



PLUS

Case studies January 2009

Sangli

Sangli case study 1

Ms. Uma is 25 years old. She has a good family background. She married in 1996. Her husband was in the army. After some time he fell ill, and left his job in the army to come back home. When he arrived in XXX village that time he was so ill he was admitted to Hospital. He died in the year 2003.

This is how Uma tells her story:

'After he died I was left with the care of two children. When I came out from the tension of my husband's death, I went to the army to inquire about his pension . The officer gave me heartbreaking news. They told me that my husband was found to be HIV positive, so he was suspended from the army. The pension facility is not provided for suspended staff. I became very sad.

My family found out about my husband's HIV status. Then I went to get myself an HIV test. My report was positive. All my family became very nervous. I was very sad, thinking that I will not live more than a few days. I had no hope in front of me.'

Then one day Uma visited our network, Aamhich Aamache Sanstha at Sangli . She was told all about Aamhich Aamache Sanstha, that it is a network of HIV + people in Sangli. She told us that her friend was HIV+, so she wanted some information about HIV. The network officer gave her some information. She told her the network is a positive people's network. All members are positive people, the counsellor is HIV+, we are all living happily and being strong. Then Uma revealed her status to us. We gave her counselling, told her how to improve her lifestyle, so that she could live as a normal person for the rest of her life. She was satisfied and thought that with the help of so many positive people she could live in society.

Now she and her two children live a good life. Aamhich Aamache Sanstha helped her set up her life, gave her moral support. They referred her to an NGO for a job . Now she is working for the NGO as a fieldwork officer and gives help to our network.

Sangli case Study 2

Ms.Shiri is 23 years old. Her family are all well educated. After graduation she got married. Her husband works for a private company. After a year a small child was born to the family. Before the child was born they had a checkup and HIV test, the test came out HIV positive. This led to great stress and tension. She then had to face a psychological problem because her child died.

Her family were very upset and sad. They sent her away, saying 'keep separate from us'. The family now avoid her. So her and her husband left the family. Her husband left his job. We were desperate and under great tension.

One day she learnt about Aamhich Aamache Sanstha at Sangli. This is a network of PLHA, in our network all members are positive people. Before joining our network people with HIV live in great fear and often attempt suicide. But after counselling all people are living happily . Firstly she visited one of our counsellors who gave her moral support and counselling . The counsellor told her that she had faced being HIV positive since she was seven years old and that now she was boldly facing HIV . 'I now live my life as a normal person. I do all my personal work as well as now working in the Aamhich Aamache Sanstha.'

Ms. Shiri is relieved and understands the life style. She returned to the office a second day and she discussed so many things.

Now she is very well, she is the secretary of Aamhich Aamache Sanstha , Sangli

Krishna Jadhav
District Social Worker
Sangli District Network
Aamhich Aamache Sanstha, Sangli

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Satara

Akash is an 11 year old orphan living with his grandparents. He was taking ART from Sangli Civil Hospital, but then they transferred his place of treatment to the Satara Civil Hospital. But his grandfather is always having health problems so that he is not capable of bringing Akash to Satara for his monthly anti-retroviral therapy (ART). As a result, Akash has defaulted on his ART treatment.

As a result of not taking ART for the last two months he is facing the problem of skin infections like itching all over his body, and also the loss of appetite, and vomiting.

We firstly gave psychological support to his grandfather because he was very worried about his grandson. No other family member gave support to them. Akash's uncle took no care about his health. We told the family that we will always help you but you must look after his health. We explained the importance of his taking his ART regularly. ART should be taken on time to time as well as it should be taken lifelong. They promised us that they would take Akash to Satara for his ART.

We told them the ART doctor may scowl at you because you have defaulted of ART but you will tell him you will not miss the dose of ART in future. We also gave him information about *Balsangopan Yojana*, the government scheme that will give Akash help for his education. We also told about educational facility available for the positive children. His grandfather feels relaxed.

Outcome

After our home visit, Akash went with his grandfather to Satara for the ART treatment. The doctor scowled at them and made them aware about ART adherence. They gave ART medicine to them and also made an appointment for the CD4 testing. Akash has told us that they took the medicine and they not miss the dose again in future.

Conclusion

We concluded that his family members are not aware about the importance of ART medicine. After our home visit they realised its importance for Akash's health. We decided to give a monthly home visit to him and ensure follow up of ART adherence.

ACT Team,
NSP+, Satara.
