


Porshi Cafe, Kolkata

**Launch of our
toolkit on Abortion
and Disability.
Justice!**

**16 April
2024**





In our session launch, we discussed how the state refuses to recognize multiplicity of identities. **Shampa Sengupta**, activist narrates how a trans disabled person was denied shelter because their disability was non-visible and they weren't believed. "One cannot be disabled if one is trans", according to authorities.

The "mad" body is abused and seen as less capable while accessing structures such as abortion. Disabled folks are seen as misfits : we do not "fit" the standards of reproduction built and designed by able-bodied folks. As a result, a person with a disability is not recognized as a user of SRHR services at all (both physical well as cognitive denial.)



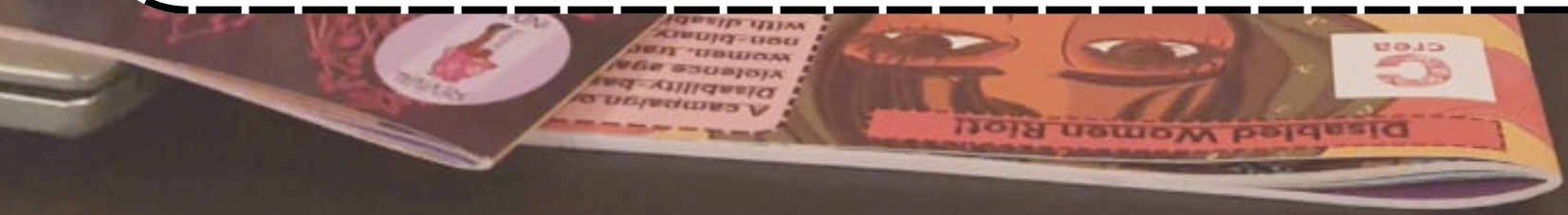
Persons with intellectual disabilities are not taken into account at all when weaving the discourse on consent. Deaf women, those with speech disabilities as well as visual impairments are compelled to rely on ableist sexual wellness practices and information that is not accessible.

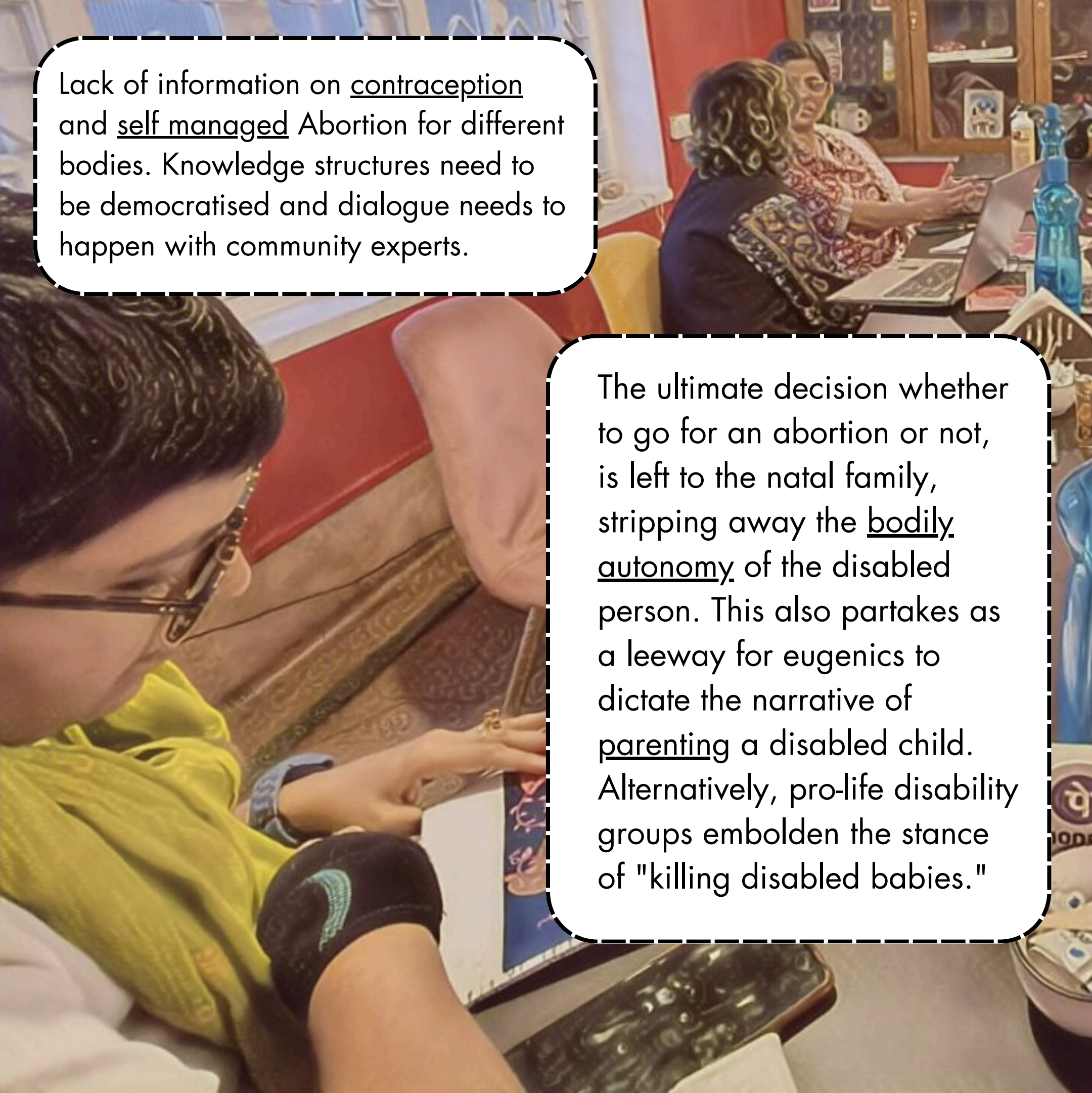
There is a severe lack of legal empowerment and legal capacity where disabled folks are concerned.

The disabled body is de-legatimized both within and outside the clinic. Violation of boundaries and personhood is rampant, not only of physical spaces but also cognitive spaces. Ableism and Saneism go hand in hand.



The MTP Act (Medical Termination Of Pregnancy) lacks clarity and is vague when it comes to different communities and realities. It doesn't mention how exactly to go about decisions regarding abortion and access, and leaves undue power in the hands of caregivers and doctors who might be abusive.



A woman with dark curly hair, wearing glasses and a yellow shirt, is seated at a desk in a meeting room. She is looking down at a laptop. In the background, another woman with glasses and a patterned top is seated at a desk with a laptop, looking towards the camera. The room has a red wall and a wooden cabinet with various items on it.

Lack of information on contraception and self managed Abortion for different bodies. Knowledge structures need to be democratised and dialogue needs to happen with community experts.

The ultimate decision whether to go for an abortion or not, is left to the natal family, stripping away the bodily autonomy of the disabled person. This also partakes as a leeway for eugenics to dictate the narrative of parenting a disabled child. Alternatively, pro-life disability groups embolden the stance of "killing disabled babies."

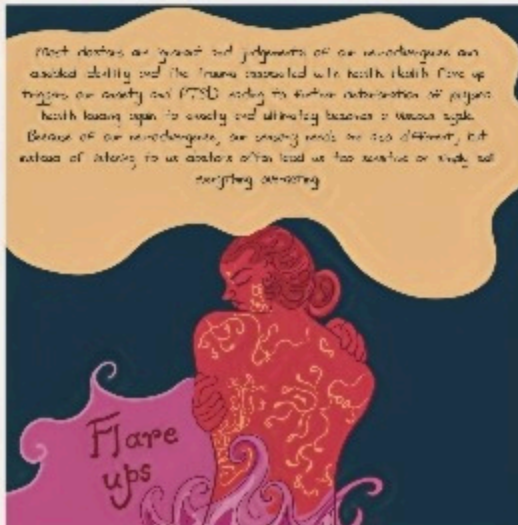
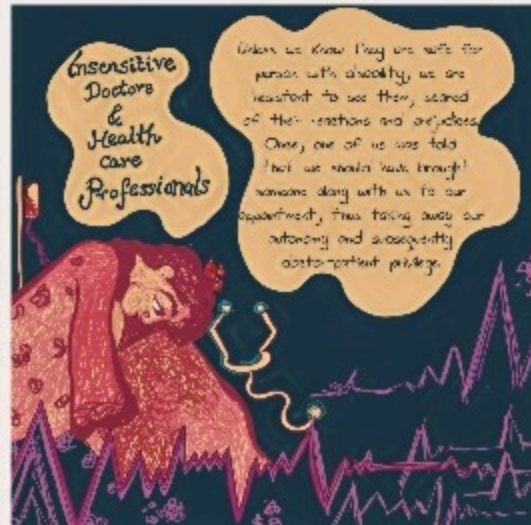
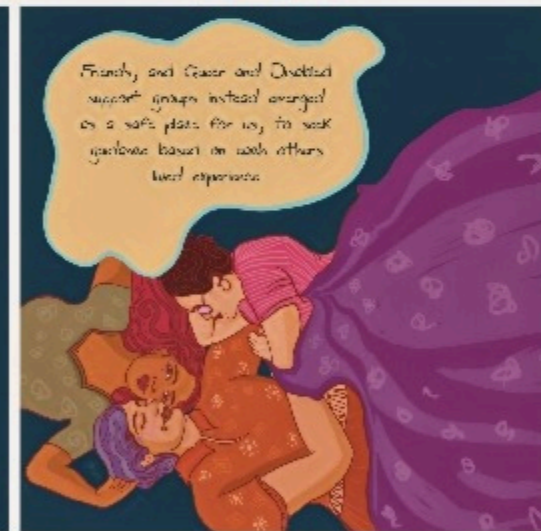
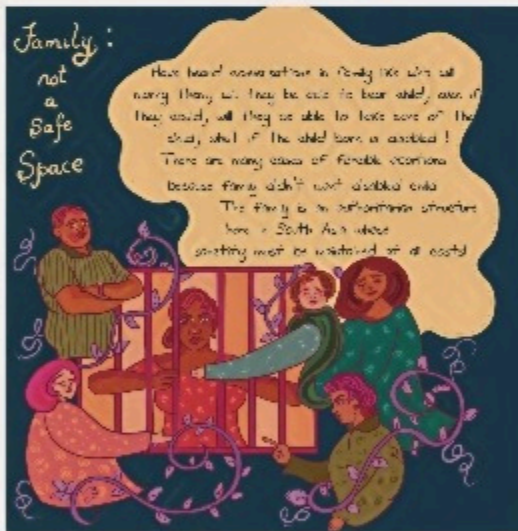
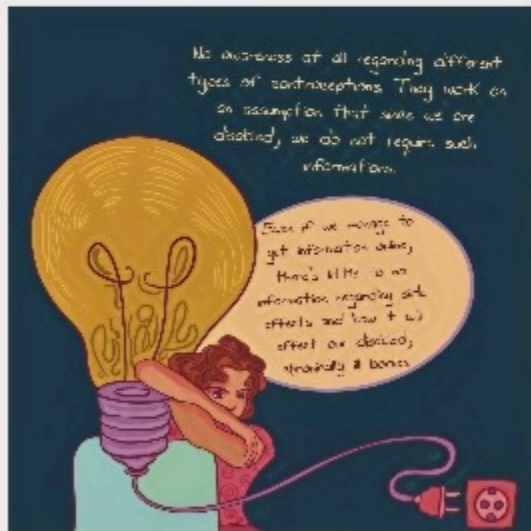
LIVED EXPERIENCES FROM THE COMMUNITY

Anon, disabled and trans, spends most of her time within medical institutions where she has encountered a myriad of abuse against her identity. She talks about how the idea of "home" is constantly shifting and fluid for queer disabled folks as they are often abandoned and neglected by their families. So, home for them is constantly in motion - "friend's sofas, guest rooms, shelter homes, Government hospital wards."

During these shifts, bodies are seen as disposable. "It's seen as a transaction. I provide you shelter, you provide me sexual favours." she says, alluding to the double fetishization that disabled queer bodies already face. Stating the violence inflicted against queer disabled bodies, she says : "There is a lot of normalization of violence towards our bodies. We are considered lesser and so is our bodies. Sometimes even the medical institutions who we rely on for care are abusive to us."

RDI'S ABORTION AND DISABILITY JUSTICE TOOLKIT

email us at revivaldisabilitymag@gmail.com to receive a digital copy!



Illustrating tales of disabled sapphic intimacy and abortion justice, Ritika has redefined queer disabled art and activism. They spend their time listening to kpop and reading queer fantasy novels and mangas!

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