

# Beating Missing and MisInformation

## Aim

To address missing information and misinformation on Intersex and Asexual persons or Aces (the “I” and “A” in LGBTQIAP+, both of which are among the lesser known and more misunderstood identities) in Karnataka (a state in southern India), as relevant resources are minimally available or barely accessible in both these languages.

## Background and Current Difficulties

Information and statistics on intersex and asexual persons (like Ritash, one of this project’s collaborators) in India are absent, though intersex persons’ population is 1.7 - 2.5% globally as per the WHO and various intersex persons’ organisations. Yasmin Benoit and Stonewall UK’s October 2023 “Ace in the UK” report reveals that 1-2% of the UK population is Ace. Yet, intersex and asexual children and adults are pathologised, shamed and alienated, particularly in India. Further, many uninformed or misinformed and biased healthcare providers (HCPs) perform unnecessary surgeries and medical procedures on many intersex persons. Some intersex and asexual persons have revealed that they were prescribed unnecessary medication and coercive “therapy” (this isn’t therapeutic) and corrective “counselling” (such counselling/counsellors and its advocates are incorrect, not intersex or asexual persons).

Battling such misinformation not only requires debunking, but also requires providing missing information. Through this project, we aim to address the missing information and misinformation problems about Intersex and Asexual communities across Karnataka. This project is not limited to building an information system for communities, but ensuring the same is available and accessible in regional languages. The corpus generated, would be made public under a creative commons license. We aim to leverage free and open source, audio/video narration, annotation, and story building platforms.

## Audience Needs and Motivations

To bridge the information gap and create awareness and sensitivity among healthcare providers and larger society about intersex and asexual persons’ challenges and needs. This will enhance affirmation and validation of intersex and asexual persons.

The project will generate a data corpus for misinformation communities and the public alike. The data corpus will serve as a means for the public (including communities, individuals, corporates etc) to understand the intersex and asexual communities. Healthcare Providers working with these communities would be able to provide better counselling, diagnoses, medication, treatment and respond to our target communities better. The misinformation communities will benefit in using the data corpus as a part of their misinformation workflow, including integrating this corpus into their data training workflows.

## Milestone Goals

- Identify narrators

- Script and Record short (5-8 minutes each) audio narratives of intersex and asexual persons in the languages spoken in Karnataka
- Edit, transcribe and annotate the audios
- Generate and publish the dataset

Narrators will determine if their stories can or cannot be public. The public narratives will contain provenance information i.e., where necessary, have annotations (as text and audio) throughout the audio stories to contextualize them. Audios will be shared publicly only with considering the narrators' explicit and recorded consent.

### **Solution Plan and Functionalities**

The process of building a corpus, requires a multi-stage documentation lifecycle. Initial documentation requires consented audio/video narratives from different stakeholders from intersex and asexual communities to be recorded and transcribed. Literacy is a critical contributing factor in these communities, as many members do not have access to a formal education. Once transcribed, these narratives, should be annotated for various segments, like but not limited to stories, personal experiences, experiences etc.

After scripting, recording, editing, transcribing and annotating, we would be compile these annotations into consumable buckets and translate them into a dataset. A simple webpage would be developed for this dataset to be consumed as-is for immediate references, while the same would also be the core dataset which would be shared for people to build tools and integrations around the dataset.

### **Timeline and Budget**

Acquire hardware infrastructure (portable audio recorders) - 300 USD, 15 days

Setup software environment - allot storage space (on Janastu server), identify publishing/uploading platform (Spotify, Insta) - 250 USD, 15 days

Identify, contact and finalize narrators (3-4 per language and identity/community, total 10-12 persons) - 75 USD, 5 days

Script stories with narrators (multiple episodes per story, 10 stories, 3 episodes per story, total 30 audios) - 250 USD, 20 days

Audio Record stories/episodes - 300 USD, 15 days

Edit audios - 300 USD, 15 days

Transcribe and Annotate audios - 200 USD, 15 days

Create 30 second video teasers with still visuals, subtitles and audio clips - 225 USD, 10 days

Upload/publish edited and annotated audios (Spotify, Insta, Janastu stories) - 125 USD, 5 days

Create audio dissemination plan and tracker - 125 USD, 5 days

Disseminate (via SM like FB, X, Mastadon, Threads, msg'ing tools like WA, TG, Sg, Element, etc.) - 175 USD, 5 days

Track disseminated audios' response/feedback - 125 USD, 10 days

Analyse and incorporate feedback - 250 USD, 15 days

Total cost: 2825 USD (approx)

Total duration: 150 days (approx)

**Collaborators**

Ramaseshan and Shalini (Janastu), Ritash (RANG Collective, Ace)

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**Working Groups**

Intersex Human Rights India (IHRI) network and Asexuals (Aces) and Aromantics (Aros) group members will script, narrate and translate stories with above collaborators