

International People's Health University (IPHU) on the Struggle for Health Gender Justice and Health Stream

DAY 0: 7 November 2018

To introduce ourselves the 'string exercise' was used which also highlights the importance of networking, connection and relationships.

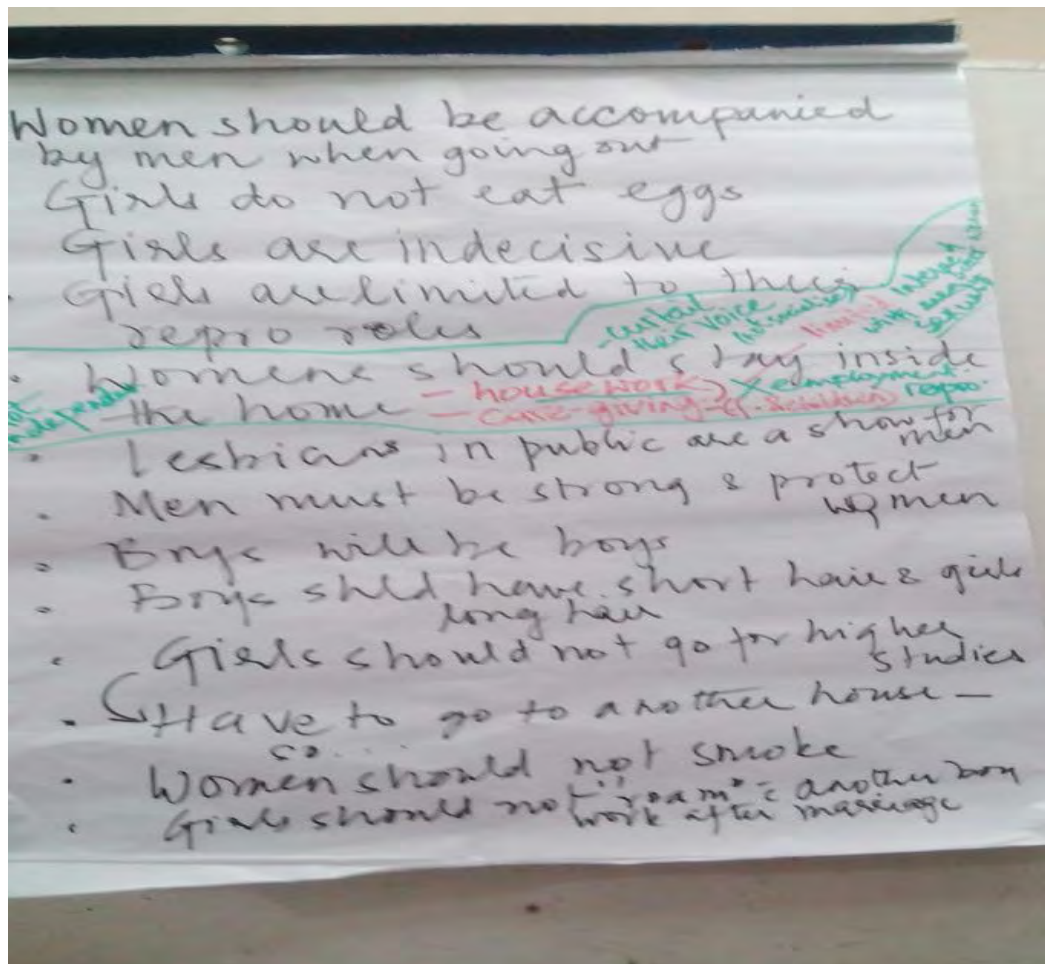
Expectations were expressed by each member of the group.

DAY 1: 8 November 2018

We discussed:

- various concepts of gender
- sexuality
- intersectionality

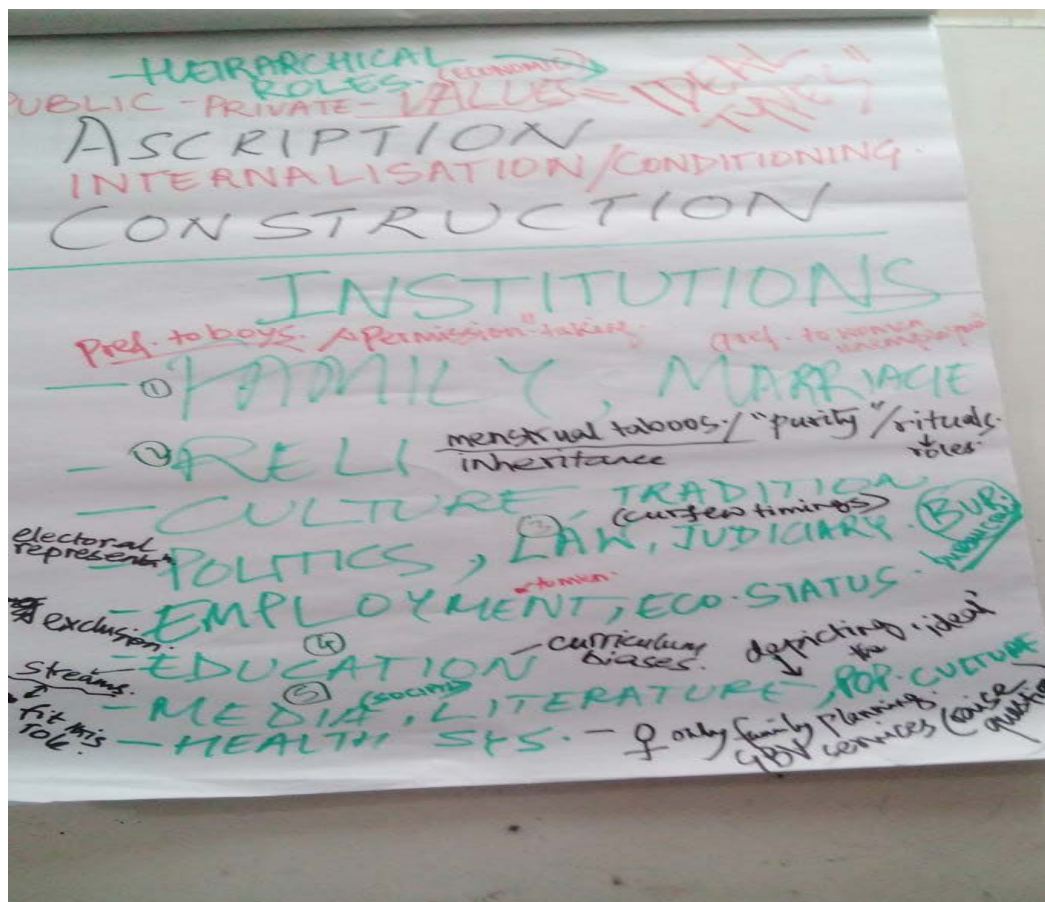
An ice-breaker activity was 'passing the buck' where everyone shared stereotypes of gender roles dictated by society. The analysis of these stereotypes and social roles indicated their location in a binary, i.e. of males and females with all other genders being invisible.



Gender roles & social reproduction: Group work looked at how society and institutions construct gender roles within social institutions:

Family

Health system
 Education
 Media
 Religion
 Culture/traditions
 Legal system
 Economics
 Political system
 Employment
 Bureaucracy (see group work flip charts at the end of the day's report)



Institutions uphold stereotypes and vice versa.

Gender roles are traditionally determined by biological features of males and females ignoring that hormones and chromosomes influence genders beyond the traditional binary notion. Social reproduction of roles happens within homes as well as society.

Important concepts were discussed:

Concepts of masculinity and femininity and patriarchy were defined and discussed in relation to feminist theory.

Ways of being according to masculinity and femininity as an approach or style of behavior:

- **Masculinity** – being aggressive, unemotional as examples ascribed to males.
- **Femininity** – being soft, emotional as examples ascribed to females.

- Males are supposed to behave in a masculine way vice versa for females.

PARTRIARCHY : To understand gender, patriarchy needs to be understood.

Patriarchy (very briefly)

Where some men rule over all

There are multiple forms of patriarchy

Patriarchy sustains hegemonic masculinity.

Heteronormativity (regarded as the norm) is similar to patriarchy.

Hetero-patriarchy – heterosexuality is central to patriarchy.

Gender discrimination

Gender bias

Gender equality

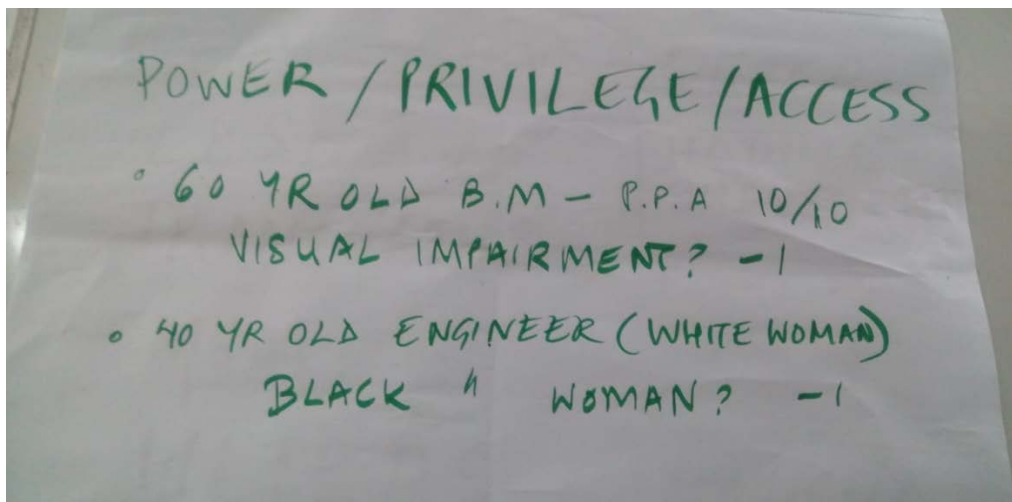
Gender equity – strategies to move towards equality

The post lunch session included STORIES, which were used to highlight patriarchy, virginity as purity, ownership of women by men and consent.

A resource person shared a narrative of the sex workers movement in Bangladesh, flagging important aspects of sexuality, definition and recognition of sex work, and convergence of movements.

Another resource person shared the trajectory of the movement against Section 377 in India, which highlighted the struggles of the queer / LGBTIQ movement and the historic judgment on 377.

In the afternoon, under the trees we did the **'The Power/privilege/access walk'** – some examples of the identities allocated



Questions were asked to establish who had power, privilege:

- If you have accessed higher education take a step forward

- If you were ever made fun of or bullied for something you could not change or was beyond your control, take one step back.
- If you constantly feel unsafe walking alone at night, take one step back.
- If your family ever left your home or entered another country not of your own free will, take one step back.
- If you ever had to skip a meal or were hungry because there was not enough money to buy food, take one step back.
- If you ever tried to change your appearance, mannerisms, or behavior to fit in more, take one step back
- If you find it difficult to find a house to rent, take a step back
- If you have easy access to affordable and quality health care.
- If you have been a victim of sexual harassment, take one step back.
- If you ever tried to change your appearance, mannerisms, or behavior to avoid being judged or ridiculed, take one step back.
- If you saw others like you portrayed on television in degrading roles, take one step back.
- If you were ever denied employment because of your race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation, take one step back.
- If you were paid less, treated less fairly in your workplace, take one step backward.
- If you were ever afraid of violence because of your race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation, take one step back.
- If you were ever the victim of violence take a step back.
- If you made the decision to do what you are doing right now take one step forward.

The day ended with a film in the evening on:

Women's place's related to property rights in the Eastern Cape, South Africa.
 Abandonment and divorce in India, and
 Domestic violence in Virginia, USA