

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS CONTRIBUTION TO HIV/ AIDS AWARENESS IN DHARMAPURI AND KRISHNAGIRI DISTRICT

C. Sudalaimuthu

Asst. Professor of History, Arignar Anna College (Arts & Science), Krishnagiri - 1

Abstract

The most dreadful disease which kills mankind nowadays was discovered in 1981¹. It was first found in a homosexual person. In India, in the year 1986, the first HIV+ve infected person, a commercial sex worker, was found at Vellore². Soon afterwards, the impact of HIV in the society has become very familiar due to its fast spreading nature. This incurable disease slowly emerges to destroy mankind completely. Hence a global method to prevent HIV / AIDS has to be adopted. Even now, the remedial medication for HIV/ AIDS is still under experimentation. In this regard it apt to quote prevention is better the cure. So, prevention methods are employed instead. These methods could prevent / stop the spread of HIV / AIDS. But they are not curable. The most essential thing is to train the young adolescents to know about the danger of HIV/AIDS and precautionary.

Keywords: HIV+ve, AIDS, PLWHA, DDPWS, Dharmapuri, ICTC, VCCTC, PPTCT, TCC, PLC, ART Centers

Dharmapuri District Positive Welfare Society (DDPWS+)

Dharmapuri District Positive Welfare Society (DDPWS+) is a non-profit community based organization working to improve the quality of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in Dharmapuri District DDPWS+ works in the whole of Dharmapuri District and covers all the Taluks & Blocks. DDPWS+ is affiliated to the Tamil Nadu Network of Positive (TNNP+) and National Network for People Living with HIV/AIDS - (INP+). Dharmapuri District Positive Welfare Society (DDPWS+) was Registered as society under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975 Tamilnadu Act 27/1975, Sec 13 (1), in the year April 2006 with 21 members. DDPWS+ at present having 1867 beneficiary members throughout the Dharmapuri district which includes 36 paid members and the count is increasing every day².

Vision

All people, adults & Children living with HIV in Dharmapuri, live a life of dignity, free of stigma, discrimination and ensure full human rights, irrespective of culture, age, religion, sexuality, social or economic status/Class and Race and have full access to care, Drug, Treatment and to Social and Legal Services and be involved in keeping with the principles of Greater Involvement of People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in all Prevention, Care and Support, policies and program in Dharmapuri.

Mission

Improve the quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS in Dharmapuri district and to provide sense of belonging and togetherness of people living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

Objectives

- To improve the quality of life of the people living with HIV
- To provide referrals and Networking with service providers
- To Conduct Support Group meetings
- To promote positive image and increase visibility to PLHA in order to address the fear, ignorance, and discrimination and prejudice that they face.
- To ensure equality and protection under the laws, for PLHA with regards to access to health care, employment, education, travel, housing and social welfare.
- Support services

Achievements

- A total of members in the network enrolled up to March 2010
- 96 PLHA's got each Rs. 15,000/- DRDA loan total amount Rs. 14,40,000/- (50% Subsidy)
- 2 PLHA widow got government jobs
- 32 PLHA's got IAY scheme houses each Rs. 55,000/- subsidy
- 11 PLHA widow got tailoring machine
- 76 Children's got OVC Trust Education support worth overall Rs. 2,58,000/-
- Nutrition monthly support got 50 children's overall worth Rs. 15,000/-
- Free note books were got 100 children's
- Dealing effectively with delivery issues.
- Good linkages with ICTC (VCCTC / PPTCT / TCC / PLC & ART Centers)³

Sneha Sadan

Today, the land which we are in is donated by the generosity of Miss. Savariammal. As we were treating patients in our dispensary at Palacode we found the helplessness of the infected widows of HIV/AIDS and visualizing alarming situation of Dharmapuri (district) in Tamil Nadu.

The seed of sneha Sadan was sown in Sellimpatty in the year 2004 with a few persons infected by HIV/AIDS and three sisters were assigned to carry out the initial work, and today thirty staffs are doing their services. There is a centre to care for fifteen patients at a time and a home to accommodate fifty children for their education, nutrition and medical care. It works in collaboration with Tamil Nadu AIDS control society for HIV/AIDS project and Health system project to avail medical services for 59,549 Tribal population distributed in 106 villages.

Our hearts were moved when we saw the AIDS patients who were left on the streets without any food and care, Yes our mission is to give comprehensive care for the persons living with HIV/AIDS. It is dedicate yet challenging.

Community Care Centre for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS

The centre work in collaboration with National AIDS control organization through its implementing partner Tamil Nadu state AIDS control society to give comprehensive care for

persons living with HIV/AIDS from the day of starting Anti-retroviral therapy till they are stabilized on ART drugs. Services offered are Awareness education programmes, Counseling - Pre and Post test counseling, family, partner, follow up, peer group counseling, Medical and Nursing care, Physiotherapy and exercise, Yoga therapy, Nutritional support, Psycho social support, One to One interaction, and Formation of self Help groups Facilitate to explore the available Government schemes, Family and Community visit, Linkages with positive net work groups, Involving the volunteers and Research⁴.

Care Home for Infected and Affected HIV/AIDS Orphan Children

The field visit found that once the children are diagnosed as HIV positive they are thrown into the street and they become beggars. About 500 to 600 HIV/AIDS infected and affected children are identified, out of which due to paucity of fund only fifty most vulnerable orphans and semi-orphans children are selected and given the following care. Among 50 children, 10 are on ART drugs.

Identification of the children, Motherly care and love, Child Counselling, Risk Assessment, Medical and Nursing assistance, Educational Support, Nutritional Support, Entertainment, Exposure visit, Carrier orientation programme, Leadership camps, Interaction with community, Children's parliament, are carried out by the HIV centres⁵.

Tribal Empowerment Project

Tribals are the most under privileged population in the society. Due to illiteracy, ignorance, alcoholism, superstitions, poverty, and malnutrition they are vulnerable to communicable diseases, infant death and maternal death. Hence we targeted this population at Sitheri and Kottapatti in Dharmapuri (district). The main activities for the tribals of Dharmapuri district are to Care on wheels, Village and home visit, Awareness education on health and hygiene, Medical and nursing care, Antenatal and postnatal checkup, Referral to medical and surgical services, Counselling, School health programme, Nutritional care and Formation of self help groups⁶.

Krishnagiri District Living with HIV/AIDS Welfare Society (KDAS+) Network Board Ground

The Krishnagiri district living with HIV/AIDS Welfare society (KDAS+) is a District level network of the peoples living with HIV/AIDS established in the year 2005,

PLHA's (people living with HIV / AIDS) life and enable all PLHA to realize their full potential, KDAS+ decide to change the lives of peoples infected and affected with HIV/AIDS in Krishnagiri. At present 1633 PLHIVs has been benefited through this network services.

Accomplishing the milestone KDAS+ has achieved in last 4 years. Has been possible due to the organizations ability to continually attract, retain and develop a cadre of talented, and committed professional PLHA who come from all walks of life and backgrounds, post graduates, Bankers, HR Specialists, from our district Networks. This diversity, coupled with an

unrelenting commitment to building a culture of openness, transparency, accountability and democracy within the organization are what make KDAS+ what it is since it was founded.

On 30th December 2005, KDAS+ set up the district secretariat at Madurai with the help of TNNP+ (Tamilnadu Networking Peoples with HIV/AIDS) providing them with fund for the implementation of the project Act May 2006, Called ACCESS TO CARE & TREATMENT (ACT), with support from the Global Fund Round IV, through consortium covered under this project⁷.

Vision

Adults & children living with HIV in Krishnagiri, should live a life of dignity, free of stigma and discrimination and ensure full human rights, irrespective of culture, age, religion, sexuality, social or economic status, class and race. They should develop decision making skills, complete access to quality of treatment, care, social and legal recourse for greater involvement of peoples living with HIV/AIDS in all prevention, care and support, policies and programme in Krishnagiri District.

Mission

To improve the quality of life of peoples living with HIV/AIDS in Krishnagiri and exists to provide sense of belonging and togetherness to peoples living with HIV and their families.

Objectives

- To provide opportunities for networking for peoples living with HIV/AIDS.
- To advocate strong legislative measures to protect the rights of all peoples living with HIV/AIDS including the basic rights.
- To advocate full participation of appropriate persons living with HIV/AIDS on decision making bodies at local, national and international level on issues affecting peoples living with HIV/AIDS.
- To facilitate and improve the quality of peoples living with HIV/AIDS in Krishnagiri.
- To build the capacity of people living with HIV/AIDS for advocacy.

Capacity Building Programmes

Building the capacity of PLHA is the crucial role of KDAS+ this capacity building trainings and programme will enable to increase the involvement of all PLHA. This makes them better advocates and creates favorable environment for betterment of the quality life of PLHA.

Some of the following are the trainings and programmes given to most of the members of the network;

- Positive speaking & TOT on positive speaking
- Peer educators Training
- Personality development
- Legal counsel and advice,

- Treatment Education and Adherence
- Counseling
- OI Treatment
- Home Based Care
- Nutritional supplement and its benefit
- TB and HIV co-infection
- Positive living

Achievements

Old Age Pension for all People living with HIV (PLHIV) with the help of the district Collectorate support, 2, with the help of Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) project 52 CIA/CAA children got the fellowship from the local donors Rs. 500 for their nutritional at once. 345 children have been getting short time local sponsor for six months and also 28 children have been getting the support from well wishers for their life time, more than 54 PLHIV in that 19 PLHIV got the housing loan with the reference to the Indhira Avas Yojana government scheme, 11 PLHIVs got Disaster relief fund with the help of the district Collectorate, and SC/ST 7 PLHIVs got Rs. 10,000/- loan from Tamilnadu housing Adi Dravidar development corporation (THADCO) ⁸.

Indian Red Crosses Society: Community Care Centre

Krishnagiri District Branch of Indian Red Cross Society undertakes the project of community care centre from 2008 onwards supported by Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society (TANSACS) under the chairmanship of District Collector.

The PLWHA can be referred from ART centre to stay and take the opportunity to infect treatment for 3 to 7 days with food and accommodation. They work in all the 10 Blocks in Krishnagiri District.

People Development Initiative (PDI) - Link Workers Programme

Vulnerable and HIV risk population viz., Core groups and bridge population prevent HIV. The link workers program supported by UNICEF was started in the year 2009 located in the office at Krishnagiri has been working in 100 villages which has more than 5000 population. 4 block supervisor and 40 link workers and 1 District Resource Person is working at the field level.

They should organise and guide the FSWs, involve the target groups in the prevention activities, liaising with govt. officials for the welfare scheme, short out the issues of target community, insist the important of health aspect, support the physical mental and social problems, deal the legal issues for target groups.

Arcod & Thai Vizhuludugal - Female Sex Workers (FSW) Programmes

This project was started in the year 1988 at Krishnagiri, Bargur, Uthangarai,

Veppanapalli and Kaveripattinam blocks supported by AIDS Prevention and Control (APAC) mainly for the female sex workers to bring out the behavior changes related with the HIV/AIDS

The information disseminated related with the prevention activities, deal with the legal issues related with the FSW, Organize and guide the FSWs, involve the target groups in the prevention activity, liaising with govt. officials for the welfare scheme, short out issues of target community, insist the important of health aspect, support the physical mental and social problems.

New Life, Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT)

The New Life NGO currently undertaking the Programme of Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society (TANSACS) the Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission program (PPTCT) was started in the year 2005. This programme is mainly to take care of the Antenatal mother to refer and follow up until the delivery happens. The children also will be taken care for the further follow-up and ART registration. The working staff, for this is 1 Program Co-ordinator and 10 field workers are involved in all the 10 blocks.

Krishnagiri Motor Vahana Paluthu Parpor Nala Sangam (KMVPPNS) - Truckers Intervention Programme

This organization now has undertaken the program of Truckers Intervention Program supported by Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society (TANSACS) since 2009. It concentrates mainly on Trucker community health related with HIV/AIDS. The working areas are Kaveripattinam, Bargur, Krishnagiri, Shoolagiri Blocks. The working staff, consists of Programme Co-ordinator, 1- Counselor 5- Staff nurse and 5- Field staff.

Drop in Centre

Krishnagiri District Positive Network, has currently undertaken the program of DROP IN CENTRE since 2008 supported by Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society (TANSACS). It focuses on mainly the family support, counseling, referral, follow up, access for the social benefit scheme to all the HIV infected people. The positive people have above been registered in this centre.

OVC Program (Orphan and Vulnerable Children)

This Program was initiated during the year of 2010, March supported by UNICEF. It focuses on mainly the HIV infected and affected children's psychological, social, educations, economic development, identify the individual donors. This programme is carried out in all the 10 Blocks consisting of 10 field workers and one programme coordinator⁹.

Conclusion

HIV / AIDS Awareness Programmes are the best-expected outcome of Non Governmental Organisation specially reported in Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts. If the

young men and women are perfectly guided by Non Governmental Organisation then the necessary behavioral changes occur in them to make an AIDS free world Keeping this as a basis, if sufficient changes occur in their behaviors, then there would be a constructive HIV / AIDS is completely eradicate the most dreadful disease which is violently attacking the human race. Hence HIV / AIDS are also a third generation epidemic disease mercilessly killing the human beings in the world. Due to this, the Social, Cultural, Economical crises have increased. The basic freedom of man such as his existence and his Rights to Life are completely curtailed down. When his birth is natural his death also has to be so. Mostly men acquire this syndrome / disease due to their erotic behavior. Not only this disease destroys the rights of one's life, but also it collapses the occurrence of future generation. If this continues, the last man on this earth will die because of HIV / AIDS. So human beings would become extinct on the earth.

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