FIGO Initiative on Young People, Contraception and Safe Abortion

Experiences and outcomes of an advocacy workshop conducted in South Asia

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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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