

KOSHISH

Working towards better sexual and reproductive health and rights of PLHIV in Andhra Pradesh

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View from the President

Vasavya Mahila Mandali is working with communities to empower them and to own the initiatives taken up by VMM. We have seen the success of community ownership since 1969 and Home and Community Based HIV/AIDS programme strengthened our belief in partnering with the communities. We all together succeeded in reducing the incidence of HIV and it is time now to initiate Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) project for PLHIV community with the financial support of European Commission and technical support by India HIV/AIDS Alliance. The objective of the project is to improve the sexual and reproductive health and rights of people living with HIV in India. VMM took initiative to launch this project in five districts of Andhra Pradesh - East Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Anantapur and Ranga Reddy. In each district VMM has partnered with District level HIV Positive network and one Key population CBO. I congratulate all the partners for working hard to do advocacy initiatives in accessing the rights of sexual reproductive health of PLHIV community and reducing the vulnerability. It is a pleasure to present the first issue of news letter 'Koshish'.

I salute the people working to reduce the vulnerability.

Mrs. Ch. Vidya



European Commission



Telugu Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS
Andhra Pradesh

This project will strengthen civil society organizations and networks, specifically those representing and working with PLHIV and other key populations(men who have sex with men (MSM), sex workers(SW), transgender (T G) and people who use drugs),to effectively advocate for the development and implementation of SRHR policies and programmes for PLHIV in India. This will enable them to engage with key decision makers, such as government institutions generally and state/national level parliamentarians to ensure that the SRH needs and rights of PLHIV are supported through an enabling policy environment and subsequent implementation of these policies. This project will address the barriers to meet the SRHR needs of PLHIV at the level of national and state-level policy and its implementation. In order to achieve this, the Action will specifically fill gaps at the level of target groups and beneficiaries.

CSOs Capacity assessment Workshop



The India HIV/AIDS Alliance conducted CSO capacity assessment workshop on July 5th and 6th with partner NGOs at Vasavya Mahila Mandali. Alliance India team members and representatives of Koshish partners and CSOs attended the workshop. Mr. Joydeep Sen, Manager, Alliance Regional Technical Support Hub (South Asia), Mr. Amit Kumar Pandey, Technical Officer, Alliance Regional Technical Support Hub (South Asia), Ms. Kumkum, PO Alliance and Mrs. Nandini, consultant facilitated this workshop. The main objective of the workshop is to assess the individual capacities of partner NGOs and how to improve their capacities. Mrs. Nandini explained the importance of organizational capacities regarding SRHR and Coalition activities. She explained participants how to assess the organization capacity through a group activity.

Participants understood to assess the group capacities through this workshop and to improve their organizational capacities. Mrs.Nandini told that organizations must have minimum standards to work with SRHR project because they will conduct many advocacy initiatives to bring the change. All the partners learnt to form a coalition and to frame a goal, objectives and values for the coalition.

Base line

Sigma Research and Consulting agency team conducted Baseline study in the last week of July 2011 and collected sample data from VMM partners - five District Level Networks and five Key Population Organizations. SLP submitted total data of 1351 people living with HIV which was registered in Networks and KP organizations including Male, Female, FSW, MSM, TG and HIZRA communities

Objective of the study: The broad objective of the baseline study is to strengthen the evidence base and understanding of SRHR needs of PLHIV in Andhra Pradesh specifically to understand SRH knowledge, service availability, accessibility among PLHIV, to understand PLHIV awareness

on SRH rights and experienced rights violation, to understand the unmet contraceptive needs of PLHIV, and to understand treatment facilities, availability and accessibility. Sample Size was 200 (85 male+100 Female+15 TG/Hijra), Respondents were selected using systematic random sampling.

World AIDS Day



On 1st December 2011, VMM and its KOSHISH partner NGOs observed the World AIDS Day event in Five districts. The project is doing advocacy to safeguard the rights of PLHIV community especially in SRHR. The main objective of the World AIDS day programme is to create awareness on HIV/AIDS and to reduce the stigma and discrimination. Every year United Nations Organization (UNO) give a theme to fight against HIV/AIDS. In 2011 the theme is 'Zero' new infections and 'Zero' stigma and discrimination, means in next year no body infected with HIV and nobody face stigma and discrimination in community.

Observation of these World AIDS day events had created a good platform to our partners. During the time of Rally and open dais meetings our partners utilized the opportunity to explain the need of sexual reproductive health rights of PLHIV community to District level officers and other NGO representatives.

Community consultation meetings



In December, 2011 SLP and SLN staff facilitated the Community Consultation Meetings in all the five districts at DLN offices. The objective of the meeting is to collect the issues from the PLHIV community relating to SRHR. Based on the issues, the most important issue was prioritized in the meeting for advocacy.

Coalition to advocate SRH and rights of PLHIV

The SLP, SLN, Five DLNs, five KP organizations, eight Civil Society Organizations in all twenty members formed a coalition. The objective of the coalition is to improve and advocate for the Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights of PLHIV in Andhra Pradesh. Coalition members meet once in three months and they discuss, review and finalize the advocacy action plans on the District and State level issues. First coalition meeting was conducted in the month of November 2011 at VMM.

EC-KOSHISH COALITION MEMBERS

VASAVYA MAHILA MANDALI (VMM)

D.No. 40-9/1-16, Vasavya Nagar, Benzcircle, VIJAYAWADA - 10
Krishna District, ANDHRA PRADESH
Ph : +91 866-2470966/2473056 Mobile:+91 98490 81733
E-mail: vasavyamm@sify.com, vmmsrhr@gmail.com

ANKITHA WOMEN DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

D.No. 13-283-a, Patimeeda, Near Club Road
GUDIWADA, Krishna District
Ph : 08676-249622
E-mail: ankithacbo.2009@gmail.com

SNEHASIRI SADIKARIKA WELFARE SOCIETY

D. No. 11-4-147, Opp. TTD Kalyanamandapam
Near Gandhipark, Rajagari Thotamain Road, GUNTUR
Mobile: 9502455630 E-mail : snehasiriguntur@gmail.com

VELUGU REKHA MAHILA SADHIKARITA SOCIETY

D. No. 5-122/G1, Near AU MSN PG Centre, ADB Road
Atchampeta Cross Road
Thimmapuram, KAKINADA-533 005, East Godavari District
Ph: 0884-2369989, E-mail : changes.vrness@gmail.com

SNEHAM CBO

D. No. 5/161, 5th Road, Near Saibaba Temple, Anantapur District
Mobile: 9133306454 / 9160590069
E-mail : snehamcboatp@gmail.com

DARPAN FOUNDATION

H. No. 10-3-3/8, Raman's Corner, Near Shenoy Nursing Home
East Maredpally, SECUNDERABAD- 500026
Phone: 040-65812284/40165114
E-mail: darpanfoundationhyd@rediffmail.com

THARUNI

D.No. 306, 4th Floor, Neelam Enclave, Kanakadurga Colony
Hanamkonda-506001, Warangal District
Tele No.: 0870-2554454 Mobile 0-98494-18592
E-mail:amamatha06@yahoo.co.in

PEACE EDUCATIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENTS

D.No. 9-40-5, Pithapuram Colony
VISAKHAPATNAM – 3
Mobile: 9963332391
E-mail: peacevsp1995@gmail.com

DEVELOPMENT ACTION FOR RURAL ENVIRONMENT (DARE)

D.No. 1-1-770/5, Gandhi nagar
Hyderabad - 500 080. Ph : 040 - 3062 8199, Mob: 9912103172
E-mail: dare_1985@yahoo.co.in

RURAL ENVIRONMENT AND EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (INDIA)

D.No. 11-446, NCC Road, Mangalagiri – 522 503
Guntur Dist.Ph: 08645 – 231500
E-mail: reeds_india1995@yahoo.com

TELUGU NETWORK OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV / AIDS (TNP+)

Amravati Road, Behind Hosanna Mandir, Gorantla, GUNTUR
Ph: 0863-2218228, Mobile : 9618205520
E-mail: tnp58ap@gmail.com

CHEYUTHA HIV INFECTED PEOPLE EMPOWERMENT SOCIETY (CHES+)

H.No. 43-107-4, Opp Sai Baba Temple, Ajith Singh Nagar
VIJAYAWADA. Krishna District, Phone : 0866-2401419/
9866028986, E-mail: cheyuthahivnetwork@rediffmail.com

SOCIETY FOR WELFARE HIV INFECTED PEOPLE (SHIP+)

Amravati Road, Behind Hosanna Mandir, Gorantla, GUNTUR
Ph: 0863-2218228, Mobile : 9989145381
E-mail: shipramesh@rediffmail.com

COASTAL NETWORK OF POSITIVE PEOPLE (CNP+)

D.no.24-8-5, Near: Bible Mission Church
Kacheripeta, KAKINADA-533001
East Godavari District, Ph: 0884-2372618
E.mail: cnpmohan@rediffmail.com

ANANTHA NETWORK OF POSITIVE PEOPLE (ANP+)

Dharmashala, Beside TB/Chest Ward, Govt. General Hospital
ANANTAPUR-515001. Ph: 08854-274633/276411
E-mail: anpplus@gmail.com

NETWORK OF HIV POSITIVE PEOPLE (NHP+)

Plot No.10, H.No.11-20-12, Opp Me-Seva, 1st Floor
Huda Complex, Saroor Nagar, HYDERABAD-500 035
Ph: 040-30661154
E-mail: nhp.rrd@gmail.com

SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S AWARENESS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SWARD)

H.No 4-15, Maitrivanam, Near M.D.O Office, Siddipet
MEDAK District - 502 103, Ph: 08457-231437 / 9490129740
E.mail: sward_2k@rediffmail.com

CHANGES

D.No. 1-135, Atchempeta Junction, Timmapuram
Near Reliance Petrol Bunk, KAKINADA, East Godavari District
Ph. : 0884-2307931/9849318393
E.mail : changeskkd@rediffmail.com

ANANTA THALI SAMAKHYA

D.no: 5/82, 4th Road, Opp: Anjeneyaswamy Temple
Anantapuram – 515 001 Mobile: 9133306454
E-mail: anantataalisamakhyaa@gmail.com

SAMA DARPAN

D.No. 10-3-3/4, Raman's Corner, Near Shenoy Nursing Home
East Maredpally, SECUNDERABAD - 500 026
Ph : 040-65812285/40165114
E-mail: sama_darpan@yahoo.com

VASAVYA MAHILA MANDALI (VMM)

D.No. 40-9/1-16, Vasavya Nagar, Benzcircle, VIJAYAWADA - 10. Krishna District, ANDHRA PRADESH
Ph : +91 866-2470966/2473056 Mobile:+91 98490 81733
E-mail: vasavyamm@sify.com, vmmsrhr@gmail.com, www.vasavya.com