


BOLD INITIATIVES TAKEN IN ANDHRA PRADESH TO COMBAT HIV/AIDS

(Since June 2006)

- A State level committee with Hon'ble Chief Minister as chairman and with Chief Secretary, Director General of Police and Secretaries of 16 Government departments as members was constituted vide GO Ms.No.1122 dated 23.08.2006. First meeting was held on 27.11.2006.
- The number of HIV testing centers in the state was scaled up from **286** to 575 vide GO Ms.Nos.233/234 dated 07.08.2006. They all have started functioning from 1st November, 2006. Now there are **677** testing centers functioning in the state.
- The number of **Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) Centres** was scaled up from **3** to 13 from 1st September, 2006 vide GO Ms.No.1165, dated 30.08.2006. 4 more centers were started in March, 2007. Vide GO Ms No dated 30.7.07 another 7 ART centers have been sanctioned. **As on Aug 15, 2007** there are **24 ART centers** functioning in the state, one in every district. The number of patients on ART has increased from **2287** in March 06 to **23978** in November 2007.
- **Child-ART started in the State for children on 1st November, 2006.** As on August 31, 2007 there are **1431 children** on C-ART after screening 6281 infected children.
- "AASHA Poshakaharam" (nutritious food) provided to all patients on ART from 1st December, 2006.
- District Leprosy Officers (DLOs) were re-designated as Additional DM&HOs (AIDS & Leprosy) vide GOMs.No.845, dated 02.12.2006 in an effort to mainstream HIV/AIDS services with Health Department. Now SACS presence in every district.
- The " **Be Bold Campaign**" was launched to de-stigmatize & popularize HIV testing, reduce stigma and discrimination against affected people and to encourage them to utilize the health services provided. It was a phenomenal success as over 70,000 people have come forward to test in the first one week from December 1st to 7th 2006 as against normal average of 10,000 tests per week. During the twelve months from December, 2006 – November, 2007, **total tests conducted** were **15,32,952** as against **5,98,029** tests conducted during the twelve months of 2005-06.
- As a part of the Be-Bold campaign, a gathering of **3800** People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHAs) was organized in Hyderabad on 7th December, 2006. This was reported to be one of the largest gatherings of PLHAs in the world. The gathering acted as big morale booster to them. At the end of the meeting they signed the "Hyderabad Declaration".
- On 7 December 2007, nearly **8000 PLHAs** were bold for a get together at Silparam, Hyderabad. This beat the earlier record of 3800 "PLHAs at one place" made last year in the same venue. The PLHAs re-dedicated their commitment to the Hyderabad Declaration made on 7th December, 2006.
- **Chief Minister**, Speaker, Ministers and 70 MLAs got **tested** on 18th December, 2006 to know their HIV Status.
- Started the "**0/7 initiative**" to minimize HIV infections to new born children through vertical transmission and to achieve the ideal of zero infections by the end of 2007. Out Reach Workers teams have been appointed in all 80 Revenue divisions in the state, nearly 30,000 Auxilliary Nurse Midwives(ANMs) s 2000 doctors have been trained.
- "**Bold Doctors Clubs**" are being formed in all districts to encourage doctors in the state to treat HIV positive cases. All necessary precautionary support and PEP drugs are provided by APSACS.

- In districts awards/citations were given to “Bold doctors” in the on August 15,2007 independence day function by District Ministers in recognition for their services to HIV infected people
- On 1st December 2007, Three Bold Doctors were given awards by the Chief Minister at the state level World AIDS day function at Hyderabad. In the function 500children made an appeal to the “elders through the CM to give them a HIV/AIDS free future”.
- Two cartoon characters, an ideal couple -“Aasayya and Aasakka”- were introduced as brand ambassadors to give correct and non-judgmental messages on HIV/AIDS.
- 1,00,000 AASHA Mitra Volunteers have been trained at the grass-root (village) level, since 1st December, 2006 to spread the messages about HIV/AIDS.
- **15,000 Red Ribbon Clubs** were formed in schools/colleges during June-Sept 2006.
- A workshop was held on 20.12.2006 to find gaps in the existing care & support system and to scale-up the centres.
- 600 HIV positive couples gathered on Valentine Day 2007 at Hyderabad, Vijayawada Visakhapatnam and pledged to spread the message of true love and lead a life with hope.
- 2500 Female Sex Workers joined together on World Women’s Day at Vijayawada and took pledge for preventing new infections by taking assertive action.
- Calls to 1097 our toll free help line have increased six fold- from a monthly average of 1100 up to December,06 it has now touched 7000 calls. Queries now asked on Help Line are related to testing and services compared to general information earlier.
- Condom usage has gone up considerably during 2006-07. More than 34.2 lakh condoms were sold under social marketing compared to only 7.4 lakh condoms last year. 2 lakh female condoms were also marketed under social marketing on an experimental basis this year. 2.52 crores free condoms were distributed up to December 2006.
- A unique program ‘**Balrasahayoga**’ is launched to cover 60,000 children and their families infected and affected with HIV/AIDS in the State to provide comprehensive package of services including psycho-social support, medical treatment, and livelihood promotion. This program is pledged with a funding of 14.6 million dollars by Elton John Foundation and implemented through Clinton Foundation, Family Health International, HIV/AIDS Alliance along with their consortium partners. This program was launched by **Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh on 17th April, 2007.**
- On August 15,2007, Leprosy wards in 23 district hospitals were converted to temporary stay homes and care and support centers for HIV patients.
- “Well baby shows” and the traditional “Seemantam” ceremony is being organized in all districts to improve the self esteem of the HIV positive mothers and their children.
- Training programs for Doctors- in Teaching Hospitals and in PHCs- were taken up in the month of August 2007. Nearly 200 doctors of the medical colleges and AP Vaidya Vidhan Parishad underwent a rigorous 4 day technical training program on management of HIV/AIDS cases and 0/7 concept. Simultaneously nearly 2000 doctors of PHCs have undergone the training on 0/7 concepts and its management. Training for 35000 PHC level staff is going on and is completed in many districts

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