

## All set for fight against AIDS/TB at grass roots

P. SujathaVarma

NGOs unite to fight the social scourge



Rallying point: A member of CLDA administers an oath to a group of local representatives vowing to continue their fight against AIDS at the grass root level, at Kankipadumandal office on Wednesday. — Photo: Ch. VijayaBhaskar.

The premises of Kankipadumandalparishad office on Wednesday turned into a combat zone with forces against pandemics like AIDS/TB uniting to wage a relentless war against the social scourge.

On the eve of World AIDS Day 2011, members of Children Leadership Development Association (CLDA), a network of vulnerable children promoted by local NGO Vasavya MahilaMandali (VMM), joined hands with representatives of the community at various levels like ZPTCs, MPTCs, sarpanches and other local leaders who enjoy a close rapport with the community, to set the ball rolling for an AIDS-free society in the days to come.

The CLDA has taken up TAP (TB project in AP) with the support of TB Alert India/UK and DFID and is actively working in six coastal districts of Krishna, Prakasam, Nellore, Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam and East Godavari.

Pointing to this year's slogan "Getting to Zero – Zero New HIV Infections & Zero Stigma and Discrimination", VMM's Medical Director P. Deeksha said though incidence of AIDS had come down, there was a long way to go.

"A new trend of growth in the number of tuberculosis (TB) cases along with the spread of HIV, as the two diseases spur each other on, is a matter of serious concern," she said. She reminded that TB remains to be a major cause of sickness and death. "Infection with TB almost always occurs through inhaling airborne bacterial particles," she added.

KankipaduMandal Development Officer (MDO) M. Krishna Mohan promised all possible help to the CLDA in its endeavour to create AIDS-free society. He said that as first step, he would ask his staff to identify the number of orphan children in villages around to be able to reach out to them and help them in every possible way. Kankipadu ZPTC K. Dhatri Devi urged people in villages to adopt a responsible role and contribute their mite to the noble cause.

The meeting culminated in a collective oath by the members who vowed to do their bit in the fight against social banes like HIV/TB.

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