



PLUS

Case studies June 2009

Sanjeevan Sanstha, Nagpur District Network

Ganesh is a 27 year old single man who was educated to degree level and has a job in private industry. When he came to the Sanjeevan office he looked tense and scared. We first relaxed him and gave him information about the Sanjeevan organisation. After feeling comfortable he told us that he is unmarried and from the age of 18 years he has had many addictions. He also had sexual relations with female sex workers. After a few years he started losing weight and became weaker day after day. So, the doctor suggested he should get a blood test. The result came positive and he was terrified. But he never told this thing to his family. He lives with his maternal aunt and cousin. After a few days the family came to know about his HIV status and the real problems started. They began to discriminate against him, they refused to wash his clothes, kept his utensils separately, and they hardly talked to him.

After listening to his story we gave him counselling and advised him to try not to worry about this matter. We told him that if he could bring his family members to the office we would attempt to educate them and solve the problem. He said that it might not be possible but he would try and after few days he came to the office with his aunt and cousin. We informed them about Sanjeevan's work, aim and objectives. We counselled the client's family, explained the four modes of transmission, and tried to eradicate their misconceptions. We also explained that HIV infection doesn't spread by sharing clothes, toilets or even by mosquito bites, these are all myths and there is no need to fear about these things. We asked them to visit us again and to take care of Ganesh.

When they came for the second time we once again counselled them and pointed out that Ganesh was losing weight and he needs proper care and treatment. We also explained that positive people can live a long and normal life just like a diabetic if he takes good care of himself and follows the guidelines. We asked them to provide emotional support to the client. We told them that Sanjeevan is a network formed by HIV+ people and there are so many people in our organization who are living life positively, and how their families are supporting them. We also gave them information regarding anti-retroviral treatment (ART). We then asked them to come with the client for support Group Meetings. Next time when Ganesh came to us he looked satisfied and he explained that our counselling has helped him a lot. Now his aunt is taking good care of him and also reminds him to take his ART dose. The behaviour of his cousin is changing slowly and now he is quiet satisfied. He thanked us for the efforts. We once again counselled him regarding diet and nutrition.

Every month the client attends support group meetings at our Drop In Centre (DIC). We also regularly inquire about him. When he comes for meetings at the DIC, he shares his emotional and health related issues with us. He is now recovering quickly and the problem of Stigma and Discrimination is no more in his life.

After attending the support groups Ganesh expressed a wish to work for the positive community and we recommended him as a peer educator in Indira Gandhi Hospital as volunteer. He then joined YMCA and worked there as peer educator. His hard work and dedication paid off and he is currently working in YMCA's migrant project.

Beed Network

Manisha (name changed for her security) is a 23 year old simple woman living with HIV for the last three years. She is a widow and she has no children living with her in her father's village. She has a rented base, and works on a farm and also helps with catering for some functions like marriages. She is living this life simply and has no worries and does not want more from life. She thinks it is destiny that she faced lots of problems.

and no any reason to life being in future no any benefit to other and no any her family member like Mindly also they think when she was death , Manisha is a women of new generation she think positively towards life she is not educated only 10th class she is qualified.

After her husband's death three years ago she lived in fathers home but after six months a lot of problems were created in her family, but some one says that "time is solution of all of things". She found out about the Network of Beed By People Living HIV in the ART centre, Ambajogai. We took Manisha and aided her and advised her and gave her some services like counselling. She told us about the poor behaviour from her family like her father, mother and brother. She told us she wanted some farm land from her father because she was confident she could live a single and happy life, farming herself, working and living positive and happy away from her family. When she told us this she was very nervous and worry returned to her life. But we suggested she seek help from the Lawyers Collective meeting held on 5th June.

Also we suggested she should continue her studies and she told us she really liked education so this is a good thing. We asked her about marriage. She told us her family is not ready yet but might consider caste men.

Lessons learned:

- 1) She has specified her expectations to her family
- 2) She likes education so NBP+ is getting her started on her education.
- 3) She is ready to marry a good caste man.
- 4) She thinks of life positively.
- 5) She wants to live away from her family, her expectations are proof that she cannot be happy living with them.

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