

Supplementary file 1

Document review

We also analyzed the following documents pertaining to the case: 1) petitions made by the members of the CBOs on behalf of the aggrieved rural women; 2) response letters from the public institutions/authorities; 3) lawsuit filed against Dr.X in the High Court of Karnataka; 4) documentation of the key events in the case by the CBO; 5) lawsuit filed in the local court against one of the social workers of a local community -based organizations; 6) first information report (police case) filed against Dr.X; 7) Karnataka Medical Council order on Dr.X; and 8) final judgement of Karnataka State Human Rights Commission.

Media reports

We examined a total of 30 media reports pertaining to the case published by national, state, and local media institutions such as The New Indian Express, The Hindu, Deccan Herald, Prajvaani, Hosadigantha, Malanada Vani, Kannadaprabha, Udayavani, Samyuktha Karnataka and Vijaya Karnataka. We analyzed the media articles for their timing of publication, content and actors pertaining to the case. We assigned labels to the articles (MA-1MA-30).