#WhatWENeed 2022

Spotlight interview with Sadam Hanjabam

Transcript

Richa, TCI: Hello and welcome to the TCI #WhatWENeed Spotlight Interview Series. We sincerely thank you for being available for this session and giving us your time. I would now request you to please tell us your name, where do you live and what do you do?

Sadam, Ya_All: My name is Sadam Hanjabam and I am from Imphal, Manipur. I am the founder of Ya_all which is Northeast India's first registered LGBTI and youth led and youth focused organisation. We work with young people on different intersections and on inclusion. We work with different communities belonging to LGBTI individuals, people living with psychosocial disabilities, indigenous population, tribes and young people affected by HIV. We work with the age group between 10 to 35 years. So, it is totally focused on youth and led by young people.

Richa, TCI: Thank you for that introduction, Sadam. We will now move on to the next question. In our movement, we always start our conversations with and around personal identity. We started out by saying that we are a movement of persons with psychosocial disabilities. We wish to ask you if you relate to that identity and please do share any reflections on identity positions that can support our advocacy and our movement.

Sadam, Ya_All: I identify myself as a person living with psychosocial disability and also a person from the LGBTI community. I identify myself as gay. I have been a survivor of drug overdose and also conflict in that way. I identify myself with different intersections and that is why our work also embodies a lot of different intersections based on our lived experience. The area that we live has been under conflict and is a border region. So, we do work on a lot of intersectionality issues.

Richa, TCI: Thank you for that. Moving on to the last question. You have been a TCI fellow alumni and Ya_All has been a core member of TCI. Would you please tell us what you find promising in this movement led by TCI Global?

Sadam, Ya_All: I have had the privilege of being a TCI fellow. In the journey, we have learned the way of working through recovery, working for inclusion, working for diversity and definitely with the LGBTI community. It has helped us to visibilize our work a lot. On a personal note, it has improved my way of thinking of how others look at people living with psychosocial disability and from different communities like us. Personally for me, the vision of TCI is really helpful in a way to understand how other people do not recognise the rights and freedom of people living with psychosocial disability and different identities. The vision itself has been a motivating factor for me to move ahead and work here in Manipur. It has opened windows for us and the new initiative where TCI is opening up an inclusive youth platform is one of the most promising thing that I am looking forward to.

Richa, TCI: Thank you, Sadam. Thank you for such clear responses. We thank you again for giving us your time to do this interview and telling us about your work and all the best for all your tasks ahead. Thank you.