

Mission:

Hi my name is Erik and I wanted to start off by talking about Apne Aap Women's Collective's mission. The mission of Apne Aap Women's Collective is to provide a caring and supportive platform of wholesome services to help women, girls and children in the Red Light Area make choices for a dignified and better quality life.

Background:

Hi, this is Auriana. I just wanted to talk a little bit about the background of AAWC. So, Apne Aap Women's Collective is an anti-trafficking organization that serves brothel-based sex workers and marginalized children in Kamathipura, which is Mumbai's largest red light area. AAWC provides tools and resources that work to address needs in outreach, finance, health, education, empowerment, recreation, and shelter. To most effectively address these needs, the organization runs three age-based programs, which are listed here, with tools and resources specifically adapted to each group. Through these programs, which provide shelter for young girls, medical check ups, empowerment workshops, and general education among other things, AAWC is making significant strides toward growing women's empowerment and stopping intergenerational prostitution.

Our Role:

This is Isabella and I'm going to talk about our specific role in working with Apne Aap.

Our role consisted mainly of two parts, the first being creating a sexual education manual for the children of Mumbai's sex workers. The materials were aimed at girls over the age of 10, and topics we focused on included human development, sexual and reproductive health, the reproductive system, and gender and sexual identities. Special considerations we had were making the material age-appropriate and culturally sensitive.

In the second semester of our work, we focused on creating ethnographic study tools for Apne Aap's research in Mumbai's red light district. This included doing research on red light districts around the world, and comparing factors such as quality of life to that found in Mumbai's red light district.

In addition to these assignments, we also maintained regular contact with our supervisor, Sneha Mahajan in order to remain aware of the organization's needs.

Sex Ed Manual:

This is Annabella and I'm going to talk a little bit more about the work we did for the sex-ed manual for AAWC. The sexual education manual was written for girls and women above the age of 10. As Isabella mentioned, as we wrote the manual we always made sure to remain age-appropriate and culturally-sensitive as well as informative for the students. Each topic of the manual was divided amongst the CG to work in pairs or teams to complete.

The topic of human development included lessons about human biology during puberty, and specific lessons on understanding and caring for one's body during menstruation.

The section on the reproductive system aimed for a comprehensive overview of the biology of the human reproductive system and how reproduction and conception occurs.

The section on sexuality and gender identity provided definitions of gender identity and sexuality, as well as further discussion of different gender identities, sexualities, the use of pronouns, and how to treat one another with respect.

The section on sexual health covers the risks of STIs and the importance of safe-sex practices using different methods, such as different forms of contraception. It also covers the importance of consent and safety within relationships.

Each section was written in the form of a lesson plan outline for the teachers and included all of our research, a basic script, video links, and guidelines and materials for different classroom activities. The outline also provided instructions for a “question box” for which students could write down questions they might be too afraid to ask out loud and put them in the box to be answered anonymously.

Ethnographic Study Tool:

Hi everyone, this is David. I'm going to be speaking about the ethnographic study tool that we created. For those who don't know, an ethnographic study is a method of study where researchers completely immerse themselves in the lives, culture, or situation they are studying. This tool was designed to help researchers from Apne Aap conduct an ethnographic study of Kamathipura. It includes a number of guidelines for gathering participants, conducting interviews, and analyzing data. Our guidelines for gathering participants include making sure you have a large sample size, and all of the participants are over 18 years old, understand what the study is, and have given consent to participate in the study. We wanted to make sure that consent was given and that participants understood what they were being interviewed for because we had noticed that ethnographic researchers sometimes liked to interview participants without them knowing that they were being interviewed or sometimes even recorded because it reduces the chance for response bias. We decided this practice presented ethical issues. We've also added guiding questions for interviews that cover a range of topics including healthcare, wages, housing, and education. We found these topics to be the most relevant when discussing living conditions of the residents in an area of interest. Finally, we added guiding questions for analyzing the data collected. These questions include things like “pay attention to demographics, are there any patterns, and what does this data tell me about the area?”

What We Learned:

Hi this is Kota. Our time with AAWC allowed us to learn a great deal of information while also providing us with essential skills that we will use outside of our GEI work. During the fall semester we researched information about sex education in Mumbai, India so that we could develop a manual to provide sex education to girls living in Kamathipura. During this process we learned a lot about how sex education in Kamathipura was viewed and we experienced drafting lesson plans while creating manuals for the girls who AAWC would be working with. During the

winter semester we took a deeper look at the Kamathipura Red Light Area as well as other Red Light Areas around the world in order to get an idea of the similarities and differences of the lives of the sex workers in these areas. We then researched how to conduct an ethnographic study before drafting our own ethnographic tool that AAWC could use in Kamathipura. Throughout both semesters we also maintained frequent contact with our AAWC supervisor Sneha Mahajan, which allowed us to gain experience in what it's like to have communications with people across different time zones.

Personal Reflection Slide 1:

Hi, this is Shaun Speaking. I am currently in China now and I am here to present the personal reflection and conclusion slides. For our personal reflection, we all mentioned that it was a valuable and unforgettable experience working with Apne, the internship, and the assignments we had. It was a crucial and critical experience during our four-year college at Michigan. We all felt like that we did address or at least help to address some kind of global issue, and we are proud of that.

Personal Reflection Slide 2:

Onto our next slide, we also mentioned that working with the group members. Because in our group, we all have a diverse background and diverse ethnicity, we are constantly sharing different cultural narratives and different cultural options, and we all learned how to respect the differences and respect the cultures that could be different from our origins.

Thank you slide:

Onto our last slide, our conclusion slide. All our group members, we just want to show gratitude to whether it's GSP or Apne, to Sneha, to Clay, and Lisa, just to everyone who offered us enormous support throughout the whole year and especially at this complicated and unusual time. We felt that it was GSP that provided us this unusual and very valuable opportunity to connect with this internship program that offered us opportunities to gain skills we wouldn't have the chance to learn in other internship programs. We are just really thankful and grateful for all the opportunities that we had and we wish GSP would have a bright future and be an even better community for the days to come.