For a country with the fastest-growing population, it comes as a surprise that sex is still considered a taboo in India. This taboo leads to some heinous crimes like child sexual abuse and rape. The project “Titli” aimed to curb the ills of child sexual abuse by raising awareness, especially in rural India. The Indian government backed a survey of 1,25,000 children in 13 states which says that 57% of boys and 73% of girls are victims of child sexual abuse.

The project consisted of intensive primary research in parts of western Uttar Pradesh. Participatory design helped to engage and co-create with the communities to address the prevalence of the issue. The outcome of this research pointed towards a severe lack of communication between the parent and the child. Identifying a dire need to bridge this gap, various workshops were conducted with children, adolescents and parents. In a country where talking about sexual abuse is considered taboo, encouraging people to discuss and thus develop solutions, became a salient feature of the design process. This participatory approach helped better understand the community by recognizing them as stakeholders.

Titli: Project to curb the ills of child sexual abuse

Shubhangi Singh
National Institute of Design
Uttar Pradesh, India
shubhangisingh43@gmail.com

For the next phase of the project, participatory workshop was designed for adolescents. The aim of the workshop was to collect information through personal incidents and to understand the demographic system of rural parts.

Some interviews were also conducted with the parents to understand how they educate their children about sexual safety.

At the end of this project, an event was organized for parents by collaborating with the children and adolescents. The idea behind the participants-led exhibition was to give the participants a platform where they can share their stories with parents.