



PLUS

May 2009

Network of Maharashtra People with HIV

Dhule ART centre failings

Serious failings have emerged in the standard of healthcare in Dhule district. There was a mass demonstration outside the ART centre earlier this month when 131 people who turned up for CD4 testing were refused the facility.

Network of Maharashtra People with HIV (NMP+) President Shivaji Barge wrote to the new Project Director of MSACS, Rajesh Deokar, outlining the problem.

The letter asks for 3 things:

1. Changes to the ART Centre management to restore an adequate level of service
2. Instruct the ART Centre that they must treat everyone according to need, without discrimination
3. Arrange a testing day ensuring adequate staffing and drug supply.

NMP+ will also raise this issue at the meeting with MSACS on 20th May, during the Global AIDS Week of Action (See page 2 of this newsletter).

Below: Press coverage of the demonstration at Dhule ART Centre.



For the sake of the children

The India HIV/AIDS India Alliance in partnership with the Network of Maharashtra People with HIV (NMP+) and Plan International has arranged a State Level Consultation Meeting in Mumbai next month. They will discuss policies affecting positive children, and the operational guidelines which determine the treatment and support given by government.



The Government of India's 'Policy Framework on Children and AIDS – 2007' seeks to address the specific needs of children affected with HIV. This requires government departments at all levels, working for the welfare of children, to collaborate. It shows how civil society, NGOs and the private sector can work with government towards the achievement of its goals.

The consultation seeks to give a big boost in Maharashtra to the state's services to infected and affected children.

Among those invited to the consultation are the new Project Director for MSACS, Rajesh Deokar, and representatives from other bodies involved in children's services, including MDACS, Avert Society, PCI, FHI and UNICEF.

Obtaining a ration card

This is the second of a series of legal advice columns from the **Human Rights Law Network (HRLN)**.

How to get a ration card:

1. Application forms for a ration card are available from SETU, Tahsildar and Rationing offices at district collectorate/Tahsil Office/Rationing Office.
2. A duly completed application form must be submitted in the name of the head of the family to the concerned SETU office/ Tahsildar/ Rationing Officer.
3. Attachments required (attested copies): proof of residence (e.g. Election Card, Electric bill etc), proof of income, proof of age and a relevant affidavit declaring you are not a ration card holder anywhere else in Maharashtra.

APPLICABLE FEES (Rupees)

1. White Ration Card: 50/- (new) 100/- (duplicate)
2. Saffron Ration Card: 20/- (new) 40/- (duplicate)
3. Yellow Ration Card: 10/- (new) 20/- (duplicate)

If you want to transfer your ration card, you have to produce a cancellation of the previous ration card from the issuing authority. Similarly, to add a spouse's name, you have to submit the certificate of deletion of the spouse's name from his or her previous ration card.

If you want to add a child's name to an existing ration card, you have to submit a copy of the child's birth certificate.

Please contact the HRLN Nagpur unit who are happy to give further information and any legal advice:

Nagpur HRLN Phone: 0712 2543273. **Address:** Human Rights Law Network, 51-B, Mata Mender Road, Alliance Church Building, Gokulpeth, Nagpur 440010. **Email:** hrlnnagpur@gmail.com

NMP+ given enhanced CHAHA role

NMP+ has been given additional responsibilities by the India HIV/AIDS Alliance, through the CHAHA project funded by Global Fund (GFATM) money. The Alliance uses 8 'sub recipients' to deliver the project to children living with or affected by HIV. NMP+ is now one of these sub recipients, one of three in Maharashtra.

NMP+ will oversee the work of 7 NGOs involved in delivering the service to children and their families. These are Sarva Seva Sangh in Pune, Sangli Mission Society in Miraj and Kolhapur, Pramprasad Charitable Society in Satara and Solapur, Santhome Charitable Trust in Kalyan, and of course NMP+ itself.

In a meeting at the Maharashtra State AIDS Control Society on the 20th May to mark the Global AIDS Week of Action, NMP+ together with Alliance, Mamta and Plan International will ask for improvements to ART services;

1. access to Cotrimoxazole prophylaxis be made available at every ART centre for children below 5 years as recommended by the World Health Organisation
2. every ART centre should have a paediatrician
3. HIV confirmation testing to be available for babies
4. CD4 counts to be available for everyone every 6 months

NMP+ will be represented by Vinod Jambhale, Balaji Ubarhande, and Salim Shaikh.

News

1. A list of vocational training opportunities in Marathi has been sent out to districts by email. Please go through it and see what is available for your members in your district.
2. Pravin Salunke is arranging a Public Hearing at the end of June on the need for decent 2nd line ART provision. Let him know if there are any particular points you want to be made. A wide variety of influential people will be invited.

Positive image



Last month Plus carried a photograph from eminent photographer **Shaju John**, who was commissioned by INP+ and Family Health International to produce a book with images of positive people. It includes photos from different states Maharashtra. The book will be published later this year.

Above is another image from the book. We are grateful to Shaju John for permission to use these photographs.

Star of the month ☆

Our star this month is the Solapur Network. Their documentation for the month of April was of a very high standard. They carried out some excellent outreach worker follow up. And their new enrollments for the month were over 80. Well done to Solapur.

Please send in reports and photos of Global AIDS Action Week and Candlelight Vigil events and we will include them in next month's newsletter.

Please send pictures, contributions or suggestions for the newsletter to Vincent McDonald, Communications Adviser, at vjmcd@hotmail.co.uk, or to **NMP+**, 401-403 Ganga Prestige Arcade, Nana Peth, Laxmi Road, Pune 411002, e mail: nmpplus@gmail.com, phone: 020 – 26336084/87