



Participatory Arts for Health

The research project is a collaboration between the University of Leeds and The Kohima Institute and aims to build the research capacity among indigenous young people in the region of Nagaland where there has been a curtailment of research into critical areas such as health.

Three young researchers led the project and each directed a documentary film. The research project created an important platform for the researchers to communicate the issues affecting youth in the region, including how local communities perceive, define and understand mental health and substance addiction.

At a dissemination event organised by the young researchers, audience members including community leaders, expressed the importance of the films and their potential to raise awareness among policy makers of the issues affecting youth populations and the need to combat stigma, which is preventing many young people from seeking help.

The young researchers continue to design new and creative ways of disseminating their research. In the spring of 2020, the researchers were awarded Changing the Story Mobility Funding to further disseminate their film outputs for advocacy and awareness raising among local communities and young people in Nagaland.

One young researcher also successfully submitted their film to the Changing the Story Online International Film Festival 2020 and received the Silver Audience Choice Award. The award has drawn the attention of local press and government, helping to carry the community voices featured in the film to the policy level.

Stay up to date with the latest project news via changingthestory.ac.uk/participatory_arts_health_improvement_india and @Changing_Story_

Credit: The Kohima Institute



**CHANGING
THE STORY**

Participatory Arts for Health is funded by the AHRC GCRF project **Changing the Story**, a participatory action research project that asks how the arts can support youth-centred approaches to civil society building in post-conflict settings across the world.