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Case studies April 2009

Parbhani district

Sanjay is 32 and living with his family. His family has the traditional occupation of pot making. In the session of Ganpati Mahotsav and Navratra they prepared the statue of Lord Ganpati and Durgamata. They have a big market at the taluka level. In the summer season they are very busy in their work. Sanjay's father is the head of family and his decisions are final. Sanjay is the eldest of three brothers. He is married to a woman, Anjana, who is from a family of farmers.

Sanjay became very ill and was admitted to a private hospital. There they spent a lot of time and money but he never improved in health. A doctor tested him for HIV and found him positive but he never told Sanjay and his family. The doctor prescribed useless drugs. Eventually Sanjay was discharged. For many days he remained in bed and his whole family was disturbed from their work. Once when Sanjay's wife's brother visited him he looked at all the medical records of Sanjay and realised he must be HIV+. He collected all family members and exposed his status in front of all. Sanjay's wife Anjana got a great shock and decided not to live with Sanjay. She said that he must be positive before their marriage and that this matter was kept hidden from her. Fatima went to live with her mother and brother. Many times Sanjay's relatives went to Anjana's house and talked with her family but they didn't want to help the relationship.

After some weeks a letter was received by Sanjay asking for a divorce from Anjana. She asked for the the partition of land and property. In this situation Sanjay's condition deteriorated and their family business got totally disturbed. Then Sanjay decided to get a divorce from Anjana. He was in a critical condition. Anjana went back to the house of her mother. When he was admitted to the government hospital a Peer Treatment Educator from the Parbhani Network met him and brought his father to network. First of all family counselling was done and assured them all to not to worry about Sanjay. First we should bring him to a safe level and test his HIV status at an Integrated Care and Testing Centre. Our treatment outreach worker helped him to get a test and registered his name at the ART centre for a CD4 test. Within 15 days the CD4 test was done and free ART started. Slowly he is improving his health. Network team also went to talk to his wife and family to try to convince them to settle their marital dispute but Anjana's parents do not agree to that.

The legal problem or issue involved:

The divorce and claim for property is referred by the network to the Lawyers Collective Unit. Lawyers from the Collective came to Parbhani and listened to Sanjay. Counselling was given about the history of Sanjay and his family. By now, Sanjay wanted a divorce from Anjana. The Collective noted this and sent a letter to Anjana for a response before taking any decision. But the reply was not positive. Many follow up letters and discussions were held with the Lawyers Collective.

Guidance from Lawyers:

The Lawyers Collective wrote to Anjana. They asked her to come and to talk with them but she did not reply or come for counselling. The Lawyers Collective advised the DLN team to

visit her and her family and try to talk. They did this but after visiting them they never gave a response. Then the Unit recommended action for divorce and a refusal to give any part of the property.

Current situation:

After a long time Sanjay got his divorce and the court refused to give any monthly maintenance because Sanjay is not in paid employment and Anjana has no children. The court ordered Sanjay to give 10,000/- as a one off payment to Anjana. Anjana is now living with her mother. Sanjay is trying to get involved in his business again. His family is not worrying about him any more. When his family proposed a second marriage he said he was not prepared for that. He is a regular visit at the district office and he is a participant in support group meetings and other activities when he has spare time. He is very thankful to Parbhani DLN.

Sanju Kale
District Social Worker

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Aamhich Aamache Sanstha, Sangli

A woman, Sangita, lived with her husband and two children. The children are negative but she is positive. She worried about the children, her financial condition was very poor, so it was hard to take care of two children. Then 12 years ago her husband died.

After some time her daughter Nimisha got married in the year 2000. This family lived with Sangita's family very happily. Two daughters were born in his family so they are very happy. After some time Sangita's son in law was taken bad, and admitted at hospital. The doctor advised him to have a medical checkup. His medical report came back HIV positive. When they learnt this, Sangita, Nimisha and her brother became very unhappy. They were all totally sad. Then the son in law died.

Sangita came to see us at Aamhich Aamache Sanstha, Sangli district network. We gave her counselling as she is suffering from mental stress. She formed a relationship with us, she participated in every support group meeting. She improved herself, and started work as a Peer Treatment Educator. After some time she was appointed in the Drop In Centre as an Outreach Worker, and she is now a director in Aamhich Aamache Sanstha. She had some vocational training from Aamhich Aamache. Sangita and Nimisha started a small business, they made cleaning materials and sold it at school, and at an industrial company in the Miraj.

In this period she was making a loss, but then she started fish selling business. One day she decided to arrange a marriage for her son. Whenever she asked a family if they would marry him, she got no response, many families avoided him, because his mother's and sister's status was HIV positive. They all came to our office and discussed this marriage problem. We had a meeting at Nipani with some girls who might marry him, we explained the ways in which HIV is spread. We told them all the details. Then one party agreed to marriage. But first, they asked that the brother has an HIV test. His report was negative. Then they were ready for marriage. So Nimisha's brother got married. Some time later, a small child was born into this family, and his report was negative. So both families became very happy.

Krishna Jadhav
District Social Worker