

*Sama*



Annual Report

April 2023-March 2024

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## **GLIMPSES AND REFLECTION**

During this period (2023-24), Sama continued its efforts to build on previous initiatives for capacity building, dissemination of knowledge resources, and informing policy analysis by amplifying local realities. Sama's workshops and training sessions focused on strengthening the capacities of local community leaders to lead advocacy efforts in their area. This includes demanding a comprehensive health system's response to gender-based violence (GBV) and improved access to safe abortion care in the states of Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha. By collaborating with local groups and women leaders, we were able to amplify their voices and draw attention to the persisting ground realities, which continue to inform Sama's ongoing work on health rights, issues, and social and reproductive justice issues.

Sama's work and outreach have expanded substantially in the last year, with the participation from new organizations and young leaders.

In the past year, Sama developed several knowledge resources such as the modules for trainers of healthcare providers to address GBV were initiated in 2023 and disseminated. Other resources for publication and dissemination, drawing on Sama's work during the pandemic, such as the feminist framework and gender gap in vaccination, have been completed and their dissemination remains underway.

Sama's two decades of engagement with infertility, Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ARTs) and surrogacy through research, capacity building, policy advocacy, and knowledge resources is an important milestone. During this period, Sama co-organized a national consultation on Assisted Reproduction and Surrogacy to deliberate collectively on these issues following the 2021 Regulations in India.

Sama has been conducting webinars to raise awareness on issues related to gender-based violence, abortion rights, and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). These webinars have been aimed at engaging a wider audience, especially on significant occasions such as the International Day of Action for Women's Health, Sixteen Days of Activism, International Safe Abortion Day, etc.

This year, we initiated work on envisioning Sama's next five years of work, which involved developing a strategic review and planning process with an external facilitator to review and consolidate our present work and explore future priorities and strategic directions. This process led to the development of Sama's strategy and the creation of a roadmap for the next five years. We will soon finalize and disseminate the report.

## **OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES**

### **1. SURVIVOR-CENTRED RESPONSE TO GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**

As a continuous focus on centring the health system in a survivor-centric response to GBV, this period also had deep engagements with the local support networks, like young community leaders and frontline workers across Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha.

#### **1.1 Capacity Strengthening on Survivor-centred Approach to GBV**

##### **State-level short courses on ‘Understanding and Addressing GBV as a Public Health Issue’**

Sama organized two short courses mobilizing young activists and representatives of community-based organizations (CBOs) to facilitate in-depth discussions on gender, health and gender-based violence (GBV) and their interlinkages. The short courses have emphasized upon understanding and adopting a survivor-centred approach to addressing GBV, highlighting the role and accountability of the health system. By equipping participants with these insights, the short courses aimed at nurturing the local support networks with a rights-based and public health approach to GBV.

##### **a) Short course in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, 3-6 April 2023**

Around 33 young activists and members of CBOs from 12 districts across Odisha attended the short course. There were nine participants from the One Stop Centres of different districts. Participants engaged in activity-based exercises to consolidate their learnings through case-study analysis, games, and discussions. External resource persons from Odisha were identified by the Sama team who joined to interact with participants. Resource persons who joined were doing advocacy with health systems, disability rights groups and transgender rights activism in Odisha. During the discussions, it was noted that one-stop centres play an important role in creating a safe and supportive environment for survivors to share their experiences. Participants also pointed out the lack of survivor-friendly messaging, information in hospitals, underlining the need to recognize the health system's role more explicitly and hold them accountable for it.

“I work in the One Stop Centre, and even in our awareness drives, we hardly discuss health, we only talk about the violence, how to file an FIR, how to go to police but we never spoke about health and wellbeing as a way to address GBV”

Short course participant, Odisha



Picture 1 Participants from short course in Odisha

### b) Short Course in Ranchi, Jharkhand, 16 to 20 December 2023

Around 28 young participants and members of CBOs from 12 districts in Jharkhand joined the short course. To deepen the discussion on gender, power and patriarchy in the context of Jharkhand, Sama identified locally active groups and networks such as Jamshedpur Queer Collective that joined as resource persons and interacted with the participants. They talked about GBV manifestations queer persons go through in various spaces, including hospitals and other health facilities such as, workplaces, educational institutions, homes and intimate relationships.



Picture 2 Resource persons from trans collective Jharkhand



Picture 3 Young participants from short course in Jharkhand

“My takeaway is that, as a human, there are rights that belong to me, including my sexual and reproductive rights. Earlier, I used to think that it is ok for my family and the society to set these expectations and norms that I should meet. Now, I am going back with the understanding that the decision-making is my right.”

Short course participant, Jharkhand

### c) Short course for Healthcare providers to understand and address GBV as a public health Issue

Sama organised a national short course for healthcare providers in Delhi, from October 9-13, 2023. The short course facilitated bringing together a group of proactive healthcare providers from across the country and fostering their commitment to addressing GBV. 23 healthcare providers from 11 states participated in this. Sessions were held on - understanding gender, patriarchy and intersectional discrimination; understanding GBV and health linkages and the ethical and legal mandates of the health system in responding to GBV etc. Relevant experts and resource persons were invited to facilitate parts of the sessions on access to justice for GBV survivors and barriers to accessing care, services and justice.



Picture 4 Short course pictures

*Feedback & responses shared by the participants at the end of the short course:*

*Sama short course was an opportunity for me to learn about GBV in the context of health and the role of healthcare providers. Now I am able to reflect on many such cases that I had come across while working in the OPD. From now on I feel more prepared and driven to raise the issue of GBV with my seniors at the hospital and to take efforts to provide first line support to the extent possible at the level of healthcare facility.*

*I will be empathetic to the GBV survivor when I am doing medico legal examination. I will put more efforts to offer holistic support to survivors beyond medical treatment.*

*I wish to plan GBV training for doctors & medical students in my network, and include them in discussion around gender and health linkages.*

#### d) Workshops with community-based organisations on GBV: Role and Accountability of the health system

These workshops were aimed at deepening the understanding of a rights-based approach in addressing GBV as well as to collectivise strategies to strengthen support networks for GBV survivors in the state. Four workshops in total happened this year in which two were held in Bihar, and one each in Odisha and Jharkhand. The workshop discussions were critical in terms of expanding the discourse around GBV. Understanding the marginalized needs of GBV survivors including their healthcare needs pushed the participants to reflect critically on the limitations of viewing GBV only through the criminal legal framework and not including the health and well-being aspects.

A [blog on the Sama website](#) captures this discussion.



Picture 5 Workshop pictures

State level workshop	Date (s)
Patna, Bihar	27-29 April 2023; 21-22 September 2023
Ranchi, Jharkhand	22- 23 June 2023
Bhubaneswar, Odisha	20-21 August 2023

#### e) Webinar on Technology-facilitated Gender-based Violence

The prevalence of technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TfGBV) emerged as a critical concern during workshops on GBV across the three states. To further an information discussion on this, Sama organized a webinar on the issue on 20 April 2023. Tara Narula, a legal expert looking at the issue joined as a resource person who spoke with the CBO participants joining from 3 states, including both women leaders and young girls who had previously participated in

Sama training and were interested in understanding this issue. More than 60 participants joined the discussion. Discussions put forth the importance of understanding TfGBV within the broader and familiar context of control over technology and internet access for women and gender-diverse persons. More info Conversations emerged on how this control serves to reinforce patriarchal power dynamics, similar to other forms of GBV. Like other forms of GBV, TfGBV plays a role in restricting mobility and expression for women and other gender-diverse people in virtual spaces by constantly maintaining fear and stripping those vulnerable to the violation of their privacy, bodily integrity, and human dignity.

## 1.2 Strengthening community leadership in addressing GBV

### a) Sessions with community leaders

Sama facilitated information education sessions with the community leaders in the three states. Community-based network pathways were created through education and information sessions conducted with the local leaders & ASHAs, ANMs, etc. More than 300 local leaders having interfaces with the health system and panchayat were engaged during this time.

Sessions with community leaders	Date (s)
Patna, Bihar Samastipur, Bihar	15-16 June 2023; 23-24 November 2023
Ranchi, Jharkhand Pakuria, Jharkhand	20-21 June 2023 14-15 December 2023
Bhubaneswar, Odisha Ganjam, Odisha	18-19 August 2023 5-6 December 2023

The prevalent misconceptions and stigma attached to GBV were probed by participants. Thoughts on building a survivor-centred response were initiated with the participants, and followed by their roles and what effective changes they could bring as part of their role in creating a sensitive and supportive environment for the survivors. Discussions also touched upon the health impacts of GBV followed by ASHAs and ANMs discussing their current engagements and how they could strengthen the support facilitation at the community level as the local leaders.

### b) Gender-based violence: Shared Challenges and Collective Efforts: A Regional Dialogue

On February 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, Sama organized a virtual Regional Dialogue on "Collective Efforts and Challenges in Addressing Gender-Based Violence: Bringing Change, Making Change." This convening aimed to further discussions on some integral threads that emerged during our engagements on GBV across the three states, one of them being the linkage of sexual and reproductive health rights with GBV. The Regional Dialogue was a space for sharing and exchanging stories of success and challenges. It facilitated collaborative learning to deepen our understanding of a survivor-centred approach towards GBV. Young community leaders from Bihar, Odisha, and Jharkhand, who have been active participants in the capacity-strengthening workshops and short courses with Sama over the years, joined this Regional Dialogue.

The programme had three panels spread across two days. Participants from Sama workshops and short courses were invited as panel speakers. The cohort of trained CBO leaders led enriching conversations around the interlinkages of gender, patriarchy, violence, and SRHR. Experiences through local actions and strategies were consolidated to sustain these efforts in the future. Over 100 participants led enriching discussions and strategic reflections over the two-day online panel(s). Highlights of this can be seen on the Sama website [blog](#).



### 1.3 Modules & other Knowledge Resource materials on strengthening health system's response to GBV

The three modules by Sama for trainers of medical officers, nurses, and ASHAs were finalised and completed by the team. A brief about these modules was also shared through social media and communication channels of Sama. Further final copies of these Modules are being uploaded for open-source access at the Sama website, and the strategic dissemination of these modules with state health departments, and other key officials at the national/state level is being currently explored.

#### Health System's Response to GBV Matters!

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is one of the most prevalent health rights and human rights violations. The right to be free from violence and GBV as a public health issue have been recognised by international human rights covenants and declarations, and endorsed by countries including India.

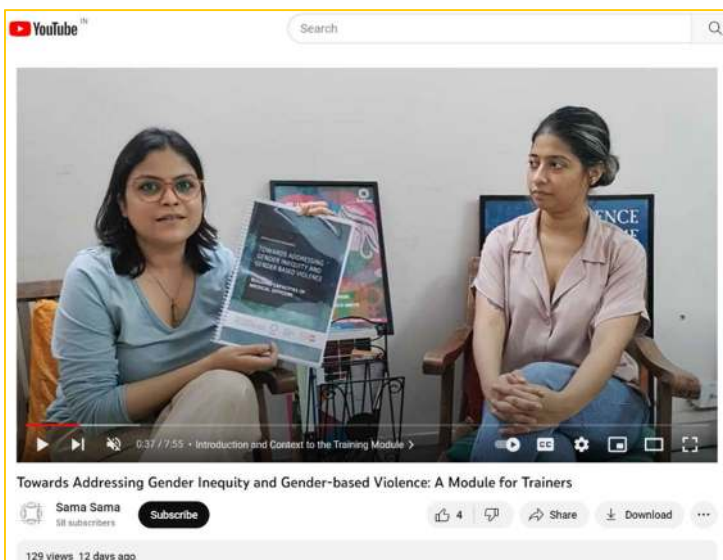
There is an urgent need to build a comprehensive health system response to GBV. Health facilities and healthcare providers have a critical role in providing survivor centred support and services addressing physical and psychosocial consequences of GBV, facilitating access to justice and necessary referrals.

The three modules – for trainers of medical officers, nurses and ASHAs seek to institutionalise the commitment and capacities of health facilities in prevention and response to GBV. These modules have emerged from the experiences and initiatives by Sama in building the capacities of healthcare providers to address GBV.





Picture 6 Dissemination flyer of Sama Modules



Picture 7 Snapshot of the Dissemination video

A broadcast video has been developed by the team to share about the module for medical officers and it has been posted on the Sama website and social media channels. This has helped in getting views and engagements from relevant individuals, other organizations activists etc.

## 1.4 Participation in IAWS

Through a paper presentation under the sub-theme "Human Rights Violations: Gender-Based Violence and Resistance" at the Indian Association for Women's Studies (IAWS) conference in Trivandrum, Kerala, on September 7–10, 2023, Sama was able to share the insights and reflections with a wider audience of women's movements in the country. Sama team presented on 'Locating Health-Centred Interventions in Addressing Gender-Based Violence and the Access to Justice'.

In addition to this, Sama team members also participated in a National Meet on 'A decade since the enactment of laws on sexual violence, sexual harassment, and trafficking: stocktaking and exchange' organized on 23rd August 2023 and shared our experience and insights with a focus on sexual violence. Sama strengthened the discussions on incorporating a health-centered approach by strengthening local support networks for policy engagement and health system accountability for GBV survivors.



Picture 8 from community meetings in Samastipur, Bihar

## 2. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ON GENDER, PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

Sama continued to amplify the community voices, and dissemination of information and knowledge materials for wider public engagement and outreach. For example, the sixteen days of activism against GBV from November 25-December 10; and international safe abortion day on September 28, etc. saw the following activities by Sama team.

### 2.1 Sixteen days of activism against GBV-short video messages

Sama developed short video messages and circulated widely for its outreach toward medical professionals while popularising the message of the health system's responsibility to mitigate GBV impacts for survivors and address GBV. One of the blogs & videos can be seen [here](#).

#### a) Mobilising community voices

Sama had issued a call to action on the WhatsApp groups of participants created during GBV workshops and short courses in Jharkhand, Bihar, and Odisha. The call encouraged the

community-based organizations to participate during the sixteen days of activism and to share any campaign or activity photos with Sama as a sign of solidarity. Here are some of the activity photos that were shared with Sama.



Picture 9 Picture from Bihar



Picture 10 Picture from Jharkhand



Picture 11 Sixteen days message video-Susheela (Sama)

## b) Webinar: Centering the health rights and needs on the margins

On 10th December, Sama organized a webinar titled “Centering health rights and needs on the margins”. The webinar was attended by most of the CBO partners in Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Uttar Pradesh, all of whom Sama has engaged with in different capacities, mediums, and different contexts. The webinar had participation from medical students and public health networks as well. We had four speakers on the panel: Sunita, a nurse from Shaheed Hospital in Dalli Rajhara; Vihaan, a queer feminist; Srimathi, a medical doctor by training and independent researcher and a Sama team member. Sama also moderated the session.

**Centering the health and rights on the margins - Panel discussion**

**Sunita, Nurse**  
 “Young women are not able to seek SRH services from the hospitals because of the biases in the attitude of the providers. If we don’t change this, how do we expect women and girls to approach us for health services?”

**Vihaan, Queer feminist**  
 “Transmen also need SRH services including safe abortion”  
 “There is lack of medical research.... and groups working on GBV must build solidarity and include trans persons and the queer community “

**Srimathi, Doctor/ Independent Researcher**  
 “... and lastly it is our moral imperative to take a strong stance against GBV- not only because it is a public health concern but because we have a moral imperative to stand against GBV as a human rights issue”

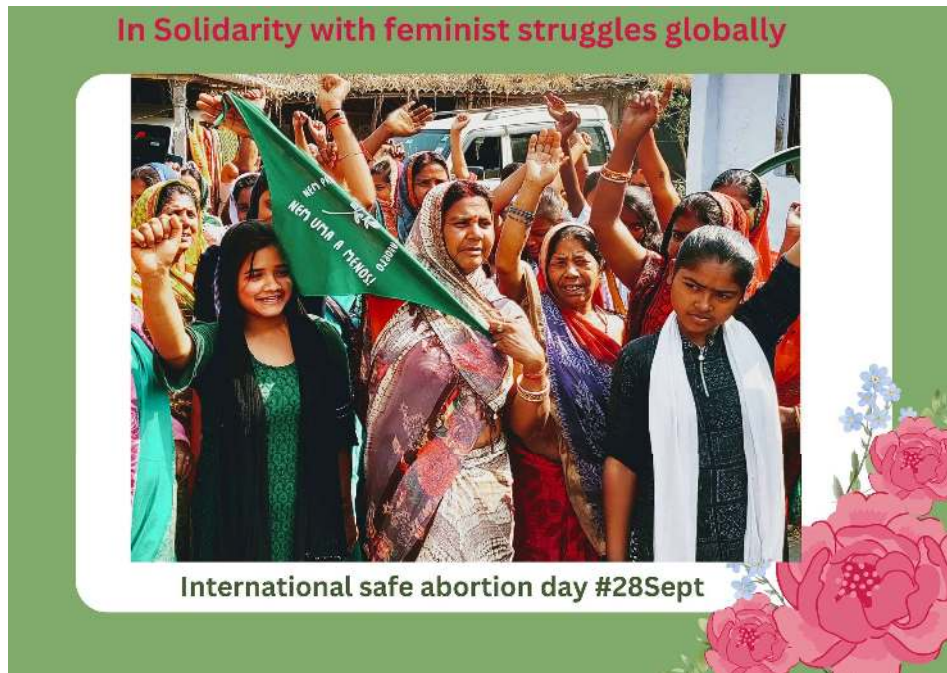
**16 days of activism against GBV**

Picture 12 Speaker’s quotes from ‘Centering the health and rights on the margins - webinar



Picture 13 Snapshot from another webinar during 16 days of Activism

## 2.2 International Safe Abortion Day



Picture 14 Sama social media post

On 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Sama's Roundtable on Issues of Young People was being held during which the Sama team collated [short video messages](#) with the participants asking them to share their thoughts on Right to Safe Abortion.

एबॉर्शन अधिकार के साथ शर्म और स्टिग्मा जुड़ा है। इसके साथ यदि कोई आगे भी आती है तो उसे बुरी औरत के ढांचे में डाला जाता है। मेरा डिमांड (मांग) है कि गांव की आदिवासी, दलित और हाशियेबद्ध समुदाय के लोगों-सेक्स वर्कर, क्वीर, ट्रांस व्यक्तियों को यह सेवाएँ मिलना (सेवाओं तक पहुँच) करना बहुत मुश्किल होता है। इन मुद्दों के प्रति डॉक्टर व स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली को सेंसिटिव (संवेदनशील) होना जरूरी है।

गर्भसमापन में महिला के ऊपर परिवार का दबाव, समाज का डर और अस्पताल में अपेक्षित सपोर्ट नहीं मिलता है। बदनामी का डर से गलत लोगों के पास, गलत डॉक्टर के पास गर्भसमापन के लिए पहुंचते परिणाम यह होता है कि असुरक्षित तरीके से गर्भ समापन से कभी कभी जान पर भी खतरा आ जाता है। गर्भसमापन को लेकर दिक्कत सभी के लिए है विवाहित हो या अविवाहित। क्योंकि उनके शरीर पर खुद की अनुमति नहीं होती है।



Picture 15 Sama poster for International Women's Day 2024

### 3. ASSISTED REPRODUCTION, SURROGACY & REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

#### 3.1 National Consultation on Assisted Reproduction and Surrogacy, Post 2021 Regulations in India; 2-3 June 2023, Delhi

Sama's sustained work on surrogacy, assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs), and infertility from a reproductive justice approach has for many years garnered attention from multiple actors including young researchers, legal experts, policy experts etc. Sama's two decades of engagement with Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ARTs) and surrogacy through research, capacity building, policy advocacy, and knowledge resources is an important milestone.



Picture 16 Group picture with participants, National Consultation on ART, Surrogacy

Taking forward Sama's commitment to be holding these conversations and sustained dialogues on the issue, Sama during this period, co-organised a National Consultation on Assisted Reproduction and Surrogacy to deliberate collectively on the newly emerging issues following the 2021 regulations in India. The Consultation happened in Delhi at the India International Centre (IIC) on June 2-3, 2023, and was done in collaboration with the Centre for Reproductive Rights. The Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, and the Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART Regulation) Act, 2021, which went into effect in January 2022, reignited several long-standing concerns about equity, access, exclusion, kinship, and parenthood. The national consultation brought important stakeholders--civil society groups, feminist, queer rights and disability rights activists, lawyers, and other individuals holding expertise in the field as researchers, academicians etc.- together to reflect on years of work in this field and discuss the two laws to better understand the ongoing challenges and emerging discourses to fair and non-discriminatory access to assisted reproduction. Full report of this consultation can be viewed on Sama website ([Link to the report](#)).

#### 3.2 Screening of Sama Film 'Can we see the baby bump, please?' in Mumbai

At the Film Festival on the occasion of the 75th-year celebrations of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences Centre for Health and Mental Health, Mumbai, Sama film, 'Can we see the Baby Bump Please?' was screened on 19 January 2024. This was followed by a discussion in a panel on the issue of surrogacy. Students and faculty actively participated in the discussion and expressed their concerns about the legislation, practice and the concerns related to IVF, surrogacy and equity issues.

#### 4. SAMA'S WORK ON GENETIC DISORDERS FROM A GENDER AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE APPROACH

Since 2018, Sama has been studying the impact and effects of sickle cell disease (SCD) and its management, starting with our examination of inequalities in accessing health care in Adivasi communities and Jharkhand, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh. We explored the broader ecosystem of SCD diagnosis, treatment, and management, as well as the role of healthcare providers and also examined the practical implementation of sickle cell programs at the national, state, and community levels. We have investigated the pathways women use to access premarital screening, prenatal testing, and abortion counselling.



Picture 17 Pictures from field visit in Chhattisgarh

There is a conspicuous lack of studies or research on this domain in India. Our field-level work has presented us with urgent and complex questions and issues that need wider deliberation and Sama initiated interacting with people with SCD and documenting their experiences along with interacting with the health care providers in Chhattisgarh.



## Participation in the Medico Friend Circle (MFC) 50 year meeting

Sama team members participated in the 50-year celebration of the Medico Friends Circle (MFC), a network of health workers, medical professionals, students and researchers hosted in Sewagram, Wardha, on February 23-25, 2024. The theme was 'Medico Friends Circle's 50 Years – Looking Back and Looking Forward'. Sama members were actively associated with MFC for the last three decades and contributed to the journey of MFC. This annual meeting included presentations on the status of healthcare systems across different states and regions, engaging discussions, film screenings, poster and anthology releases, as well as cultural programs and informal exchanges.



Picture 18 Pictures during MFC

## 5. ADVANCING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS & JUSTICE (SRHRJ)

### 5.1 Roundtable "Beyond Limitations: Reflections on the Current Landscape of Rights for Young People"

Sama organised a Roundtable with organizations working on issues of the rights of young girls. The roundtable happened in Delhi, on September 27-28, 2023. Sama through many years of its work has built specific initiatives to advance the rights of young girls around the intersections of public health, gender and SRHR including the issues of early marriage, access to safe abortion and other SRH services, mental health and well-being, and strengthening the health system's response to gender-based violence.



Picture 19 Pictures from the Roundtable: Activities and Panel Discussion

This Roundtable was an important step for bringing together the organizations and resource persons with requisite experience and sustained engagements on these issues and to collectively looking at the challenges, milestones and ongoing strategies for advancing the agencies, leadership and rights of young girls. CBO leaders and young persons from different states joined this consultation as we saw representation from Delhi, Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. A mix of panel discussions and art-based pedagogies by the resource persons from the Aagaaz Theatre Trust team guided the process of reflections and presentations during the roundtable.

## 5.2 Session on reproductive health issues and the impact of social norms

Sama team members on invitation facilitated a session on understanding reproductive health rights issues for a group of young women fellows with YLAC (Young Leaders for Active Citizenship). An online session and interaction were held on July 16th 2023. Following a presentation by the Sama team member, the participants led an enriching discussion by sharing their doubts and experiences which led to an exchange of perspectives and strengthened understanding of the issues of reproductive health rights in linkages with patriarchy, social norms and the role of policy landscape on this.



Picture 20 Screenshot of the YLAC session

## 5.3 Talk on Women's Health Movement trajectory in India

On the 9th of May, Sama founder trustee facilitated a class with students at Ashoka University, Delhi on tracing the trajectory of the women's health movement from the early days and the focus on contraception and reproductive health to the transition to seeing health more holistically. The talk also discussed the complexities that arise from the idea of choice, and how that pits medical health against psychological choices, concepts, and issues. More than 100 students attended the class.

An email from the faculty and student leaders,

*"The students loved the session, that was evident from how many questions they had and how many of them crowded around you to ask more questions. ...so much of what you said resonated with what we have been doing in the course and what we hope to go on to do."*

## 5.4 Participation in ARJC IV

Sama's participation in the Abortion and Reproductive Justice Conference (ARJC) IV, which took place in Bangkok, Thailand from February 16–18, 2024, allowed Sama members to share their complementary insights on GBV and SRHR, with a particular focus on the right to safe abortion in the context of the region's evolving legal-policy landscape.

## 5.5 Participation in the South Asia Symposium on SRHR

Sama team member was invited to moderate a panel on abortion rights as part of the "Reproductive and Sexual Autonomy in Asia" symposium held in Kathmandu, Nepal, on October 15–17. Sama's participation contributed to the discussion by different experts on reproductive health and rights on pressing and emerging issues in reproductive and sexual rights in Asia, with a focus on the impact of legal and policy frameworks.



Picture 21 Photo of the moderated panel on Abortion rights

## 6. SAMA -STRATEGIC PLAN

Sama completed 24 years of work and engagement in September 2023 on a range of issues that have been able to achieve critical progress in policy and practice. As an organization that has been working at the intersection of gender equality and social justice, health and human rights, Sama has been able to substantively take forward the discourse as well as evidence while capacitating marginalised constituencies to amplify their voices and advance health systems' accountability and quality. During this period Sama initiated the Strategic Planning process with an external facilitator, towards a strategic plan to reflect, revisit strategic directions and strengthen Sama's work as it enters its third decade of work, embedded in the current context of global health challenges. The strategic plan focuses on the opportunity and needs to expand and strengthen Sama's internal organisation, identify and pursue short-term (3-5-year) goals to complement its vision goals and deepen the organisation's impact on critical issues. The resource person during this period initiated the process that led to the development of Sama's future strategy and the creation of a roadmap for the next five years. We will soon finalize and disseminate the report.

## 7. TABLE OF MEETINGS/CONFERENCES PARTICIPATION

Date	Meeting/Webinar/Workshop	Organiser
17 - 18 April 2023	National Meeting of Aman Network	Swayam, National Secretariat, Aman network
9 May 2023	Class with Ashoka university students on tracing the trajectory of the women's health movement from the early days and the focus on contraception and reproductive health	Ashoka University, Delhi
29 June 2023	National Consultation on 'Impacts of German Development Finance Investment in the Private Healthcare Sector in India'	SATHI and Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung

<b>25 August 2023</b>	National meet on ‘A decade since the enactment of laws on sexual violence, sexual harassment, and trafficking: stocktaking and exchange’	Partners for Law in Development (PLD)
<b>7-10 September 2023</b>	Presented a paper on ‘Locating Health – centred interventions in addressing GBV and Access to Justice’ at the 17 <sup>th</sup> National Conference	Indian Association for Women Studies (IAWS)
<b>13 September 2023</b>	Session on women’s health at the South Asian Feminist Capacity Building Course	Sangat, Nepal
<b>2 November 2023</b>	Sexuality, Gender, and Rights Institute  Sama team member was invited to facilitate a session on "Addressing Gender-Based Violence and Its Impact on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights"	CREA
<b>3 November 2023</b>	The Nexus: South East Asia Youth Health Action Network (SYAN) Regional Consultation Meeting	The YP Foundation (TYPF)
<b>6 - 7 November 2023</b>	National Consultation on ‘Three Decades of Ratification of CEDAW by India’	The National Alliance of Women (NAWO)
<b>16 November 2023</b>	Virtual meeting on Universal Access to Safe Abortion as a Right in India	Coalition of groups on abortion rights in India
<b>21 November 2023</b>	30 years of celebration and conversation on ‘Celebrating Feminist Learning and Leadership’	Nirantar
<b>28 – 30 November 2023</b>	Meeting on Reproductive Justice	CommonHealth
<b>10 – 14 January 2024</b>	Workshop on ‘Editorial Discretion: Transnational Governance at the Frontier of Biotechnology’	Sama founder trustee was invited to the convening of the Global Observatory for Genome Editing
<b>19 January 2024</b>	Panelist, film screening of ‘Can we see the baby bump please?’ during the Film Festival	Centre for Health and Mental Health (CHMH), TISS
<b>25 January 2024</b>	Webinar – Knowledge Product library launch	Share-net International
<b>30 - 31 January 2024</b>	Two-day National Consultation on ‘Instrumentalist to Empowering: A Feminist Approach to Early and Child Marriage’	Nirantar
<b>5 February 2024</b>	Conference on ‘Bridging the Gender Gap: Challenges and Opportunities for the Next Decade’	CEQUIN (Centre for Equity and Inclusion)

<b>16 – 18 February 2024</b>	Participant, Abortion and Reproductive Justice Conference (ARJC)	Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP)
<b>22 – 25 February 2024</b>	Annual Meet of Medico Friend Circle with the theme ‘Looking Back and Looking Forward’	Medico Friend Circle
<b>21 March 2024</b>	Participant, National Consultation on ‘Opening Layers of Gender, Sexuality and Violence; Youth Experiences and Community Initiatives’	Nirantar
<b>21-22 March 2024</b>	International Symposium on Health Governance in A Political Landscape: Interplay of Health Law, Society and Political Economy  <i>Sama founder trustee was invited to chair a session on Power &amp; Social Reproduction for the symposium</i>	The Centre for Justice, Law, and Society (CJLS), Jindal Global Law Review (JGLR) at Jindal Global Law School (JGLS), O.P. Jindal Global University; & The Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL) at the Indian Institute for Foreign Trade (established by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India) and WTO Chairs Programme (India Chair)

## 8. CONTRIBUTIONS TO OTHER NEWSPAPERS, JOURNALS AND PORTALS BY SAMA TEAM MEMBERS

- **The ethics, equity, and governance of human genome editing need greater consideration**  
Sarojini N | 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023, The BMJ  
<https://www.bmj.com/content/381/bmj.p996.full?ijkey=3BSpPQlgc86azFI&keytype=ref>
- **Abortion law in India: A step backward after going forward**  
Adsa F and Sarojini N | 17<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023, Supreme Court Observer  
<https://www.scobserver.in/journal/abortion-law-in-india-a-step-backward-after-going-forward/>
- **Two-Child Norm: Coercion Is Not an Option**  
Sarojini N and Adsa Fatima | 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023, Outlook Magazine  
<https://www.outlookindia.com/national/coercion-is-not-an-option-magazine-284884>
- **How subpar treatment options allow sickle cell disease to persist Explained**  
Sarojini Nadimpally, Gargi Mishra, Keertana K. Tella | 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024, The Hindu  
<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/sickle-cell-disease-crispr-hydroxyurea-healthcare-amenities/article67994033.ece>

## **LEARNING(S) & MOVING FORWARD**

Sama is dedicated to exploring new areas, addressing emerging issues, and co-creating and producing knowledge resources. Collaborative processes, co-creation, and evidence-building with field-based groups and communities are at the core of the organization's mandate. Drawing on our extensive experience, we aim to develop a strong initiative that combines feminist leadership with perspective and skill-building. Additionally, we are creating new opportunities for youth from the Dalit, Adivasi, Bahujan and LGBT communities to take on leadership roles.

Learning from community insights on the issues of GBV, SRHR, and access to healthcare has led the Sama team to renew these conversations at multiple levels - state, sub-regional, national, and international. Understanding the fault lines within GBV and public health discourses, for example, was further strengthened as localized conversations in Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Bihar evidenced the crucial role played by grassroots women leaders and community health workers in providing the first line of support to survivors. This has also led to the realization of the need to build broad-based engagements at the level of women's movements in India and other networks.

Sama's review of its two decades of work on the issues of infertility, Assisted Reproduction, and Surrogacy revealed the linkages drawn from micro and macro realities through research, contributions to academic discourse, and building advocacy by engaging with stakeholders. Moving forward, it will be crucial to discuss this further with reproductive justice principles and to look at the laws from an equity lens, which has already been flagged in the consultation.



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**TWITTER: [@WEARESAMA](#)**

