



PLUS

Case studies July 2009

Second line need: Bausaheb

My name is Bausaheb, I am 27yrs old, I was born in a village in Beed District. I had married in 2003. After 4 month of marriage I fell sick, I had weakness. My HIV test was done, without my knowledge. My parents knew my status but they didn't tell me. Only the Doctor told me to stop my sexual activity. I don't know why they didn't tell me? Then I went with my parents to the District Hospital. Again my testing was done and my report is HIV positive; when we came home my parents told me the reality. Then my wife's test was also done, fortunately she is negative.

That October I started ART, each month going to Latur for treatment. Cost per month was 4000 rs. for medicine. We were short of money so we sold our 1 acre land for gold. That time I didn't know ART is freely available. After that my family said to me we cannot bear your expense. So I left my village and I came with my wife to Pune. For one and a half month we lived here and then my father in law had an accident so we went to our village in Beed. After some days my father in law said he would not agree to let my wife live with me. He said me "you are a liar. Before marriage you knew your status but you are cheating us. You are darkening to all of us". My wife was willing to come with me, but my father in law and their family would not allow it or give support to me. My strong support, my wife was taken away from me. I was greatly upset. I felt very alone without my wife. Father in law took a case against me for maintenance of my wife. I went every month to court but the opposite party never came to court.

After that I went to Pune to start work. Currently I am in tailoring work earning 3000 rs per month. My father in law arranged a second wedding for my wife, I cannot do anything. They did not inform me. That time I was thinking I should put a case against them on this. But the police inspector said to me 'why are you putting the case? What will you achieve? You take care of yourself and live your life'. I thought what he said was correct, so I left the matter there. My wish for my wife is that in future she will always be happy in her life.

I lived in Pune for one year, after that I was in sickness. I was admitted to hospital as my haemoglobin was very low. ART is not suiting me that time so my medicine was changed. For another 1.5 years my health is ok. After that my leg problems start. The Doctor told me that starting 2nd line ART is needed and is most important for your health. In the last 8 months I visited different organisations trying to get 2nd line In Sassoon Hospital a doctor said 'we do not have second line here so I cannot give it to you'. J.J Hospital also will not give me 2nd line although they have it. Currently I have to take 1st line medicine. There is no any other option in front of me.

In 2007 since my first contact with NMP+, I have had lots of benefit from them. I understand ART adherence, the need to take nutritious food, take care of my health etc. Before that I was not conscious about my medicine, foods and my health. Now NMP+ is doing a really great thing by advocating for second line by holding a public hearing. I support NMP+. If 2nd line is easily, freely available to all needy people, they will live their

lives for more some years without tension. So, the public hearing is most important, it's the need of our Maharashtra. I wish to this programme, for their success.

Case study recorded by Asha Baht

We are delighted to add that Bausaheb was finally accepted for 2nd line and began treatment at JJ Hospital, Mumbai, at the end of July.

Satara case study 1

Our treatment outreach worker visited a family in December 2008. Dr. Bichukale had called the outreach worker the previous evening to say there was a person, Satish, newly detected as HIV positive. Satish is a 36 year old male, who works as a driver. The doctor asked our outreach worker to come and meet Satish the next day. The next day the outreach worker went to Dr. Bichukale's clinic. Satish and his wife were waiting for him. Dr. Bichukale introduced us. Firstly he consoled Satish and his wife. They have two daughters and a son, all under 10 years of age. So, they were afraid.

The doctor gave them information about the difference between HIV and AIDS. Then he gave them information about free antiretroviral therapy (ART) treatment and about our network, the Network of Satara People with HIV (NSP+). He called them firstly to Phaltan Rural Hospital for government tests. As requested, they attended next day at the Rural Hospital where Satish took HIV and sputum tests. Satish said that there was no need to test his wife, but our outreach worker argued strongly that it was necessary to test her.

They collected their all reports and came to see us at the network. The outreach worker told them to go to Satara Civil Hospital for registration and CD4 checking. But meanwhile their relatives came to their home, and heard about their status. They told them not to go to Satara civil hospital, because there they are killing HIV patients by giving extra strong doses. So they were very afraid and suddenly called our outreach worker. He went to their home and listened to their opinions. Then he told them all about himself, that he had been taking ART for the last 4 yrs. He told them they need free ART. It is very necessary to register for free ART at Satara and he managed to convince them. He also convinced them that their economical problems, social problems, family and all others difficulties they are faced with in their life can be overcome

Then they suggested that what has happened, getting infected, was caused by black magic. They have become very superstitious. So they wanted to pray.

As the outreach worker suggested they both went to Satara Civil Hospital to register and take CD4 tests. There she was counselled properly. They also came to the NSP+ office and registered their names. They now appear relaxed and tension free. Also they have assured us that whenever they feel any problem they will come to the NSP+ office.

Satara case study 2

Sanjay is 27th years old. He enrolled in Satara Network a year ago. He is unmarried so he registered his name for marriage with the network He signed a consent form, and gave an

HIV testing report, personal information and bio-data, and a description of his expectations of a bride.

Mala is 24 years old woman who enrolled in the network in May this year. She is a widow, her husband expired less than one year ago because of HIV. Therefore, she also registered her name for marriage and wrote all her all information and expectations of a bridegroom.

One day Sanjay came for the ART centre for medicine, and visited the network office. We told him about Mala. He asked us to speak with her. When she visited the office we told her about Sanjay then she agreed to meet him. One day we called them both to the office. Firstly, we told both of them about their and their personal information then we took a separate session with each of them. We discussed marriage.

Then we took a joint session with them and gave information about them and their family background, and both of them were satisfied. Then we left them alone with space and a chance to talk each other. They told each other their information, expectations, likes, dislikes and their CD4 testing as well as ART status.

After that, they decided to meet family members. Mala and her family members visited Sanjay's house and they told each other they would like to get married. Later on, we gave them information about court marriage as well as marriage in temple. We also advised them that if there is any problem in your future then the DLN is not responsible for that. This decision is only yours only, and both of them agree for that.

Then they fixed the date of 11th June 2009 for the marriage in the temple at 1.45 p.m. From NSP+ 6 to 8 members went for marriage ceremony. Both of the family members also presented for this marriage. The marriage ceremony was very good.



Eight days later, Sanjay and Mala came to the ART centre and visited our office. They feel very happy.

Karuna Pawar,
DLNO, NSP+

Nagpur case study

A counsellor at the ART centre referred the client Sunil to Sanjeevan. When he came to the ACT office, he was very depressed. We realized that he was in difficulty. We first tried to relax him and then gave him information about Sanjeevan, that it is a network formed by

positive people for positive network. We also told him about the aim and objectives of our Sanstha. After earning his confidence we asked him about his problem. He said that when he was just 20 years of age, from that time he has many addictions. He had sexual relations with so many women and he also frequently visited the red light area. After some time he suffered from tuberculosis and the doctor suggested he check his blood. The report came positive and he felt devastated.

He tried to hide this matter from his family but in vain. He lives with his mother and his brother. After knowing about his HIV infection the behavior suddenly changed. His family started discriminating against him. Now they kept his clothes, utensils and other things separately. They used abusive language. He was so depressed that he didn't want to live. After listening to his case, we asked him to bring his mother and brother to the office. He replied that they would not come with him in any condition.

We visited Sunil's house and introduced our self as his friends. His mother was at home and we asked her about her son's tuberculosis. We realized that she has no love or sympathy towards her son. Then we gave her information about tuberculosis and also about Sanjeevan. After this visit we again visited the client, this time his brother was also at home. We tried to educate them regarding HIV/AIDS but they were not ready to listen to us. Then we requested them to come to our office, after some days they came to our office. We introduced them to all the ACT staff and board members of Sanjeevan and informed them that this is a network formed by positive people for positive people. We also gave information about the aim and objectives of our Sanstha. Then we explained to them that HIV infection doesn't happened due to sharing clothes, shaking hands, mosquito bites, sharing toilets etc. We explained them the four reasons responsible for HIV infection.

We visited his home regularly and always tried to reduce misconceptions and discrimination. We made good relations with his family. We requested them to take care of him and after many visits we got success. The client came to the office and informed us that his mother is taking good care of him. Sometimes his brother doesn't treat him properly but we assured him that slowly but surely his attitude will change.

We suggested Sunil join our support group. We visit him every month on the day of the support group meeting at Wadi. We found that his approach is changing. He thanked Sanjeevan for changing his life.

Now he is joining our team as a volunteer and good news is that he attended the yovak mahottsava organized by PFI AND NMP+ which was held on 9th June to 11th 2009.

When Sunil last came to the office he was looking satisfied and healthy. He informed us that once again he has started taking ART and now he has no health problem. The atmosphere of his home has also changed.

Lesson learnt: Family counselling is an important aspect of Care & Support. Frequent home visits help us to understand the mentality of different families and we can also use this experience for future cases.

Future Plan: The client is unmarried and willing to marry, so we assured him that we would help him to find a decent positive girl. We are also planning to provide him with counselling regularly.

Anita Mahajan
DSW, Nagpur DLN