



PLUS

Case studies August 2008

This is the first of a series of case studies we will publish with the newsletter NMPPLUS. We will try and use ones which highlight different issues. If you have a case study that you think would be of interest to others, please send it in. This one from Sangli shows how support from the local network helped a Sangli member to cope, and have a successful family life and a settled job.

Sangli case study

In 1984 to 1985 I am learning at ITI. Our friends and I all went on a Goa tour. My friends knew about Goa but I was new to this so I didn't know the area. We all entered in the commercial sex worker area. But I stayed outside waiting for them.

At night we all stay in lodgings. My friend gave an order for whisky. The waiter came with the order and with a beautiful woman. My friend arranged it. I am confused but my friends instruct me and support me. They tell me not to worry. What we are doing is right. Bit by bit I am learning all. In this time I fell in love. One day my mother found a love letter in my pocket. My mother quarrelled with me and I left my home.

With the help of my friend I got a job in service at the hospital. I established good relations with the Doctors. They gave me the responsibility of team leader of five nurses. In this nurses group one nurse was my lover. One day, I learnt that she was a commercial sex worker. I am taken ill and suffering Herpes zoster. I left her.

In 1994 I joined service in the famous institute Swami Vivekananda Education Institute at Ving village. In this period my family try for my marriage but our school has no grant. Mr.G and Mr. S know about my good character. They propose me for their brother's daughter and in 1997 I got married. After six months I am suffering for a month with fever and a cough. My doctor checked my health and my medical report came HIV Positive.

In this period I am suffering from opportune infections like Pneumonia, T.B. etc. I am become so sad. My family quarrelled with the doctor because they know about my good character. They think that it is impossible. To confirm we do western blood test but it is true. I am HIV Positive. My family climate changed and all my dreams are put out.

That evening at home with my wife I told her about my HIV status. She did not believe me. All my family and relatives now know my status. They avoid us and stop parental relations. On my wife's side one day they arranged a feast for Diwali. I am at the function celebrating there but I am unhappy and not comfortable so decide to kill myself. In this period I write a letter to my sister telling her about my HIV status.

She did not believe my HIV status. I am admitted at Karad Krishna hospital but my family will not accept and they leave me. I stayed there nearly one month and my wife's family support me. I am staying at my father-in-law's home. They take care of me but they know my HIV status. Both families quarrel with us and are not talking with us.

In my job at ?? High School they know my HIV status. They are avoiding me. I am disturbed from stigma and discrimination. In this period I purchased medicine for HIV from Kerala state but it is a failure. During this time my wife is pregnant. I am so stressed that I decide to kill myself. At that time Dr. J was counselling me and gave advice to have an abortion. I am very sad and decide to commit suicide but my friends talk me out of it.

In this period my mother threw out my clothing and other material from home. From this behaviour I again decide to do suicide, but my attempt failed. My father and father-in-law were so sad. My financial condition is poor so I cannot purchase medicines.

I went to K Hospital and meet Dr. J. She suggested we could have the child at our own risk. I discussed this with my sister and my wife. We decided to have the baby.

Dr. J stayed in contact with us and guided us even though she was on a tour of America at that time. In August 2001 a child was born in our family. We were all happy. The same day my

daughter was found to be in a serious condition. We all became sad and postponed the child's birthday function. There was a guarantee of only 24 hours life for our child. Medicines are not available. My father-in-law purchased medicine from Pune but we lost all hopes. My daughter's uncle donated blood. The child was in Intensive Care for almost a month. Luckily my daughter's health has now improved. After some time my daughter's report was negative. We are all very happy.

In December 2004 I started ART treatment. During this period we are struggling for ART medicine. Now I am a regular user of ART treatment and very well.

In this period Aamhich Aamache Sanstha was with me and gave support. Sanjay Ghadge (former President) taught me lot of positive thoughts of a sweet life.

After some time I faced stigma and discrimination at my school. At that time Aamhich Aamache Sanstha's pressure group explained and gave information about HIV and AIDS to our work group. We had a discussion on human rights. They told the school staff not to avoid HIV people. I have now established a good relationship with them.

Aamhich Aamache Sanstha Sangli

This is true story written by A. He is our DLN member. He faced so many social problems and now he is standing very well.

Sanju Kale sent in this wonderful picture of **Parbhani District Staff**. They are from left to right Surekha Jadavare, just appointed as General Secretary of NMP+, who has been a peer counsellor at Parbhani since 2005. Babita Chjaran is President and District Network Officer since 2005. Sanju is next, he has been District Social Worker since 2006. Next to Sanju, Anant Samale who has been Treatment Outreach Worker since June 2006. Before that he was a peer educator from the beginning of the DLN. Finally, Satyasheela, a volunteer who has also been working since the inauguration of Parbhani DLN.

