr. Binod Kumar Singh, sung a song in local dialect regarding the importance of safe and legal abortion in society.

A total of 73 SHG members /leaders from different villages, PRI members, community leaders, zilla parishad members from district and panchayats attended the workshop.

Dr. Suniti Kumar explained in details about the legal context of safe abortion in India, when and in which conditions a woman can get abortion services and from where?

The Keynote speaker, Dr. Neelam Kumari, a Gynecologist & MTP Trainer from Sadar Hospital, Nawada informed the participants that MTP services are being provided by specially trained doctors at the facility. She informed the participants that abortion services should not be availed from quacks or untrained personals as it illegal and can cause grave injury or health issues, infection or even death of the woman. She explained in details as to why a woman should seek abortion form trained doctors from registered sites sighting several examples she came across in her carrier.

Dr. Neelam Kumari informed that doctors who are trained in MTP procedures are posted at most of the PHCs besides Sadar Hospital, Nawada and women can seek services from these facilities or consult them at the District hospital. She also provided her contact details for any support. She insisted on not ignoring or waiting for seeking abortion services and instead insisted on seeking abortion services early as it makes it easier, safe and less troublesome for women.

As the discussions ensued, SHG leaders talked about their experiences and problems regarding seeking safe abortion services in their area and asked several related to it. Dr Neelam Kumari addressed their queries and doubts giving them enough information on the same.

The participants actively participated in the discussions and put forth their issues and learnt regarding safe and unsafe abortion, conditions in which seeking of abortion services is legal and illegal, proper facilities where the abortion services should be sought.

Mr. Chakradhar who had worked in different district for providing safe and legal abortion services to needy women, conducted quiz among the participants by asking select 20 questions. SHG leaders and community leaders actively participated and contributed during quiz.

In response to the given answers, Dr. Neelam Kumari discussed the topic and solved the queries of the participants. 16 Participants actively took part in quiz. They were judged by Mrs. Radha

Arya, Md. Taukir Sehansha and Mr. Uday Shankar as judges under Super vision of Dr Neelam Kumari.

Following are the first 3 winners of the quiz who gave most correct answers:

1<sup>st</sup> prize: Mrs. Ranju Kumari , Akabarpur block

2<sup>nd</sup> prize: Mrs. Neelam Kumari, Hasua block

3<sup>rd</sup> prize: Mrs. Rubi Kumari, Hasua block.

All the three winners were applauded and handed over the prizes by the Chief Guest of the event, Dr. Neelam Kumari.

Post the quiz activity, Mr. Jeevan Lal Singh, Mr. Uday Shankar & Md. Taukir Sehansah and others put forwarded their views regarding abortion. They viewed that most of the families do not know about the safe and unsafe abortion, nor do they know about MTP Act. They also highlighted the issues of gender imbalance and age old traditions of dowry prevailing in the society as important contributors to unsafe abortion. Besides them, leaders of women SHGs, Panchyati Raj Institution members, Anganwadi workers and other social workers also presented their views.

Towards the end of the progamme, Mrs. Radha Arya Secretary LCVK informed the participants to make referrals of those women and girls seeking abortion to government hospital/ registered clinics for seeking safe abortion facilities. She said this would fulfill the objective of this event. She concluded the workshop by thanking all participants and dignitaries for their program support.



PHOTO: Gate Banner inviting participants at Sumangalam, Nawada.



PHOTO: Lamp Lighting by Program Dignitaries





**PHOTO: Lamp Lighting by Dr. Suniti Kumar & other Program Dignitaries**





**PHOTO: Participants hearing during International Safe Abortion workshop**



**PHOTO: Dr. Neelam Kumari addressing the workshop**



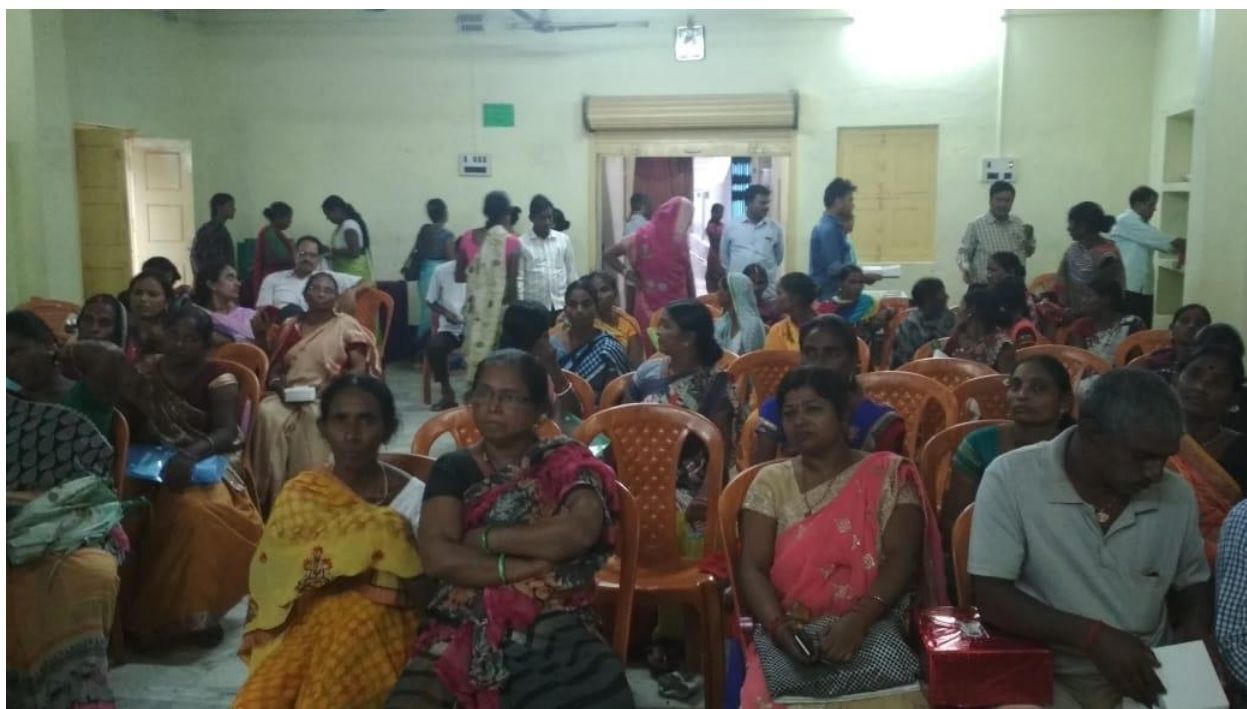


PHOTO: Participants during refreshment





**PHOTO: Dr. Suniti Kumar addressing during and after workshop**





**PHOTO: SHG Leader sharing experience on safe abortion**



**PHOTO: Mr. Chakradhar during Quiz with panel of judges and Dr Neelam**



**PHOTO: Quiz Participants receiving prizes from Dr. Neelam Kumari.**



**PHOTO: Quiz Participants after receiving prizes from Dr. Neelam Kumari.**





**PHOTO: Mrs. Ranju Kumari , SHG leader sharing her experience**