

# KOSHISH

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

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### *Message from the President, Velugurekha Mahila Seva Sangham (VRMSS) Kakinada, A.P*

*VRMSS is working to improve the health and living standards of Sex Workers in East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh. We are mobilizing the community to know and avail various services from different stakeholders and helping to lead a healthy life.*



*Now many sexual minorities and high risk groups face discrimination, stigma, and violence to exercise this basic sexual rights. Sexual rights are an evolving set of entitlements related to sexuality that continue to the freedom, equality and dignity of all people, and cannot be ignored. VRMSS educating and motivating the community by forming village level committees, train them to empower and solve their problems to avail services from various sources in the district. We feel proud to be the part of KOSHISH Coalition to make an advocacy on conducting PAP smear test for early detection of Cervical Cancer in women living with HIV at ART centers. Our efforts are appreciated by the Project Director, APSACS, and other Officials from State Health departments.*

*Our sincere thanks to European Commission, India HIV/AIDS Alliance and Vasavya Mahila Mandali; for providing us an opportunity to work for the sex workers communities; and their constant support to strengthen our CBO.*

A.VLAXMI



European Commission



Telugu Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS  
Andhra Pradesh

## State level workshop for project staff



Fourth State level workshop for project staff on "Sex and Sexuality" was organized by VMM on 29th and 30th November 2012, at Indian Medical Association Hall at Hyderabad. Mrs. Indira Rani, the lead trainer and Mr. Arun Chowdary, Technical Support Provider, co facilitated the work shop. All project staff attended the training and understood the main components of Human sexuality, Sexual Orientation, Body Mapping- Anatomy, sexual pleasure -Erotic Zones, Developing sexual vocabulary, sexual norms that vary according to gender roles; the double standards in sexual behavior, Sexual diversity, Sexual Expression and Enjoyment, Sexual consent and co-erosion, Gender and Sexuality. Stress was given on services related to sexual and reproductive health, with special reference to STI/ RTI, advocacy issues related to Gender and Sexual Reproductive Health Rights.

## Sixth Coalition Meeting



VMM organized Sixth Coalition meeting on 29th December 2012 at Hotel 'Lotus Green Park', Vijayawada. Dr.B.Keerthi, Technical Support Manager of VMM, Mr. Rammohan, Joint Secretary, TNP+ and other coalition members attended the meeting. VMM shared the project achievements during the second year and developed and approved action plan up to March 2013 for 2nd objective of State level advocacy issue.

## Community Consultation Meetings

During the months of November and December, 2012 Koshish project partner NGOs conducted Ten Community Consultation Meetings separately by SLP and SLN in five districts. In the meetings 139 PLHIVs and 92 non-reactive people participated in Community Consultation meetings. Among the 139 PLHIVs 82 members are on ART and 57 members are pre ART registered, totally 231 community members involved in these meetings.

Advocacy Officers facilitated the process of Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with community members in collection of evidences on Pap smear test availability at districts. Advocacy officers probed the community about FGD questioner and explained the symptoms of cervical cancer. Community members gave visibility to the issues of the community.

## Observation of National Cancer Awareness Day

The birth anniversary of Madam Curie is observed as the National Cancer Awareness Day. In commemorating the day, VMM and TNP+ organized a Seminar on "Cervical Cancer among Women living with HIV (WLHIV) and Key Population- Emerging Trends" on 7th November 2012 at Directorate of Medical Education Hall, DMHS Campus, Hyderabad.



The Koshish team, District Level Network, Key Population Organization Representatives from five implementing districts and coalition members participated in the seminar. In addition to them, 142 representatives from other forums, DLN members, Women Living with HIV, Female Sex workers, and representatives from MSM community participated. VMM and TNP+ utilized the floor to create awareness on 'Cervical Cancer' and addressed the urgency to solve the problem. Sri.C. Partha Sarathi, Project Director, APSACS and other higher officials from Government Health Department participated in meeting. Mrs. Ch.Vidya, former Member of Parliament and President, VMM presided the meeting.

## Observation of World AIDS Day



VMM, TNP+ and its partner NGOs observed the World AIDS day event on 1st December 2012 in five implementing Districts. Project staff focused on creating awareness on SRHR and the focus on advocacy to safeguard the rights of PLHIV community especially in Sexual Reproductive Health. The main objective of the World AIDS day programme was to create awareness on HIV/AIDS and to reduce stigma and discrimination. In 2012 the theme was 'Zero' new HIV infections, Zero discrimination and Zero AIDS related deaths.

## Inauguration of IEC on Cervical Cancer



VMM and TNP+ and other DLN representatives inaugurated the IEC material on Cervical Cancer, on 1st December 2012 as part of World AIDS day observations at State level, the pamphlet was released by State Officials. As a part of "KOSHISH" advocacy plan, a pamphlet was developed to create awareness for ensuring quality services on cervical cancer among women with a focus on women living with HIV/AIDS.

The pamphlet was released in the meeting by the Honorable Health Minister Dr.D.L. Ravindra Reddy. All the Government Health Department Officials, Mr. G.Kalyan, Secretary, TNP+ and Mr. G. Ramanujiah, Project Coordinator and Koshish team participated. Exhibition was organized by APSACS, in which KOSHISH project displayed News letters and the material on cervical cancer to bring awareness. During the meeting the project staff disseminated Koshish base line summary reports and newsletters to all the dignitaries.



On the same day same pamphlet was released at district level by District AIDS Prevention Control Units (DAPCU) in East Godavari, Krishna, Guntur and Anantapur.

## Participation in SGRC Meet

On 19th October 2012, Mr. Ramesh Babu, President and Mr.Kalyan, Secretary of Telugu Network of People Living with HIV (TNP+) participated in State Grievance and Redressal Committee (SGRC) meeting, chaired by the Principal Secretary and all Heads of Health Departments and Project Director, APSACS. This forum was used to address some of the advocacy initiatives of Koshish Project and the details of the project were also shared. It was proposed to organize National Cancer Awareness Day on 7th November, 2012 and to sensitize the need and importance of cervical cancer awareness and allied services as per NACO guidelines.

# IPPF CHARTER ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) identified a broad range of sexual and reproductive health issues that fall within the scope of twelve basic human rights. These twelve rights had been sourced from four international human rights treaties, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which had been ratified by a range of countries world-wide.

When a country ratifies a human rights treaty, its government is bound by international law to give effect to the human rights contained therein by respecting, protecting and fulfilling the various rights; governments are thereby required to bring their domestic laws, policies and practices into line with any international or regional treaty to which it is a party. Consequently, international human rights law may be a useful tool for advancing sexual and reproductive rights.

- 1. The Right to Life**
- 2. The Right to Liberty and Security of the Person**
- 3. The Right to Equality, and to be Free from all Forms of Discrimination**
- 4. The Right to Privacy**
- 5. The Right to Freedom of Thought**
- 6. The Right to Information and Education**
- 7. The Right to Choose Whether or Not to Marry and to Found and Plan a Family**
- 8. The Right to Decide Whether or When to Have Children**
- 9. The Right to Health Care and Health Protection**
- 10. The Right to the Benefits of Scientific Progress**
- 11. The Right to Freedom of Assembly and Political Participation**
- 12. The Right to be Free from Torture and Ill Treatment**

Reference: <http://www.ippf.org/resources/publications/ippf-charter-sexual-and-reproductive-rights>

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