

ABORTION ADVOCACY

Foundation for Reproductive Health Services India (FRHS India) is an affiliate of Marie Stopes International (MSI), which is a global organisation providing personalised contraception and safe abortion services to women and girls across 37 countries. FRHS India is currently hosting Pratigya Campaign for Gender Equality and Safe Abortion and has been actively advocating with the government, media and legal fraternity to ensure that women's right to safe abortion is protected in India.



Image Source: Courtesy of Paula Bronstein/Getty Images/Images of Empowerment.



Pratigya Campaign for Gender Equality and Safe Abortion

Pratigya Campaign for Gender Equality and Safe Abortion was launched in January 2013 by a group of concerned stakeholders, to fight for women's right to make their own decisions regarding their reproductive goals. These stakeholders came together to develop a strategy to address the conflation in the implementation of Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PCPNDT Act) and the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (MTP Act), which stigmatised all abortions as sex-selective, creating barriers in access to abortion care for women. Over time, the campaign has expanded its mandate to address other barriers towards safe abortion access such as increased number of women seeking judicial authorisation, inaccurate and insensitive reporting by the media, and conflation with the Protection of Children against Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act).

The advocacy of Pratigya Campaign is built around four focus areas:

Medical Abortion

The Campaign advocates with the Drug Controller General of India based on Pratigya's 'Assessment of the Availability of Medical Abortion (MA) Drugs' study conducted in Bihar, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, to ensure that MA drugs are available to women. It also advocates with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the amendment to the MTP Rules to allow all MBBS doctors to prescribe MA drugs and approval of MBBS doctors' consultation rooms as a site for the provision of MA, as an interim measure to ensure greater access to safe abortion care and medical support.

Legal Environment

To ensure that women's rights are not compromised, the Campaign aims to track abortion cases going to court regularly and meets with organisations and litigants in ongoing cases in the Supreme Court of India to understand the prayers being sought from the courts and the jurisprudence on such cases.

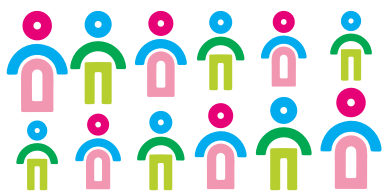
Provider Support

The Campaign seeks to engage with the providers to understand the existing Medical Abortion (MA) service provision practices. It aims to work with the Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI) and providers to understand their concerns around abortion service delivery and address those through information, education and communication material.

Alliance Building

The Campaign reaches out to various organisations working on women's health and rights issues, and partners with young people to include the issues of abortion access in their agendas.

Key Achievements in 2019



Grew from
84 to 110
Partners



Featured in

94

News Publications
including three opinion
pieces in leading dailies
namely **Times of India,**
Hindustan Times and
The Pioneer

Published two key reports

'Availability
of Medical
Abortion
Drugs across
four Indian
States'

and

'Assessing
the Judiciary's
Role in
Access to
Safe
Abortion'

regarding the issues of medical abortion
availability and legal barriers to safe abortion care

Social campaigns
on abortion rights
reached close to

18,000

People on Facebook
and garnered

90,000+ impressions



Organised
a consultation

with

national experts and
international experts
on Medical Abortion



Met with key officials



सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry
of Health
and Family
Welfare



Central
Drugs
Standard
Control
Organisation

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To volunteer with us, please write to: secretariat@pratigyacampaign.org