



FIGO Initiative on Young People, Contraception and Safe Abortion

Experiences and outcomes of an
advocacy workshop conducted in South Asia

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Background

Adolescents around the world face SRH challenges including:

- Early pregnancy and parenthood
- Difficulties accessing contraception & safe abortion
- High rates of HIV and STIs
- Increased risk of sexual coercion, exploitation & violence





Health-care Providers

Barriers to information and services for young people:

Political, economic
Societal, cultural, religious
Health systems and service related
Personal



Provider

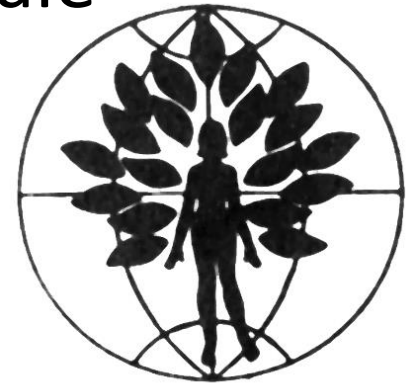


**Unique role with many
opportunities to affect change**



FIGO's Role


FIGO has been working with partners and member associations to break some of these healthcare provider barriers - enabling obstetricians and gynecologists to effect change in their countries and promote the ASRH agenda on a global scale





Aims of the YPCA Initiative

 Collaborate with partners

 Conduct an advocacy workshop in South Asia

 Support in-country groups work on YPCA activities





Immediate Results



These included a **joint statement** from the participants calling for action on increasing young people's access to safe abortion and contraception services

Action plans developed by country teams outlining activities they could conduct within the next 6 months

Inclusion of these action plans into broader country plans during the annual FIGO Prevention of Unsafe Abortion regional workshop



Examples of Action Plans

- **Bangladesh**
 - Challenge: Providers lack of knowledge and involvement
 - Intervention: Advocacy meetings with providers
- **India**
 - Challenge: Un-engaged / un-supporting Providers
 - Intervention: Value Clarification questionnaire at conferences
- **Pakistan**
 - Challenge: Young people's lack of knowledge
 - Intervention: Education and TOT in local colleges
- **Sri Lanka**
 - Challenge: Lack of information on abortion for young people
 - Intervention: Mobile app with info in local languages



Challenges & Successes

- Visa issues
- Geographical location, heavy workloads and relying on volunteered time
- Challenge to design short-term, non-cost projects

- Two day workshop yielded results
- The specifically designed and interactive materials available provide a great entryway to advocacy for interested providers
- Connections made between people and groups



Conclusions

Obstetricians/gynecologists and activists can and should work together to identify ways to increase young people's access to high quality and safe contraceptive and abortion services and information

Obstetricians/gynecologists and other healthcare providers are well placed to bring about great change and should be supported by FIGO and other professional organizations



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