

The Streetkids-SRH e-group (yahoo)

The discomfort associated with talking about sexuality-related issues openly, and the special circumstances that govern the lives and sexual life-worlds of street and slum children, make the promotion of sexual health and prevention of high-risk sexual behavior in these groups a difficult issue to work with. Activists working with organizations in direct contact with children from street and slum backgrounds said that they were often confronted with questions and dilemmas in the course of their work, related to sexuality as well as associated psychological factors, that were sometimes difficult to deal with and that they found difficult to discuss. In this context, it was decided that these activists could function as a support network to each other, pooling their ideas, and sharing their questions with their group of colleagues from all over (South) India.

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the Yahoo! Groups page for the 'streetkids-SRH' group. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'http://groups.yahoo.com/group/streetkids-SRH/'. The page header includes the Yahoo! logo and the group name 'streetkids-SRH - Street / Slum Children & Sexual Health'. A navigation menu on the left lists options like Home, Messages, Post, Files, Photos, Links, Database, Polls, Members, and Calendar. The main content area features a 'Description' section with text about the group's purpose for NGOs working with street children in India, a photo of three children, and a 'Most Recent Messages' section with several message snippets. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The page is signed in as 'asha_nakshatra'.

e-group homepage, in signed-in mode

How to use the streetkids-SRH e-group

To sign up to the e-group you will need a yahoo email account.

One tool for making such a support network functional is that of an e-group. An e-group is a limited network of people, who are linked electronically around an issue of interest and communicate using the tool of internet group communication. Through the e-group, colleagues in this network can pose questions, provide answers, and share information in spite of being far apart physically. They can draw on the collective wisdom and strength of the group. In the belief that this would be a useful tool, an e-group on 'Street/Slum Children and Sexual Health' – "streetkids-SRH" was developed by Mr. Meindert Schaap using the *groups.yahoo.com* service. SRH in the group ID stands for Sexual and Reproductive Health. This is a group with restricted membership, currently moderated by him.

If you do not possess a Yahoo! email id yet :

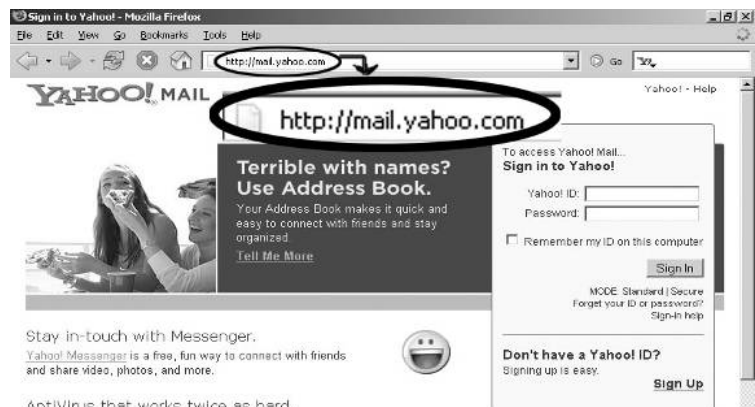
Create a Yahoo! email id and move on to the steps given below:

How do I create a Yahoo! email id?

1. Go to the website <http://mail.yahoo.com>

2. On the right hand side you will see the question “Don’t have a Yahoo! ID?”, followed by a link to Sign Up.

3. Click on this link which says Sign Up



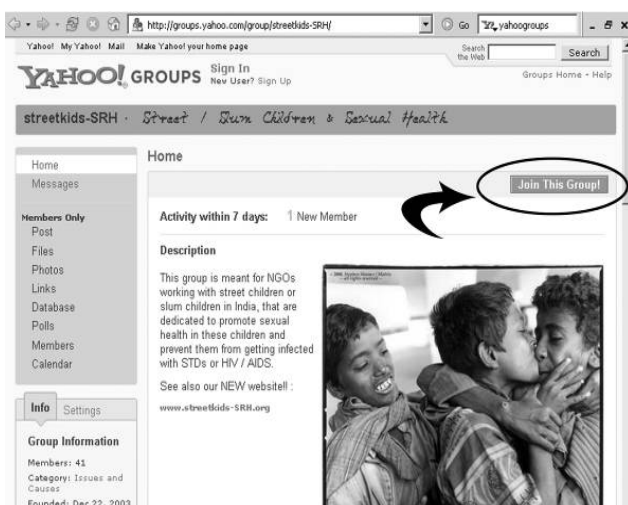
mail.yahoo.com – website with “Sign Up”

4. You will be asked for some information to help you create your email id. These include first and last names, gender, a preferred Yahoo id, and a password. [If the id you suggest has already been taken, you may have to try a few times before you find one that you like or think appropriate and which also still is available]. You will also be asked for some security information, so that they can assist you in case you forget your password. You will also have to verify your registration, and agree to certain terms of the yahoo service.

5. You will receive confirmation of your new email id.

Once you possess a Yahoo! email id, you can sign up to the E-Group:

Your (new) Yahoo Email-id can be used to sign up as a member to the Streetkids-SRH E- Group →



homepage with arrow to “Join this Group”

1. Log on to the website

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/streetkids-SRH/>

2. Click on the Join this group button!

3. Sign in using your Yahoo email id.

4. In the box entitled Comment to Owner, introduce yourself and why you want to join the group briefly.

5. Choose how you would like your communications from the e-group: as individual emails, a daily digest (= standard mode) etc. You will be having 4 choices for message delivery.

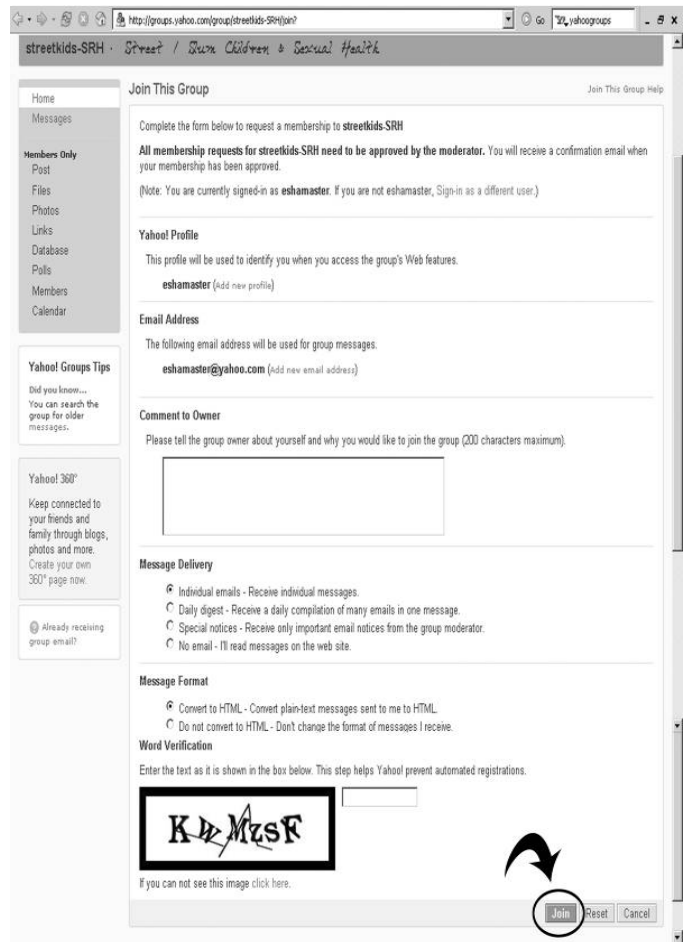
The choices are listed below:

- Individual emails: You will receive individual messages as soon as these are posted by members.
- Daily digest (preferred): This will enable you to receive a daily compilation of several emails in one message (instead of receiving each of the messages separately). This is the preferred choice.
- Special notices: You will not receive the normal postings by members. Only messages which are being sent by the moderator as 'special notices' will be forwarded to you.
- No email: With this option you will not receive any messages through email. You can read messages only on the website.

6. Verify your registration

7. Click the Join button

8. You will shortly receive an email from the moderator (in your yahoo e-mail account) asking you to formally join the group.



screenshot of how to sign up to the E-Group

To start a session at the e-group as a member:



screenshot of the "sign-in" link

When you enter the Streetkids-SRH E-Group, first thing to do is to sign in, using the "sign-in"-link at the top of the homepage. You will be requested to type both your email-id and your password. After having signed in with your Yahoo! email-id, the group's homepage will recognize that you are a full member of this E-group community. Now you will have access to all the group's services.

Description of the resources available to members of the Streetkids–SRH e-group

THE HOMEPAGE:

Description:

This illustrates the main aspire of the e-group: *“This group is meant for NGOs working with street children or slum children in India that are dedicated to promote sexual health in these children and prevent them from getting infected with STDs or HIV/AIDS.”* The description also provides a link to the related website www.streetkids-SRH.org.

Most recent Messages:

Here you will see a list of the latest messages exchanged through this e-group. Only the first few lines of the message will be given here. By clicking on any of these messages, however, you will be taken to the full message content. You may see a variety of topics discussed between group members. As a member, you can also post relevant and interesting information to the group. Any question can be posted to the community, as well as information on events, publications, et cetera. After approval of your message by the group owner/moderator, your message will be shared with all the members.



screenshot of the sidebar

Post:

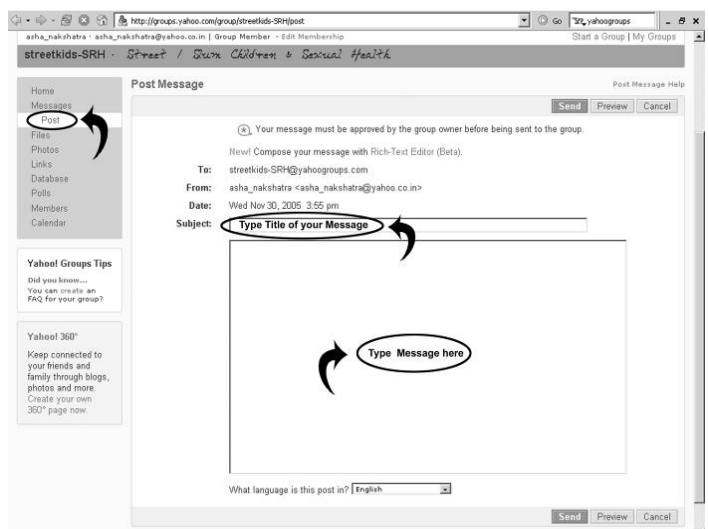
By clicking this link, you will be forwarded to a page where you can post your messages, questions, or other attention-grabbing pieces of information. Feel free to use this message bulletin frequently, so as to really build an online community of concerned individuals. Your messages can be on any related subject, varying from requests for suggestions on how to deal with some field problem, to exchanging

Sidebar:

In the left column of the homepage (sidebar) you will find links to the various services provided. Below, we will give an introduction to each of these links / services.

Messages:

If you click this link, you will be forwarded to the complete listing of all messages posted to this e-group. By clicking on any individual message, you will see its full contents.



screenshot of the posting screen

research information, et cetera. Just type the title of your message in the “subject”-box, then type your full message in the larger box and finally (after finalizing your message) click the blue “SEND”-button.

Files:

Through this link, you will enter a page with important background information on issues of sexual health and (disadvantaged) children and youth. You will see several folders from which you can download over 15 different files, documents, papers, records, conference reports, newsletters, uploads from other members etc.

Some examples of files available (but check for more!): “W.H.O. Definition of Sexual Health”, “The Truth about condoms”, our brochure on the APSA Sexual Health Intervention Program for Teenage Street and Slum Children, “How to talk to your kids about anything!” and “Fact sheet on why good reproductive health is critical to the well being of youth”.

The e-group membership will permit you to download, but also to share information with all other group members in the files section. If you have any relevant information (documents, reports, etc.) you want to be included in the files section, you may send a copy to the E-Group moderator with the request to upload it to the e-group’s file section.

Photos:

Through this link, you will be able to view the albums on our South Indian conferences/trainings in 2003 and 2004, as well as an album with pictures of street boys in Bangalore (as shot by the moderator, Mr. Meindert Schaap).

Links:

Here we want to collect as many useful web-links as possible. Right now, two links to the <http://www.streetkids-SRH.org> and Youth Incentives websites are available here. Feel free to send in the link to your website or to websites you find useful! Let’s share!

Database & Calendar: Though these two services are not yet being used, feel free to suggest ideas! It is our plan to present any future events organized by us in the calendar.

Polls: This area can be used to send polls on any related issue to the group members. As of now, only the moderator can post polls. Feel free to contact the moderator however, if you feel you have some interesting poll to be conducted.

Members:

By clicking this link, you will get into the database which shows all the group members and their details.

N.B.

- *Whenever you have accessed the e-group and want to stop your session, just click the “**sign-out**”-link on the top of the homepage.*
- *If at any time you want to change any of your membership details (e.g. how to receive messages), you can edit your membership details using the “edit membership” link provided on the top of the home page.*
- *If you ever decide you do not want to be a member of the e-group any longer, you can easily delete your membership. Just click the “**edit membership**”-link on the top of the homepage, and indicate that you want to “**leave the group**” (button).*