



PLUS

June, 2008

State Woman's Forum launched

NMP+ is happy to announce that on the 13th May, the 'NMP+ State Woman's Forum' (SWF) was formed. 22 women from 14 districts attended. Coordinator, Rekha Chawda, said 'The women on the committee are very enthusiastic. We hope and believe we will achieve a lot for positive women and children in Maharashtra'. NMP+ board member Prema Khandagle, who is a committee member on the National Women's Forum, also expressed delight with the new forum.

The new committee is Shailla Gonate, Pune, Chairperson, Sunita Patil, Kolhapur, Co-chair, Vandana Pawar, Jalgaon, Treasurer, and committee members Manorama Chapke (Nagpur), Sangeeta Shelke (Jalna), Sneha Gaikwad (Sangli), Suman Jadhav (Beed), Kalpana Patharkar (Ahmadnagar), and Kavita Pathak, Thane.

The forum would like to hear from you with your ideas, suggestions, and queries. Please contact SWF or NMP+ at swf.nmp@gmail.com or nmpplus@gmail.com

Below, Rekha Chawda



Welcome

Welcome to the first Plus, the newsletter of NMP+. We will try and produce it regularly. We hope you will help us by sending us bits of news to include. We are sorry it is only in English. If anyone feels able to do a Marathi translation each month, please let us know. The rate of pay will be one *gulab jamon* a month. Let us have your news, particularly from the districts. Keep everybody informed about issues and all the good work you are doing. Make it your newsletter!

MSACS funds grassroots training in Maharashtra

The Maharashtra State AIDS Control Society (MSACS) gave financial support to NMP+ to train people living with HIV to work in their communities, spreading awareness about HIV. 146 participants from many districts took the training recently. They were provided with information about government services like Integrated Counselling and Treatment Centres, and other local resources. The information will allow them to help their clients access government and other services. They will also campaign for positive prevention and work towards reducing stigma and discrimination. The trainees learnt how to provide, and where to refer people for, emotional, psychological, physical and financial support.

NMP+ is grateful to MSACS's Mr Prakash Sabde and Dr Sadhana Tayade for their generous support, and sends its good wishes to all the newly trained link workers.

Below, Balaji Ubarhande (State Program Associate) presents one of the sessions.



World AIDS Orphan Day

7th May was world AIDS Orphan Day, dedicated to advocating on behalf of over 15 million children worldwide who have lost their mothers and fathers to AIDS. Only one in ten of these children receive any form of external support or assistance.

To mark the day in Maharashtra, 52 children, some orphans, some from single-parent families, were gathered together with the help of the CHAHA project outreach workers from NMP+. The event was held at Buddha Vihar Dapodi, in Pune, an excellent venue giving cover and shade and an outside area for active games like musical chairs and the lemon and spoon race.

The ages of the children ranged from about 6 to 12. Fourteen adults helped to look after the children and make sure everything ran smoothly. For information, contact Project Coordinator Dipti Ghone at the NMP+ office. Dipti is below with some of the children.



NMP+ staff

Shankar Khandagale

Shankar is our Office Assistant. He has worked for NMP+ for 3 years. He is married with 2 daughters. He lives in Pune, in Talegaon Dabhade. He enjoys field trips at work, going out to the bank and the post office and to do shopping for NMP+.

He loves cricket, and plays for a local team.



Other staff news:

Goodbye to **Vaibhavi Deshpande**, our Receptionist, who left at the end of May. Vaibhavi is going to live with her parents-in-law, as her mother-in-law is unwell.

Welcome to **Vinod Jambhale** who joins us on 1st of June as Administration and Finance Officer. He was previously Social Worker at the Kolhapur district network.

Quacks campaign

Help us in our campaign against quacks. Any information you can send, names, examples of false cures of HIV or any false advice, any documents, newspaper cuttings etc you have that may help to file a case, please send to Kishor Sanas at NMP+ office. There will be more information about this campaign 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

Deadline: 25th day of each month