

Annual Report 2025



Body & Data



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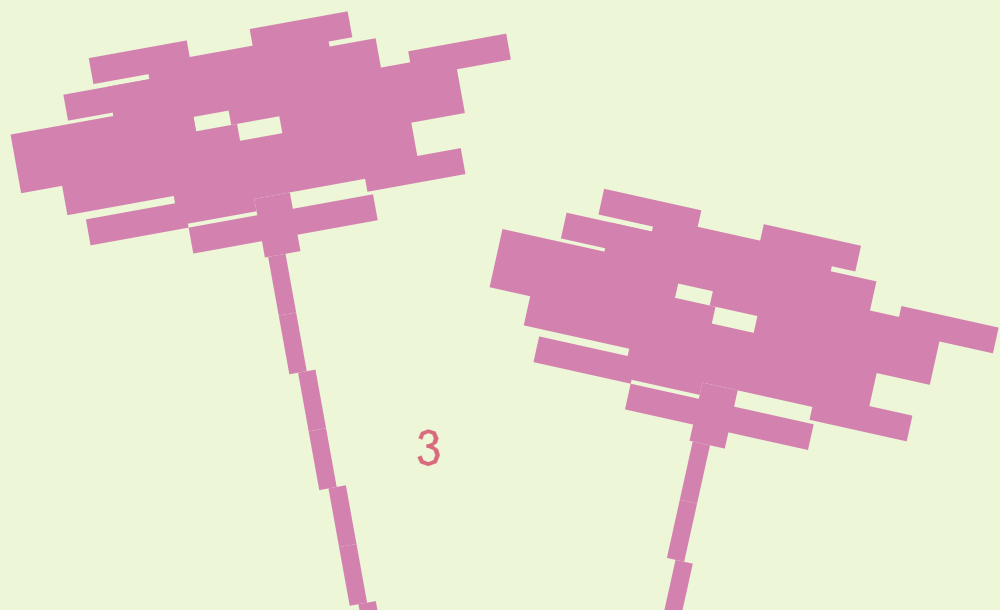
BODY & DATA



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Table of Content

A Note of Gratitude	4
Introduction	6
Recap of 2025	8
1 Knowledge Generation	9
A National ID Research:	11
B Media Monitoring	12
C Blogs and Storytelling	14
D Movement to Elections	16
2 Capacity Building	18
A Algorithms & AI: Feminist Learning Lab 2025	20
B Chiya Charcha	22
C Ethical and Responsible AI Guidelines	24
D Behind the Scenes; How we held space for each other	25
3 Advocacy and Campaign	26
A SNB Billathon	27
B Cross Movement and Communication Building	28
What are we building for 2026?	30
Contact Us	32



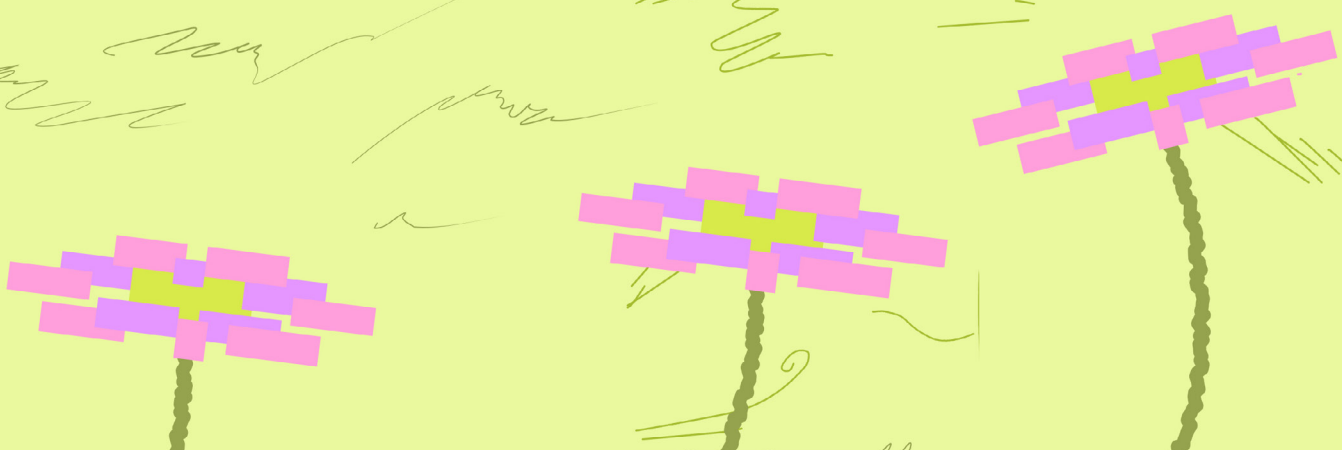
The year 2025 has been a monumental one for Nepal. In a country whose political history has been shaped by successive social and democratic movements, the Gen Z uprising of September left a profound mark, marked by significant youth participation, creating a rupture in the political landscape – opening new democratic possibilities while also exposing new vulnerabilities and uncertainties.

For Body & Data, after a period of institutional transition and rebuilding in 2024, this was the year we found our footing and renewed our sense of purpose. We deepened our commitment to understanding, defending, and co-creating digital spaces so that they remain accessible, safe, and just for all.

This year, we observed Nepal's distinctive trajectory of digitalization. We witnessed young people mobilizing and amplifying their voices through digital media, demonstrating its potential for collective action and civic participation. At the same time, we saw how digital spaces can fuel misinformation, polarization, chaos, and violence, upending social trust and cohesion. We also observed how women and marginalized communities face disproportionate exposure to digital harms, including harassment, misinformation, and systemic exclusion. Globally, 2025 was equally consequential.

A NOTE OF GRATITUDE

Dovan Rai
Executive Director



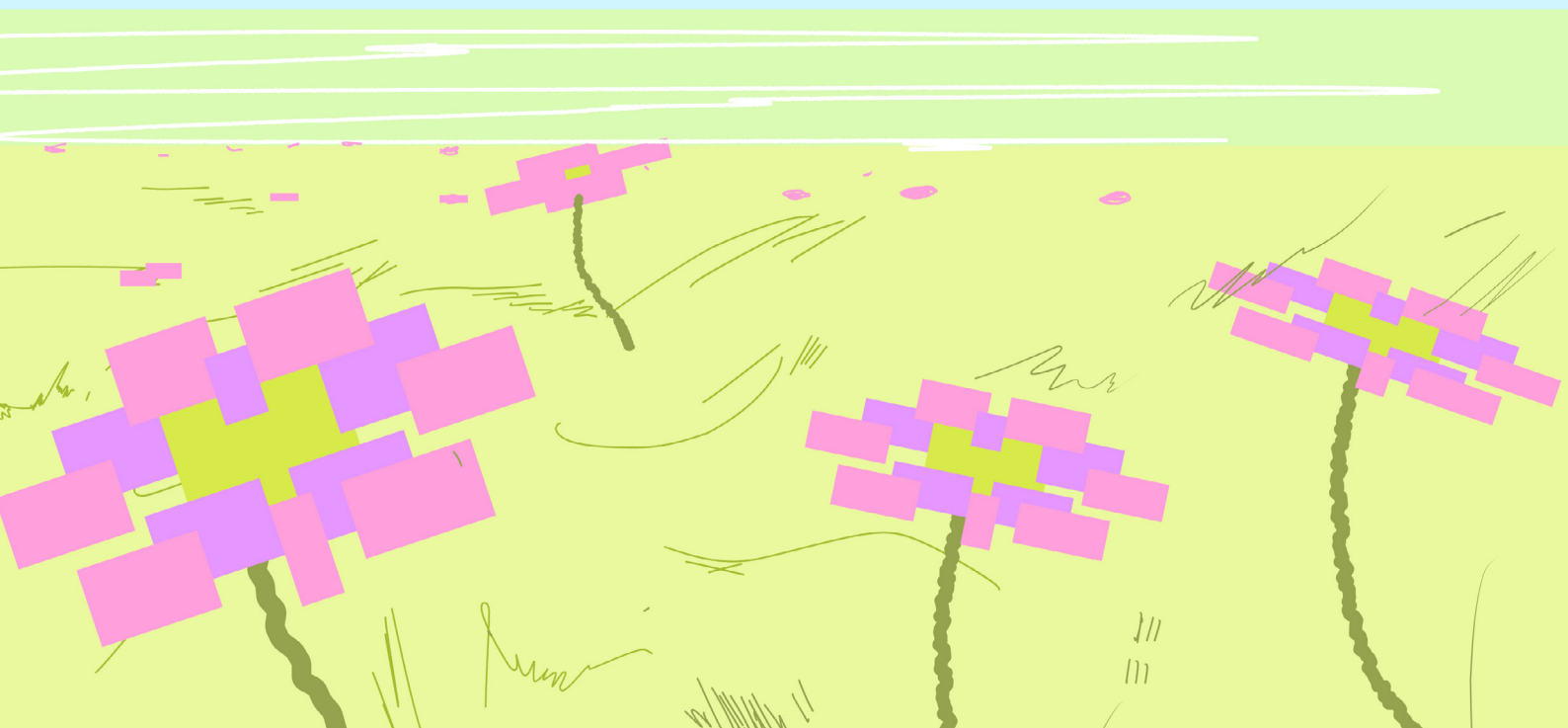
Rapid advances in AI, deepening geopolitical tensions, and the growing entanglement of technology with state oppression, conflict, and warfare have created new risks and vulnerabilities for people and communities worldwide.

To guide our increasingly digitized collective reality, we need collective sensemaking, grounding in shared humanistic values, and accountability from both the state and citizens. The need for digital citizenship, platform accountability, and rights-based digital governance has become more urgent than ever.

Throughout the year, we contributed to these conversations through initiatives including billathons, public explainers, research on digital governance, media monitoring, feminist AI workshops, and co-learning sessions on algorithms and elections. We also launched new research to better understand Nepal's evolving digital landscape in the aftermath of the gen Z uprising, with particular attention to the experiences of women and marginalized communities. Alongside this work, we strengthened our national, regional, and international collaborations.

In moments of crisis, uncertainty, hope, and possibility, we are reminded that our greatest strength lies in community. We are immensely grateful to our team for their dedication and care, to our Board of Directors for their guidance and stewardship, and to our partners and allies, as well as the many activists, artists, researchers, educators, journalists, and young people who continue to inspire and challenge us. We are deeply thankful to our donors, whose feminist vision, trust, and solidarity make this work possible.

As we look toward the future, we remain committed to fostering collective learning and care, and to strengthening feminist approaches to understanding and reimagining technology.



Introduction

Who are we?

Body & Data is a feminist digital rights organization working to ensure that digital spaces are safe, accessible and just for women, queer people, and other marginalized groups in Nepal since 2017. We work to strengthen understanding of digital rights and how it is experienced by individuals that have been historically and structurally marginalized.

Our work centers the lived realities of marginalized groups and recognizes that digital experiences are shaped by intersecting factors such as gender, sexuality, caste, class, disability, geography, and power. Grounded in an intersectional feminist lens, we engage in research, advocacy, capacity building, community building, and knowledge generation rooted in the Nepal context.

Mission

We advocate, campaign and adopt suitable strategies to ensure accessible, just and safe digital space for marginalized people.

Vision

Accessible, Safe and Just digital space for all.

Our Goal

1. Enhanced understanding and access to information on digital rights among women, queer people, marginalized communities and stakeholders.
2. Women, queer people and marginalized groups are able to exercise their rights in a safe and just digital space.

Recap of 2025

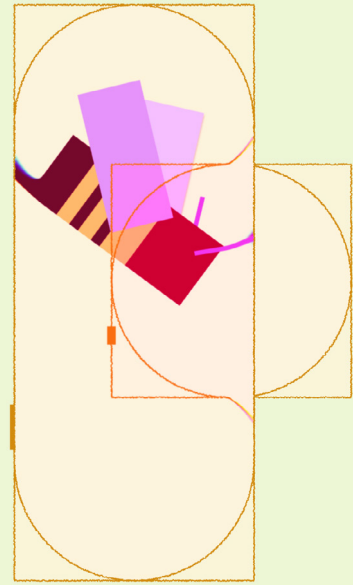


This year, Body & Data curated spaces, activities and campaigns at the intersection of knowledge generation, capacity building, and advocacy and campaigns.

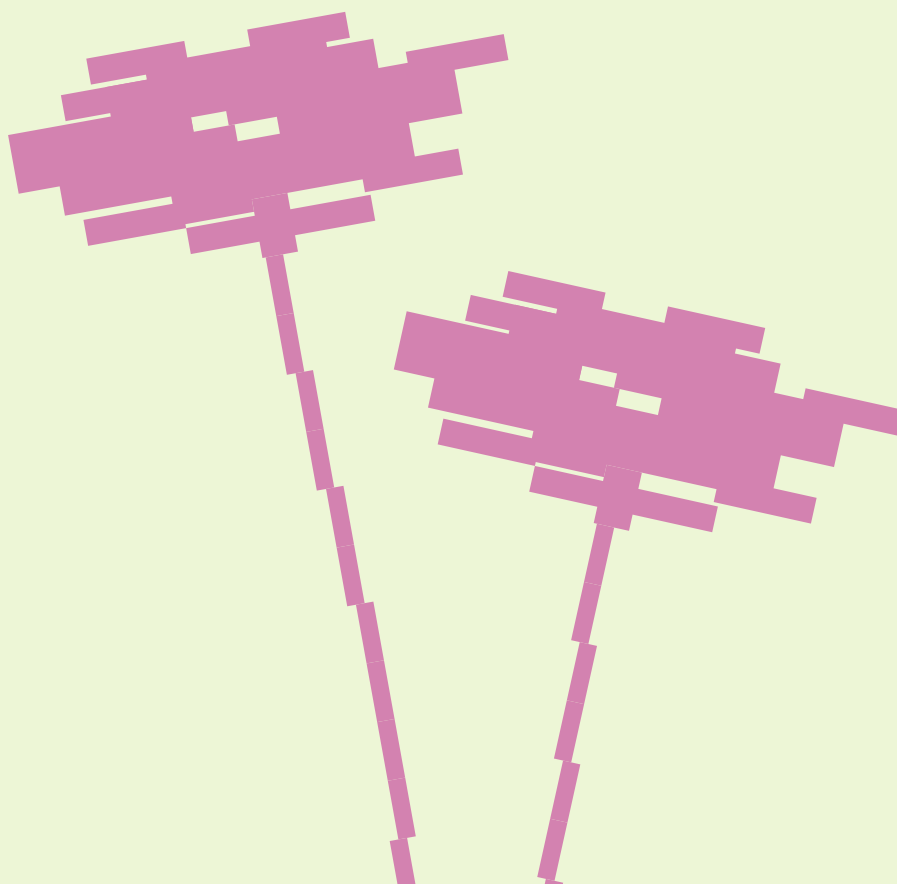


As we step into 2026, we reflect on the work that we did in 2025. 2024 was a year of reflection and planning while 2025 has been a year of building on to our work as we took lessons from our reflection in 2024. This year, Body & Data focused on capacity building, curating spaces, advocating and building discourse around digital rights, AI and Algorithms. As Nepal faces growing challenges related to protectionist and surveilentic digital regulation and freedom of expression, we continue to build a resilient community of marginalized individuals who actively participate in, shape, and claim their agency within digital spaces.

1.



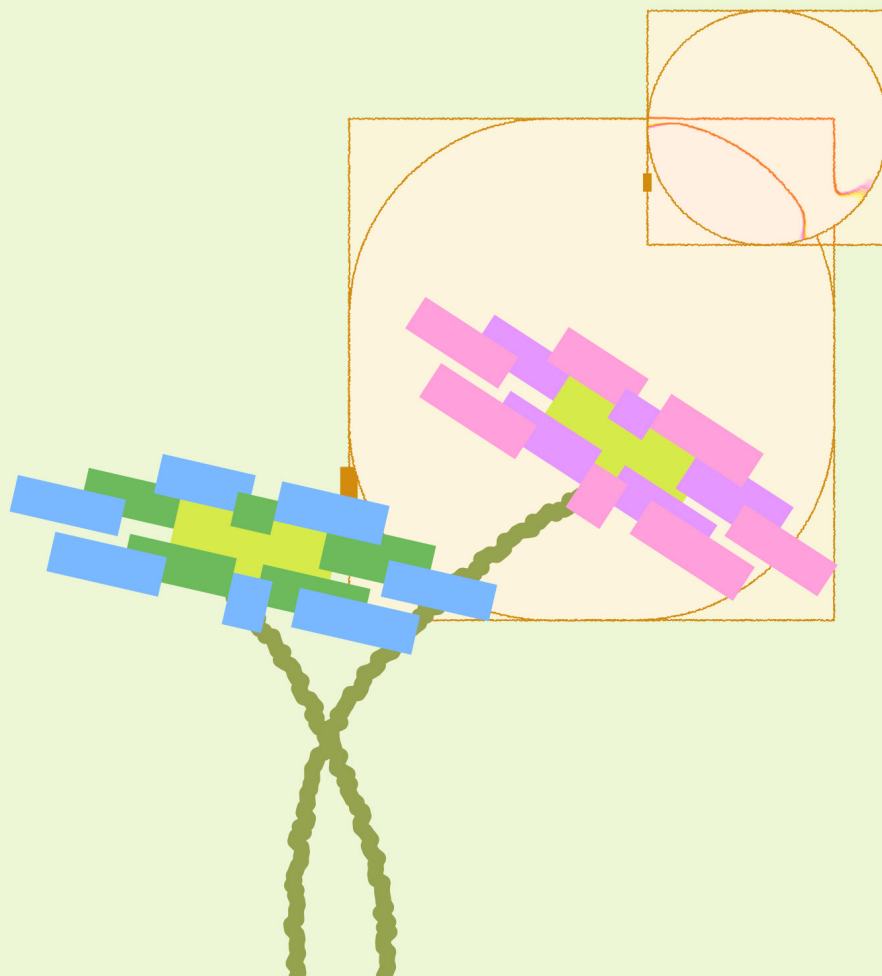
Knowledge Generation



Knowledge generation and dissemination on digital rights from an intersectional feminist lens is one of our strategic pillars. So, in 2025, we continued our work in conducting research, broadening and deconstructing what knowledge means to us.

We deconstructed knowledge by collaborating with independent creators, researchers, writers and community storytellers, ensuring that our findings were not just “data-driven,” but lived and breathed.

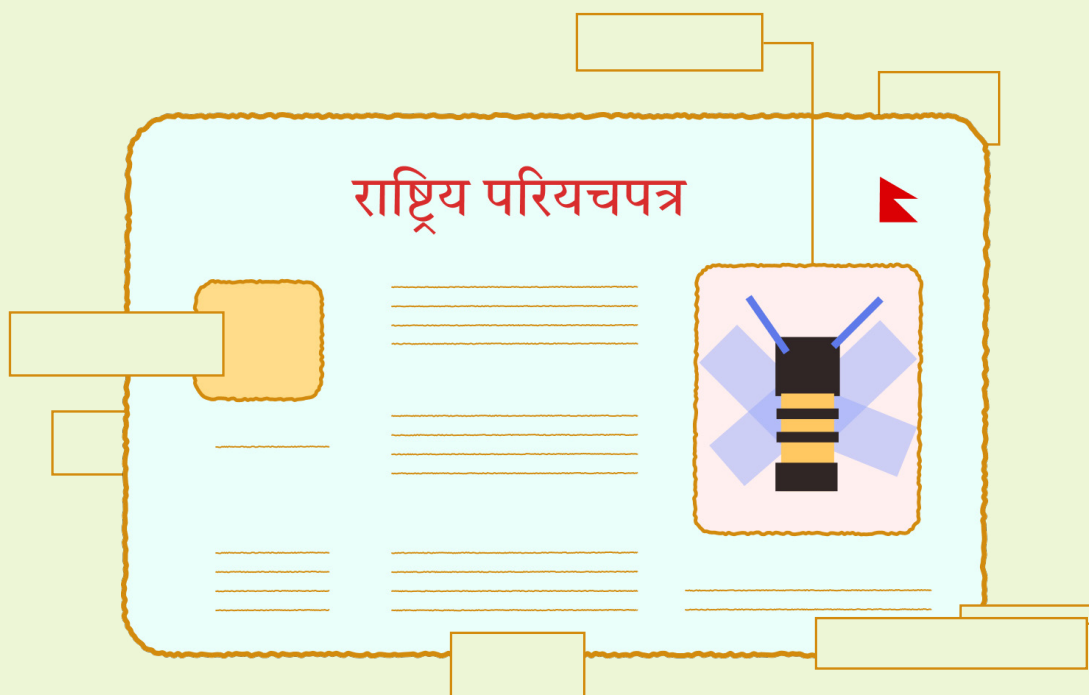
By holding space for these narratives, we are not just documenting the status quo; we are building a grounded, feminist knowledge base that challenges patriarchal surveillance and informs our collective resistance.



1.B

National ID Research

Last year, we published, “Digitization of Identities: Efforts, Experiences and Effects”. Body & Data examined the broader social and political consequences of the National ID. Building on this, in 2025 we conducted two more researches that explored digitalized identity cards and how it impacts marginalized communities.



In addition to this, we also carried out two supporting studies: one examining how similar initiatives have been implemented in other South Asian countries, and another exploring how private organizations uphold privacy and digital rights. Recognizing the need for accessible educational materials on the NID for citizens, we are also developing a handbook to support

public understanding. We have centered the experiences of women, people with disabilities, working-class communities, and queer individuals in these research and education materials. Our research has highlighted how the digitization of identity in Nepal risks becoming a tool for exclusion, specifically for PWDs and queer individuals who navigate a system not designed for their survival.

1.B

Media Monitoring

Body & Data has been conducting regular media monitoring since 2021 to track and analyze news related to digital rights, privacy, online violence, and technology governance in Nepal through an intersectional feminist lens. Media Monitoring is a key part of our work which allows us to identify emerging narratives, best practices risks, and patterns within Nepal's digital landscape while centering the experiences of women, queer people, and marginalized communities.

Throughout 2025, our monthly media monitoring continued to document incidents of technology-facilitated violence, debates around freedom of expression, legislative and policy developments, and evolving forms of online political engagement. The key findings and observations from the media monitoring are disseminated through monthly social media posts, ensuring that critical insights remain accessible to our community online.

In September, we conducted a focused analysis titled, "Media Monitoring Report: GenZ Protest in Nepal". This report argued that news platforms

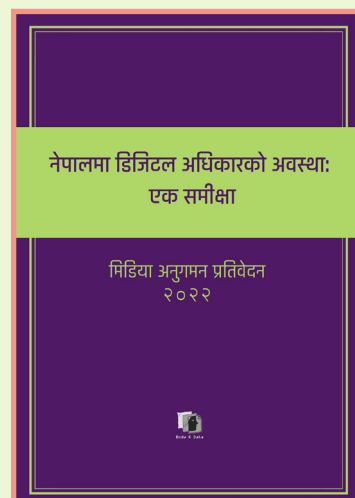
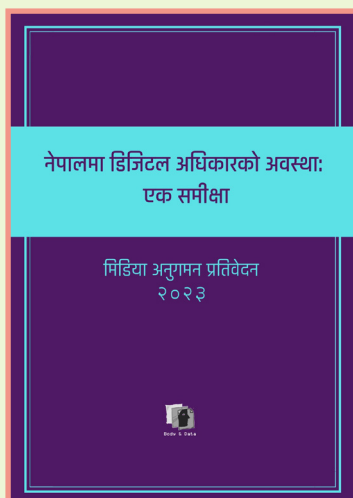
misrepresented the Gen-Z protests by over-focusing on social media bans and spreading misinformation that fueled public fear. While social networks served to both unify and divide the public, the analysis is a rapid response feminist intervention limited by a narrow one-week data collection timeframe and a reliance on purposive sampling. Consequently, the study captures influential content but may miss immediate reactions, long-term narrative shifts, and the full breadth of public discourse.

Through Media Monitoring Observation, Body & Data continues to strengthen public discourse on

Note: This monitoring report has been prepared solely as an institutional initiative by Body & Data. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, we acknowledge the possibility of oversight or error and welcome your feedback or suggestions.

Please feel free to contact us at: communication@bodyanddata.org.

all our media monitoring reports are publicly available at: <https://bodyanddata.org/mm/>.



1.C

Blogs and Storytelling

In 2025, we continue our work in deconstructing knowledge by sharing our lived experiences. Through a series of blog reflections and collaborations with independent writers, Body & Data explored the digital realities of marginalised communities in Nepal. We believe that digital rights work must be grounded in the lived experiences of those at the margins. By publishing stories on gender-based violence, mental health, and queer identities, we built a collective archive of knowledge. These narratives ensure that our work remains deeply connected to the people we serve as we strive for a feminist internet. It has been a privilege to build this space together with our writers, as their knowledge and nuanced reflections on digital experiences help reshape and redefine our online realities.

C.1

Digital Sex Work: An Inside Perspective, Autobiographer,

In this blog, Autobiographer explores the intersection of access, anonymity and economy. Read this blog to understand how Autobiographer, a trans-queer online sex worker in Nepal explores the internet as a site of both radical liberation and systemic vulnerability.



<https://bodyanddata.org/digital-sex-work-an-inside-perspective/>

C.2

Unsolicited Nudes and Digital Abuse, Not Flirtation, Binisha Maharjan,

In this blog, Binisha Maharjan shares her story of having to navigate online violence as well as the “internalized victim-blaming”. Read this blog to understand how she challenges the normalization of digital harassment in a patriarchal culture that often meets victim disclosures with surveillance and blame rather than empathy.

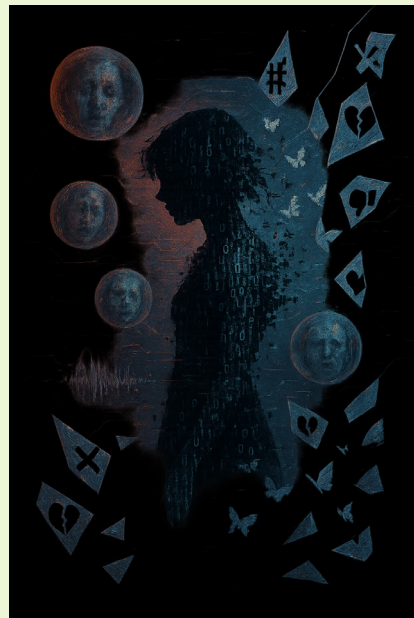


<https://bodyanddata.org/unsolicited-nudes-and-digital-abuse-not-flirtation/>

C.3

Not Just a Rumor: Living Through Digital Violence, Firefly,

In this blog, Firefly, recounts her experience of navigating online abuse and reclaiming digital spaces. Read this blog to learn how she navigates safety as a matter of male “ownership” rather than an inherent right to dignity and digital bodily autonomy.



<https://bodyanddata.org/not-just-a-rumor-living-through-digital-violence/>

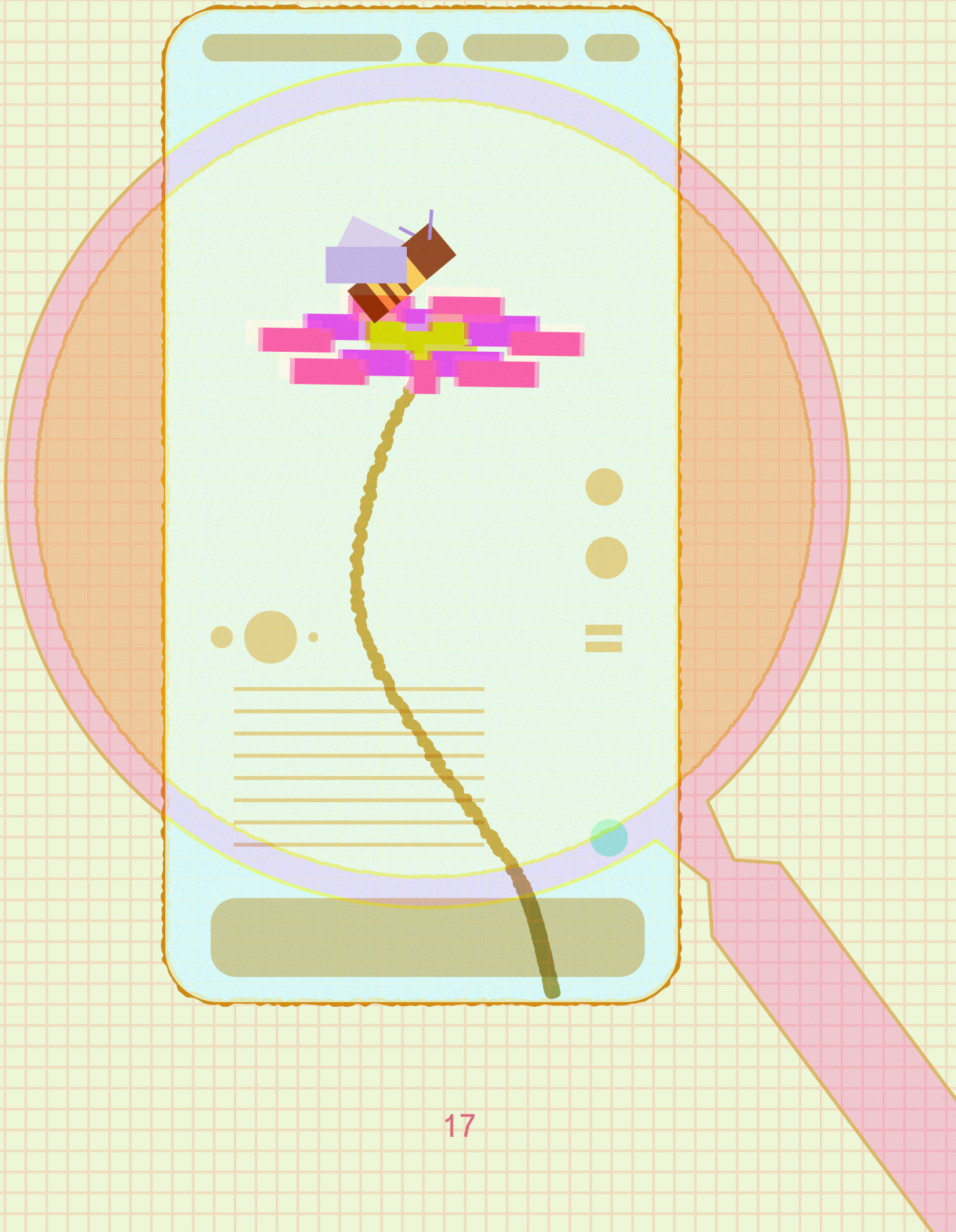
1.D

Movement to Elections

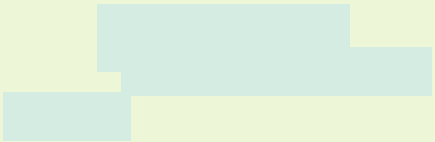
After the Gen Z-led movement, the relation between digital equity and democratic governance has become more visible. Recognizing that Nepal's digital spaces are both sites of liberation and battlegrounds of control and surveillance, Body & Data launched 'From Movement to Election: Pathways to Digital Justice.' This initiative was curated to create a platform for youths to explore the current online dynamics.

As we approached the national elections, we refused to view the internet as a neutral tool. Instead, together with 4 research groups, we started investigating, using an intersectional lens to deconstruct TFGBV, algorithmic bias, mis/disinformation and accessibility. In an effort for the research to be co-created we also did a peer-review workshop which was an act of feminist care-based knowledge sharing, ensuring that as we collectively moved towards 2026.

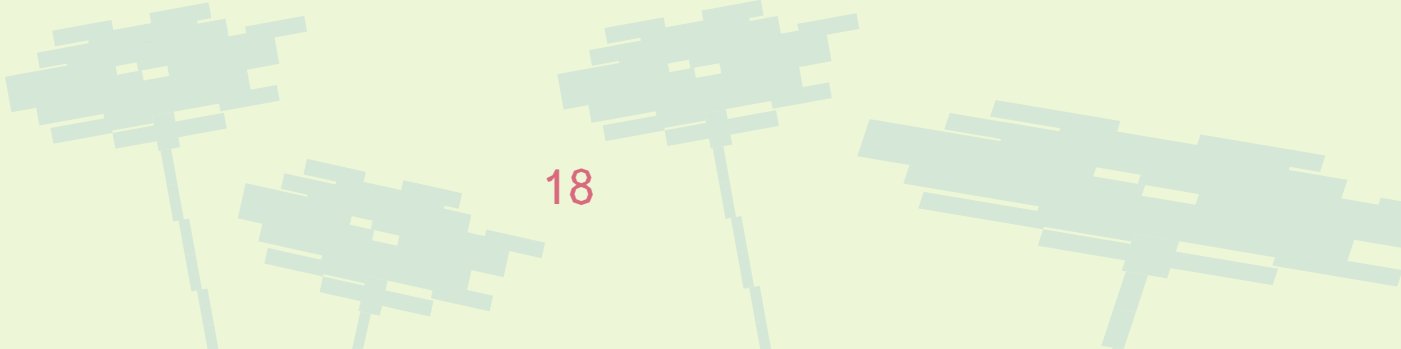
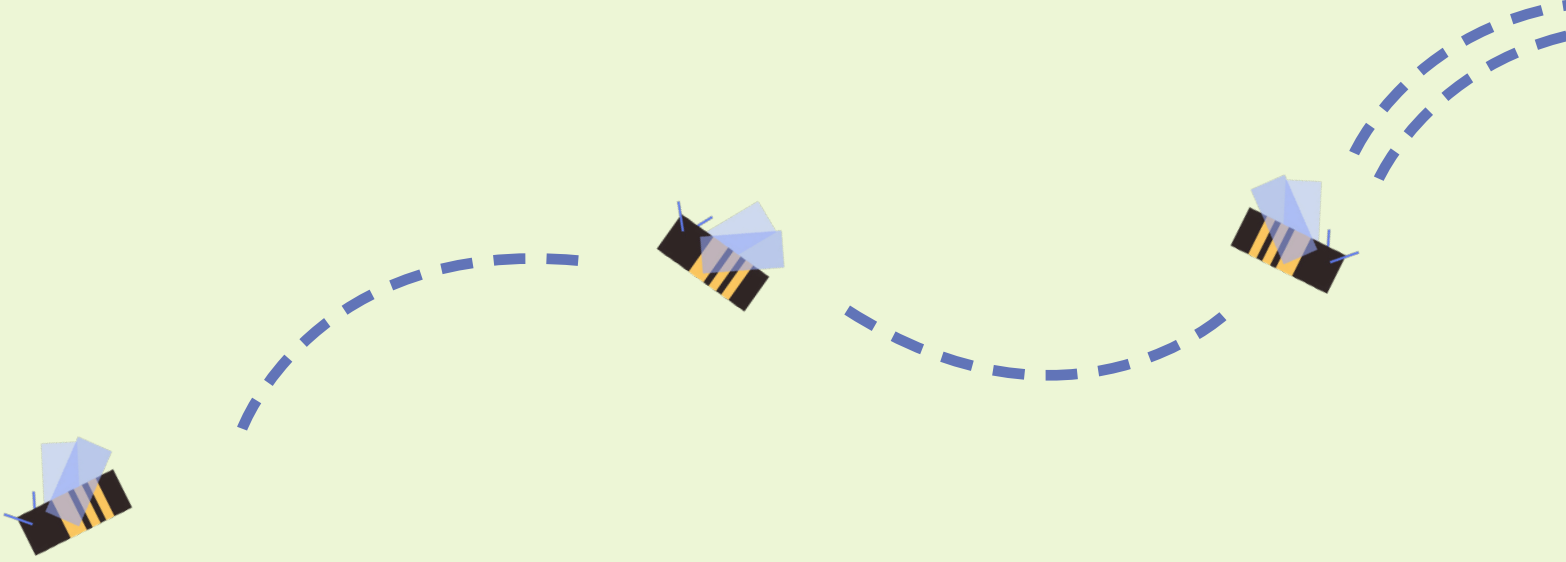


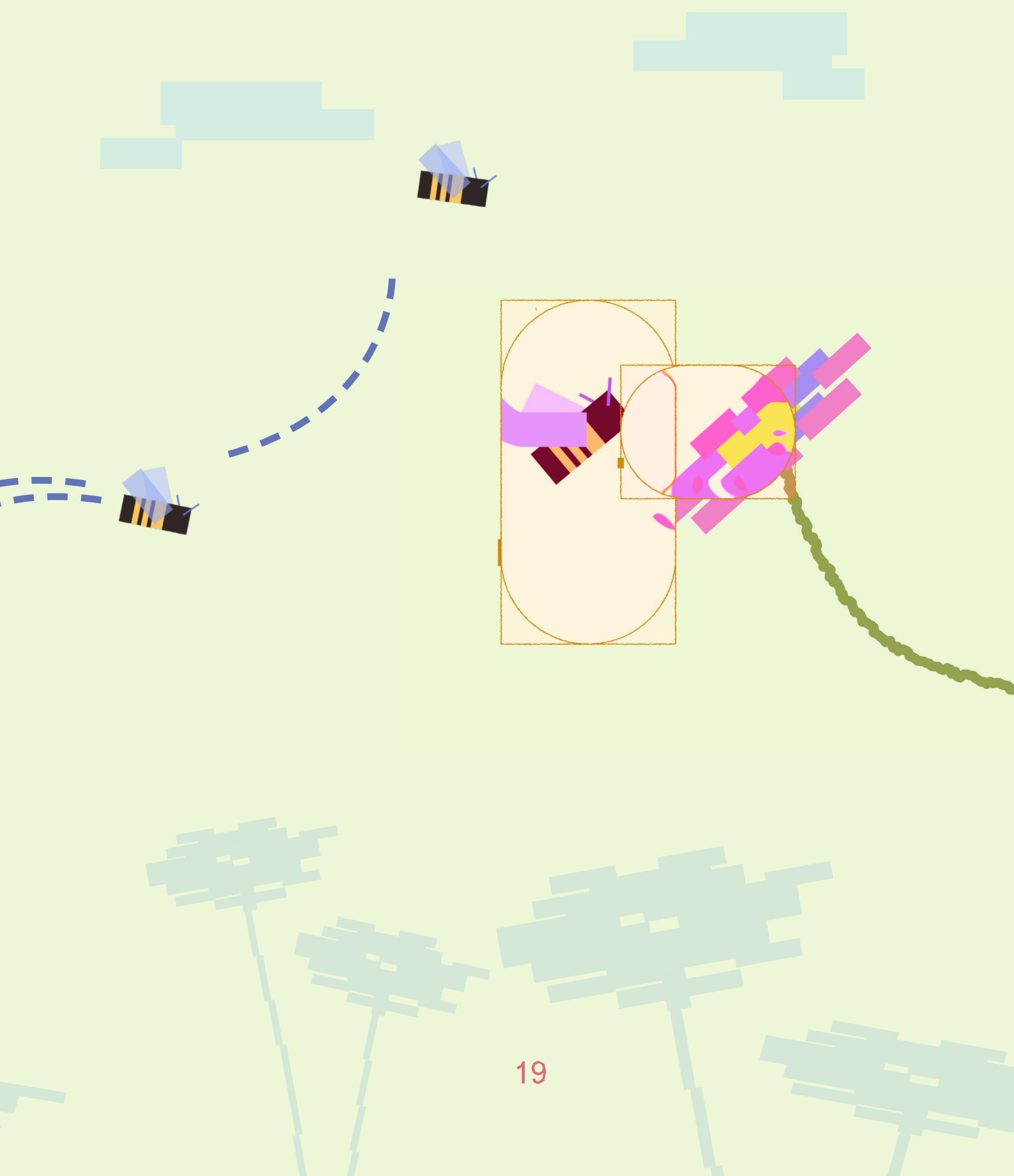


2.



Capacity Building





2.A

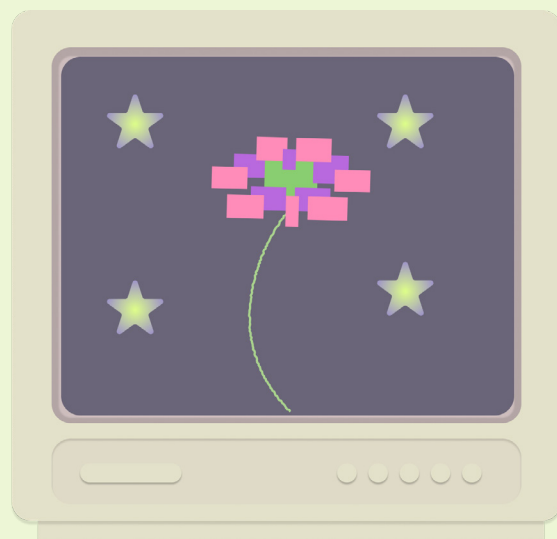
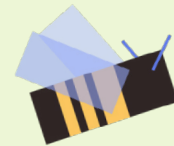
Algorithms & AI: Feminist Learning Lab 2025

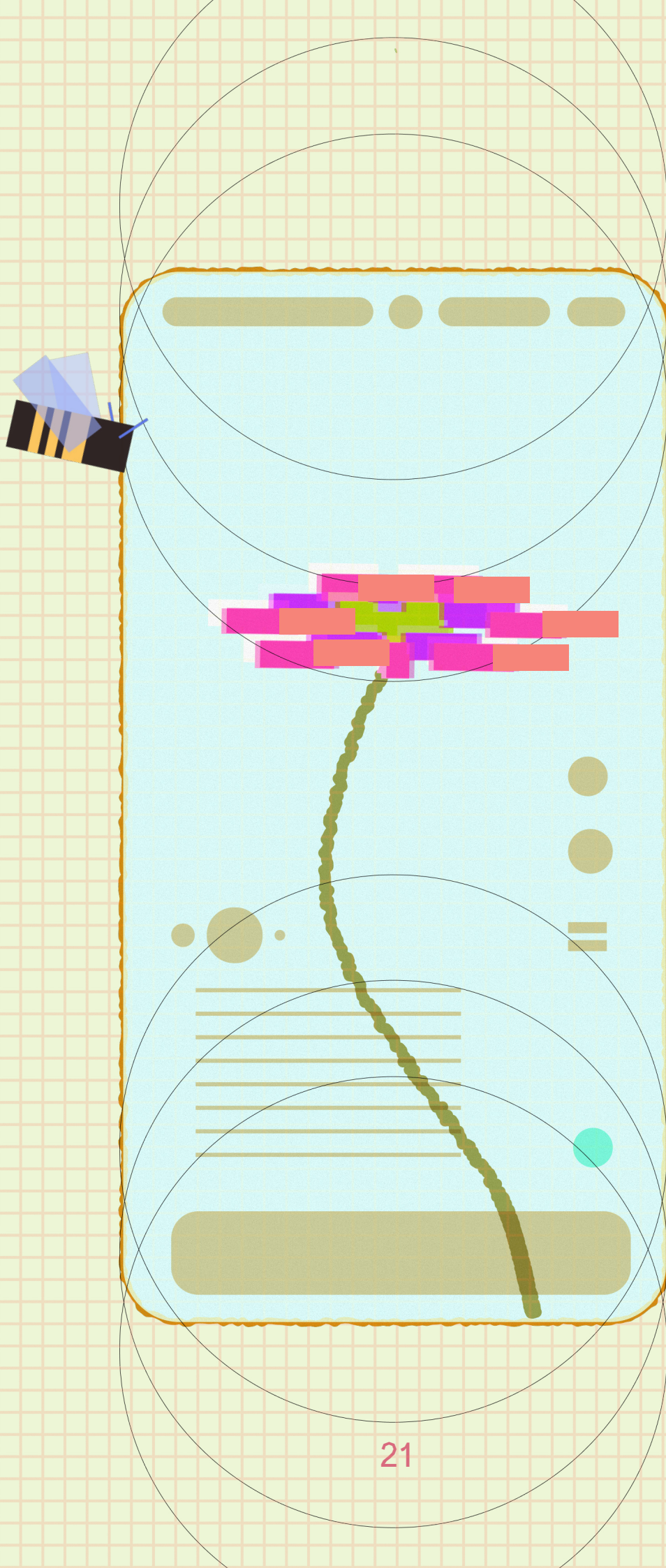
This year, Body & Data launched the Algorithms & AI: Feminist Learning Lab as a response to the complex and extractive nature of artificial intelligence. Rooted in feminist pedagogy, the workshop was designed to teach the emerging AI technology while learning how AI is being used and navigated by women and queer individuals. We brought together 20 participants from different backgrounds of being activists, students, researchers, journalists, and psychologists with different identities of being a woman, Indigenous Person, Person with Disability, Youth, Queer and women to bridge the gap between technical systems and lived realities.

In this workshop, we deconstructed AI, learning about data extraction and algorithmic surveillance. We examined the disproportionate impact on marginalized bodies and the environment. In a collective act of feminist imagination, participants

designed alternative AI futures rooted in acceptance, transparency, consent, and human-centered design.

After the workshop, we had a three-week reflective research phase where we discussed the consumption pattern of the participants and their shifting view on AI. This research helped us understand how feminist communities navigate AI, directly informing our upcoming 2026 Research Report.





2.B

Chiya Charcha

चिया चर्चा

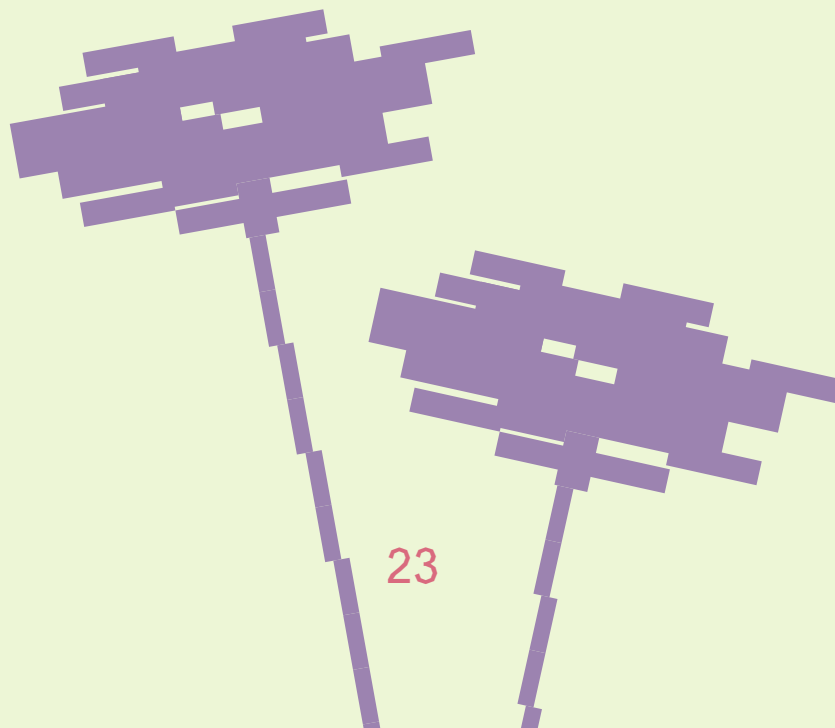


'Chiya Charcha' is a collective feminist conversation hosted by Body & Data, bringing together individuals working in multiple spheres with the aim of cross-movement strengthening. In monthly conversations, we come together from different backgrounds to build relationships, share and learn from one another. We share experiences and expertise in conversations around feminist philanthropy, organising and activism, intersectionality and digital rights.

In 2025, Body & Data organised six thematic Chiya Charcha sessions. These conversations explored the evolving feminist ecosystem in times of political, technological, and social change, examined sexual and gender-based violence within educational institutions and reflected on practices of safety, care, and collective accountability. Other discussions centred on identity, anonymity, and truth, highlighting queer experiences in the context of online

censorship and digital regulation. The series also addressed legal and policy concerns through "कसको नजरमा अश्लील?", a focused discussion on Section 88 of the ITCS Bill. By deconstructing Section 88, we moved the conversation from abstract legal jargon to a shared understanding of how 'obscenity' laws are weaponised against queer and marginalised bodies in Nepal.

Across all six sessions, Chiya Charcha created accessible and trust-based spaces for participants to share experiences, unpack complex issues, and connect digital rights with lived realities. The insights generated through these discussions contributed to Body & Data's internal learning, strengthened cross-movement understanding, and informed ongoing advocacy and programmatic work. Through Chiya Charcha, Body & Data continues to nurture feminist dialogue and collective thinking toward safer, more just, and inclusive digital futures.



2.C

Ethical and Responsible AI Guidelines

Average Ratings of AI's Impact on Student Skills by Gender

N=168
 Male Female

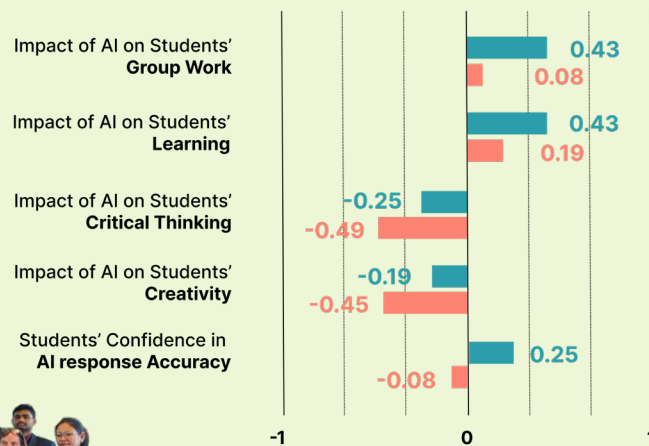


Figure: How students feel Generative AI impacts them based on gender

[Read The Full Report](#)

<https://digital.wpi.edu/show/ff3659740>

In a strategic partnership with students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Body & Data provided feminist resources and research mentorship to students from WPI to conduct a study examining the use of generative AI in educational contexts among the bachelor's level students in Nepal. This collaboration also resulted in a participatory workshop where students collectively drafted a roadmap for

ethical AI. In the workshop, we worked with 29 students to discuss key concerns, including academic integrity, privacy and data protection, bias and discrimination, cognitive impacts, and climate impacts. This was important for us as AI systems are not neutral, and without feminist intervention, the risk of reflecting caste, gender, and linguistic biases in our interaction with AI increases.

2.D

Behind the Scenes: Nurturing Our Collective Resilience



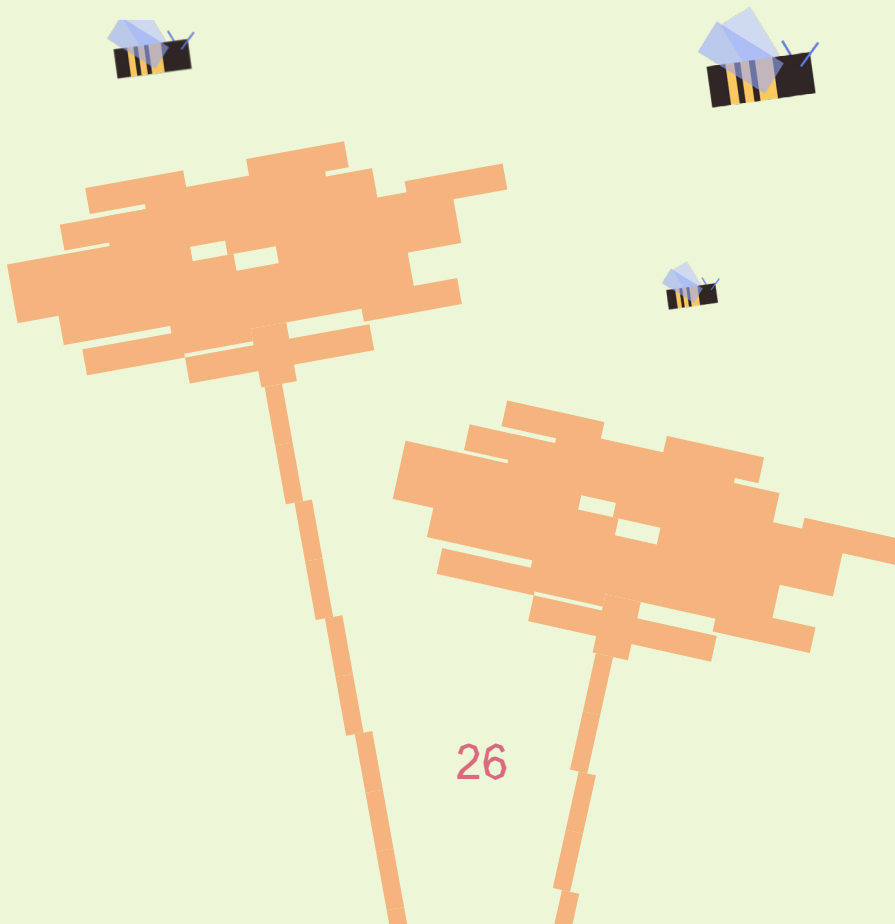
At Body & Data, we recognise that our external advocacy is only as strong as our internal culture of care. In 2025, we worked to integrate feminist management into our work, where holding space, care and accountability is an intentional act of political resistance against the patriarchal system. Our internal systems range from monthly reviews to semi-annual retreats, which are not only an administrative requirement but are also an important space for reflection, alignment, and collective decision-making. By prioritising organisational wellbeing alongside programmatic coherence, we ensure that our team

does not just survive the digital rights struggle but thrives within it.

One of the platforms that we have curated in 2025 is Learning Fridays. It is a dedicated space for the team to deconstruct the technical, political, and social complexities of our work. Parallel to this, we have invested in our Digital Infrastructure, ensuring our internal tools mirror our external values of accessibility, security, and sustainability. By investing in ourselves, we are building a resilient ecosystem capable of responding to emerging threats with grace, intersectional clarity, and solidarity with each other.

3.

Advocacy & Campaign



3.A

SNB Billathon

This year, as part of our advocacy efforts, Body & Data organized the SNB Billathon, a collaborative and participatory process that brought together women, queer individuals, youth, journalists, lawyers, researchers, content creators, persons with disabilities, and people from Indigenous, Madhesi, and other marginalized communities to critically engage with the draft Social Networking Bill (SNB). The Billathon created a space for feminist human rights analysis of the proposed legislation, centring lived experiences and collective reflection.

Through a chapter-wise review of the Bill, participants engaged in in-depth discussions to examine how the proposed provisions may impact privacy, autonomy, freedom of expression, online safety, and digital

livelihoods. The process highlighted serious concerns around vague and punitive clauses, including provisions that risk the criminalisation of everyday online activities such as likes and shares, and their disproportionate impact on marginalised communities.

As an outcome of the Billathon, participants collectively developed a three-tier legislative review document comparing existing provisions, proposed amendments, and justifications for change. The process strengthened a shared understanding of the internet as a critical space for identity, expression, and livelihood, while reinforcing collective commitment to continued advocacy, public awareness, and engagement with policymakers to promote more inclusive and rights-affirming digital laws.



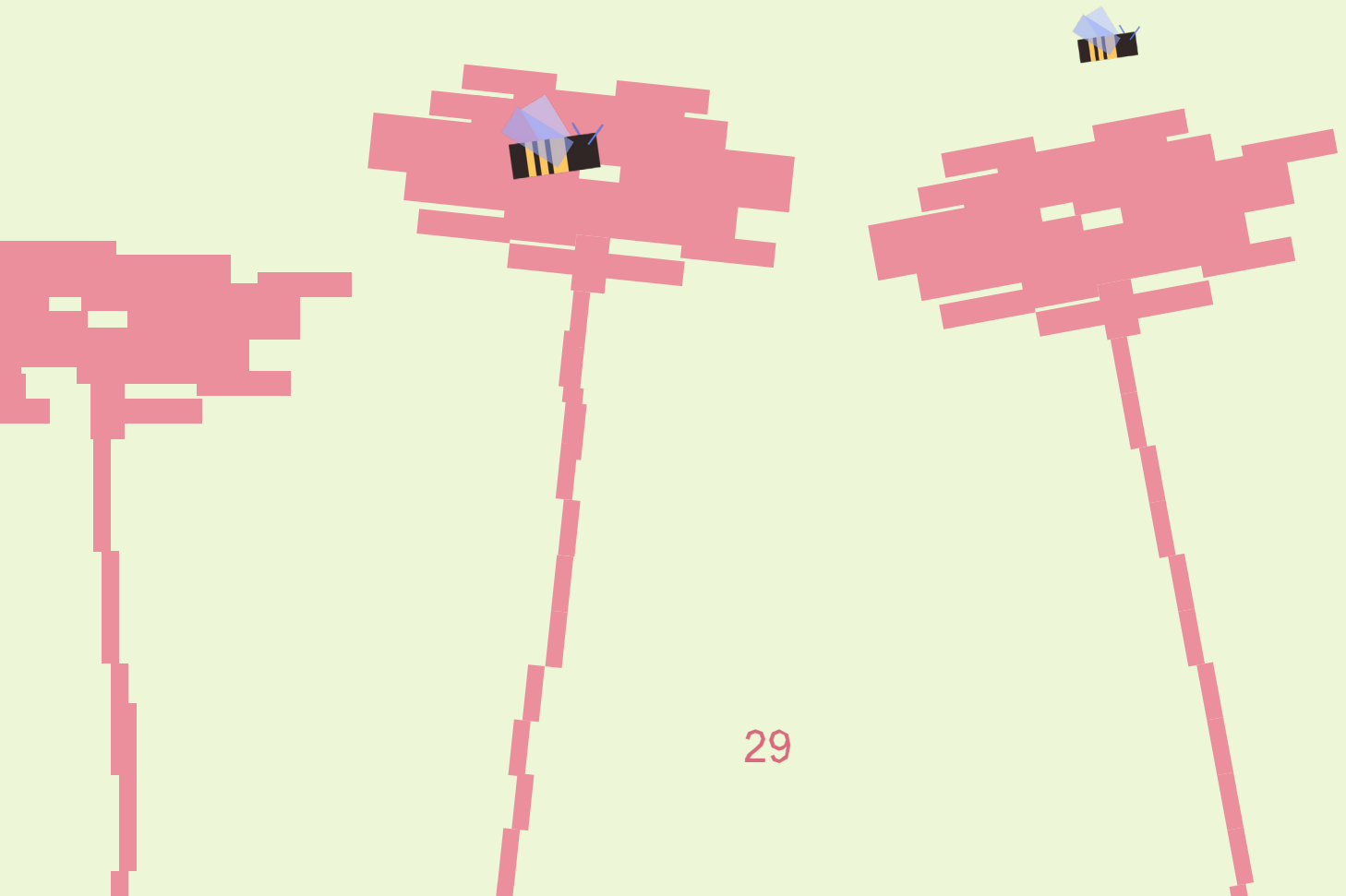
3.A

Cross Movement Building

Throughout 2025, Body & Data prioritised Cross-Movement Building as a core response to the increasingly complex digital landscape. By fostering deep partnerships across national and international contexts, we moved towards collective systemic change. Our work ranged from curating space for Billathon to oppose restrictive legislation to community building through our Chiya Charcha and South Asians for Digital Rights (SADR) coalition.

We remained committed to bridging the gap between tech and community, bringing together lawyers, artists, and

activists through our Chiya Charcha series. This collaborative ethos extended to our academic and global engagements, including AI research with Worcester Polytechnic Institute and a strong presence at key 2025 summits like RightsCon, EPIGS, ILGA, APRiGF and Crea. By consistently contributing our expertise on technology-facilitated gender-based violence and digital governance, Body & Data has solidified its role as a key bridge-builder between local feminist movements and the global digital rights community.



3.

What are we building for 2026?

In 2026, Body & Data plans to deepen its work at the intersection of electoral integrity, digital participation, and artificial intelligence, particularly in response to Nepal's evolving political and regulatory environment. Our strategy for the coming year is rooted in the belief that digital rights are human rights, and human rights are only secure when the most marginalized among us are safe.

Key priorities include public dissemination of findings from the National ID (NID) research, sharing outcomes and learnings from the From Movement to Election: Pathways to Digital Justice program, and using these

insights to inform advocacy, public discourse, and policy engagement around elections and digital governance. We will translate our findings on NID exclusion into accessible, multilingual handbooks to help PWDs, queer folks, and working-class communities navigate and challenge exclusionary digital identity systems.

Internally, we are opening our doors by bringing in external activists and grassroots organizers to lead our Learning Fridays, we ensure that Body & Data's internal growth is constantly challenged and enriched by the movements we serve.



We will leverage our monthly conversations to bridge the gap between “tech” circles and “traditional” activism. We will focus on how digital spaces and interventions impact laborers, students, and artists, turning legal jargon into a shared language of resistance. Through the South Asians for Digital Rights (SADR) coalition, we will continue to build a regional front against the “protectionist” digital regulations that are sweeping across South Asia.

Our work in 2026 will be increasingly co-created with peers, prioritizing feminist, care-based approaches to sustainability and collective practice.

While our focus is clear, we remain adaptive, recognizing that our strategies must evolve alongside post-election realities and emerging political developments. We invite you to build this future with us: contribute your story to our blog to help document a feminist history of the internet, join our sessions to help shape our advocacy, and take our research into your own spheres of influence.

We invite you to stay connected with us as we collectively build an internet where our bodies are safe, our data is ours, our voices are safe and knowledge is accessible.

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Stay connected with us as we build a feminist ecosystem!

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How are you holding space for digital justice in your community?

Share your story with us at communication@bodyanddata.org

Body & Data for an accessible, safe and just digital space for all.

www.bodyanddata.org



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