

Almost 140,000 people died by suicide in India in 2019 alone. For each person that dies by suicide, about 60 others are impacted by the bereavement, and 20 go on to attempt suicide. This is undeniably a public health crisis of epic proportions. The UN Sustainable Development Goal 3, Target 3.4 states that by 2030, countries need to work towards reducing deaths by suicide by one-third. In spite of this, there is almost no conversation on suicide prevention, both globally and in India.

Suicide prevention work needs to begin with a comprehensive understanding of the issue. Unfortunately, due to stigma surrounding suicide and the fact that it is seen as a personal failing rather than the outcome of a complex interplay of social and psychological factors, conversations around suicide barely scratch the surface of what needs to be done to prevent it.

At Mariwala Health Initiative (MHI), we are creating space for many long-overdue conversations on suicide prevention. *'Suicide Prevention: Changing the narrative'* is the first step in what we hope will be a long-term, collaborative, multidisciplinary effort towards preventing suicide in India. We're inviting you to be a part of The Alliance for Suicide Prevention to the building of a collective movement to prevent suicide in India. If you are a funder, nonprofit, academic institution, researcher, or mental health professional, partner with us as we grow the Alliance for Suicide Prevention. Please write to us at asp@mariwalahealthinitiative.org to learn more about how you can be a part of this collective effort.

It is time that conversations on suicide move beyond the narrow and misleading lens of individual choice, towards examining the social structures of oppression and marginalization that adversely and disproportionately impact certain communities and people and puts them at higher risk of suicide and/or self-harm. Suicide prevention work must address the roots of this discrimination, taking a psychosocial and public health approach. Furthermore, the stressors and experiences of each community are unique and therefore, successful suicide prevention initiatives need to centre and be delivered by members of impacted communities and not just mental health practitioners and experts.

We encourage you to read the *'Suicide Prevention: Changing the narrative'* report to understand and know more about the approach that the Alliance for Suicide Prevention will adopt. We invite you to join us to contribute to this important conversation and drive this movement in a direction in which it can make a meaningful impact.