Advocacy on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights as Youth Organization



#### Know Your Facilitators





Swostika Thapaliya General Secretary (2022-2024)



Riju Dhakal President (2020-2022)

### Nepal

A landlocked country in South Asia

**Area:** 147,181 sq.km

**Population**: 2,92,92,470 (Census 2021)

Annual Growth Rate: 0.93% (Census 2021)

**Human Development Index: 0.602** 

**Gender Inequality Index:** 0.452

Maternal Mortality Ratio: 239 per

100000 live births.



#### YUWA

- Established in 2009
- Registered as not-for-profit
- Purely Youth-led Youth run
   Organisation
- Empower young people through participation and advocacy
- The age group is between 16-29 years old only.

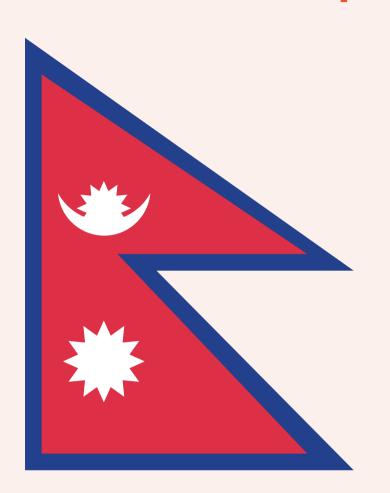


### YUWA's Reach

 ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP • SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR) • RESEARCH UNIT **REACH** 36 475k+ YouTube Videos 10+ Podcast with youtubers 18+ videos with celebrity Internal Podcasts

# Status of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Nepal

#### Constitution of Nepal, 2015



states every woman shall have the right to safe motherhood and reproductive health.

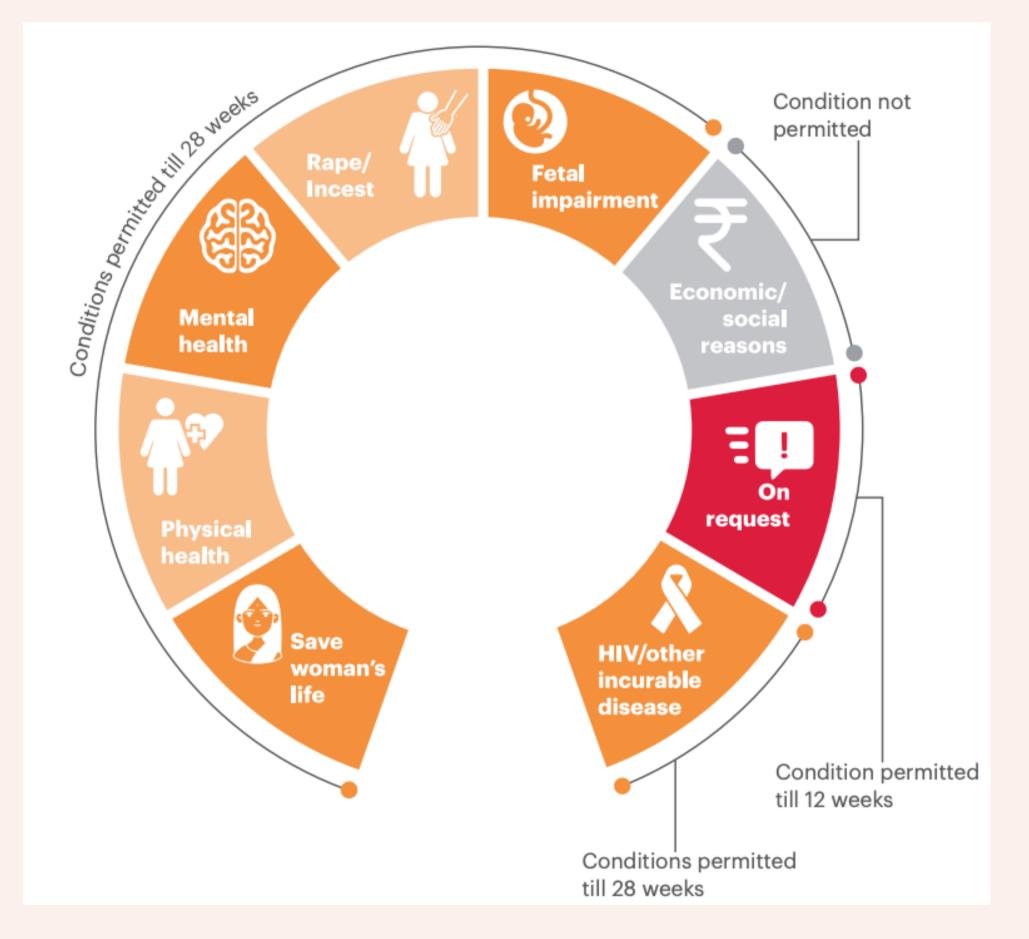
#### International Treaties and Convention

The Government of Nepal has ratified nine core international human rights treaties including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Nepal has pledged to effective implementation of important global and regional policy commitments on SRHR and gender equality notably, the Programme of Action (PoA) of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Beijing Declaration, and the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA).

#### Safe Abortion

- Legalized in 2002.
- The country's Constitution of 2015 and the 2018 SMRHR Act guarantee the right to an abortion as a fundamental right for every woman.
- Challenges: Lack of knowledge, Stigma, Limited number of service providers, ineffective implementation of free abortion services policy, sex-selective abortion



Conditions and gestation limit for which abortion is permitted in Nepal

### Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) Services

- The National Reproductive Health Strategy of Nepal recognizes ASRH as a pillar of reproductive health.
- Priority area of Nepal Government.
- Provisions for Adolescent Friendly Health Facilities and Adolescent friendly Information Corners.
- Challenges: Lack of uniformity in the action of different actors reporting and data, lack of inter/intra-sectoral coordination, no practicality of general counseling.

#### Comprehensive Sexuality Education

- In the context of Nepal, while the school curriculum does cover some topics of CSE as per the ITGSE, the content is rather vague and inconsistent.
- The recent revision in the curriculum has included topics like gender identity and sexual orientation but still lacks
  - an intersectional approach.
- The curriculum is mostly knowledge-based and lacks attitude and skill-oriented learning.

Sexuality is a taboo in Nepal which leads to a reluctance to discuss and address sexual health issues.

Mostly women are economically dependent on men, and have limited power to claim their SRHR. Due to unequal power relations based on gender, women are often unable to refuse sex or negotiate safe sex or access health services.

People are stigmatized if they do not conform to socially accepted norms of behavior, for example adolescents who have sex before marriage and people who articulate different sexuality.

## Status of Climate Change in Nepal

Situated in the lap of Himalayas, Nepal is highly vulnerable to climate change and has already experienced changes in temperature and precipitation at a faster rate than the global average.

## INTERLINKAGES BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND SRHR

## Since climate change is not a gender-neutral phenomenon,

Women and girls in all their diversities are more vulnerable and disproportionately impacted due to existing gender inequalities, among other things, due to their unfulfilled SRHR needs

In Nepal, women and girls suffer from hunger and undernutrition because they are expected to feed all family members and eat only the leftovers.

Their undernutrition is exacerbated during climate extreme events.

Household food hierarchies are still practiced in some cultures in Asia where women and girls are allowed to eat only after the men and boys have eaten.

Families affected by poverty, and being unable to feed and take care of their children, would marry their young daughters off at an early age because they are seen as a financial burden.

The major work burden for women after the disaster and natural calamities increased due to which women do not have enough time for sanitation and personal hygiene which directly affects them especially during their pregnancy

Traveling long distances to fetch water and firewood has resulted in prolapsed uterus among women.

#### When SRHR is fulfilled,

Gender equality is acheived

Increased choice to decide the number of children

Climate resilience and improved adaptation strategies

#### **Thematic Areas**







#### ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

#### PRARAMBHA



Prarambha at KnK College, Kathmandu

#### PAHICHAN



Pahichan at Baanke, Nepalgunj

#### Upcycling and Gardening Workshop

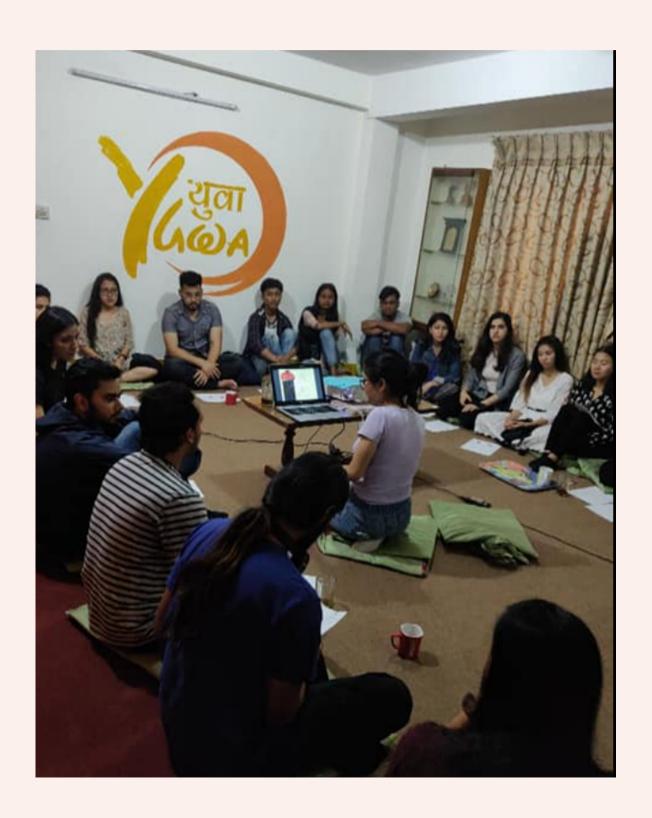




Young people learning how to recycle their used plastic bottles, how to beautifully paint them, as well as important techniques of gardening to promote sustainability and climate resilience.

## SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

#### KHULLAKASH





#### REACHING OUT YOUNG MINDS



ROYM session at Birgunj covering sessions like adolescent changes, menstrual hygiene management, Family planning, safe abortion, Gender and sexuality, relationship and consent.

#### YOUTH ACTIVIST LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



#### CSE SESSIONS



CSE session on Good touch and Bad touch being delivered

#### Podcasts





Podcast: Women in Climate Change

Podcast: Queering Queries

#### Teaching learning materials

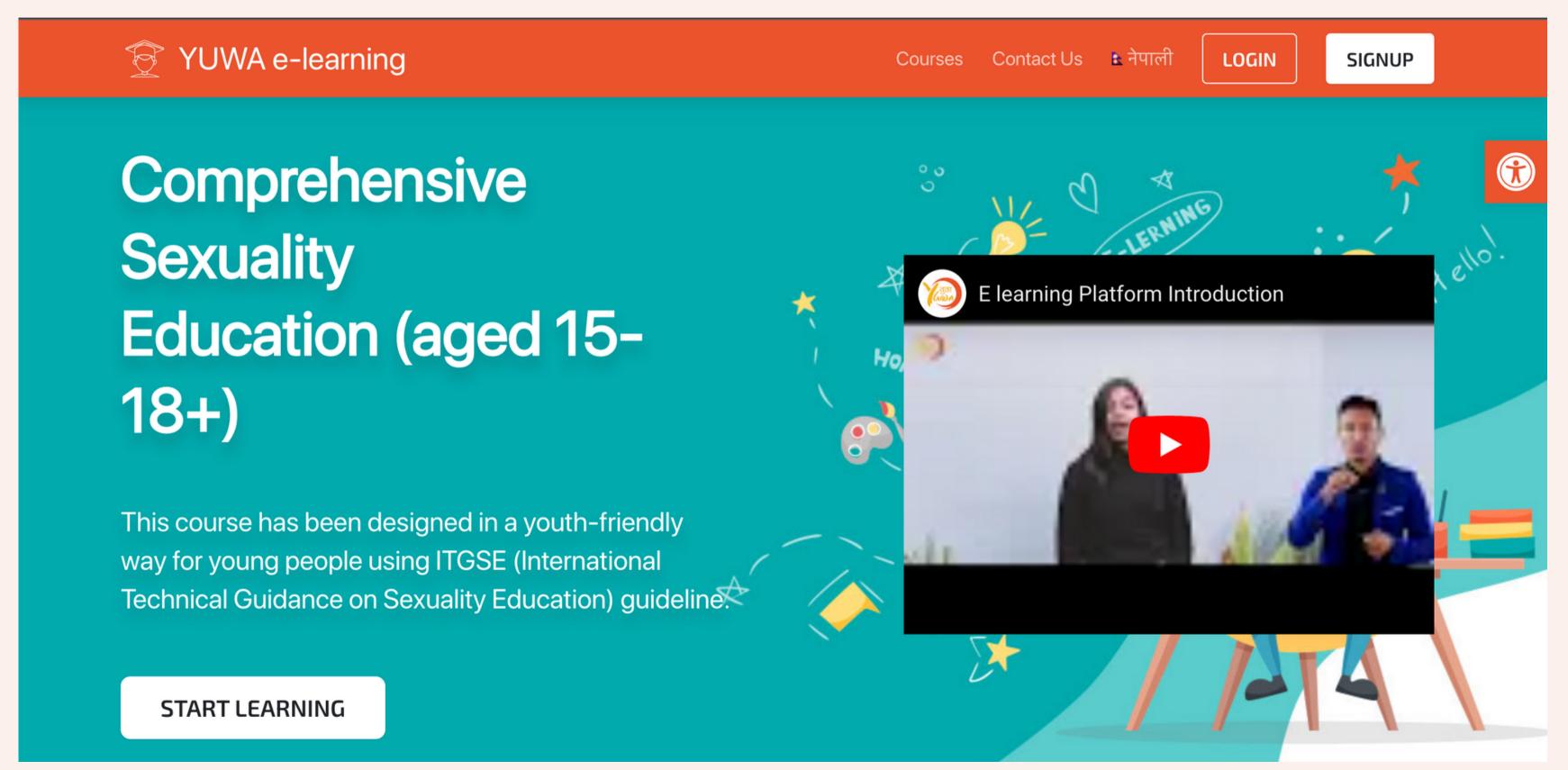




Pregnancy (Video by Amaze, adapted by YUWA in Bhojpuri Language)

Coming out (Video by Amaze, adapted by YUWA in Bhojpuri Language)

## E-learning course on Comprehensive Sexuality Education



#### Digital Campaigns



Group by YUWA

#### Yuwa Awashar

❸ Public group · 534 members





Message 🛂

224 posts

**536** followers

164 following

#### #CSECan #CSEhamrolagi

We strive for transformative change, We believe in Comprehensive Sexuality Education. CSE Can!

Youth Power 😇

This campaign is managed by @yuwanepal

www.yuwa.org.np



Message



• • •

198 posts

315 followers

**71** following

#### **CSE Can't Wait**

Education

Advocating for #comprehensivesexualityeducation #बृहतयौनिकताशिक्षा #csecantwait

Managed by YALC 2022 of @yuwanepal! >>

#### ADVOCACY





Meeting with the National Women's Commission to localize gender equality forum in Nepal.

Meeting with the Steering Committee of the Center for Education and Human Resource Development and the Curriculum Development Center to map out the areas of support and collaboration with the government.



YUWA's former president Riju Dhakal delivering a statement at the Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert of SOGI at the 50th session of the Human Rights Council



YUWA's statements on recommendations to the government regarding laws and legislation pertaining to Youth SRHR during the Nepal Universal Periodic Review (UPR) delivered at the Human Rights Council (HRC) on 8rh July 2021.

#### YOUTH INNOVATIONS



#### BRING YOUR OWN BAG







#### GENDER RESPONSIVE CLASSROOMS





#### ADOLESCENT FRIENDLY HEALTH SERVICES SITE VISIT





#### WAY FORWARD