



PLUS

January 2009

Vidhya Kadham

1979 - 2009

Vidhya Kadam was murdered on the 17th January 2009, a black day and a huge loss for our movement.

It is a tragedy that such a valuable life has been taken when she had at last received her property rights and was living a full life contributing to improving the lives of positive people.

Vidhya had rights to some property, some farmland. Her in-laws disputed her ownership. In 2001 she went to court, and was awarded the rights to the land by the local courts. Her in-laws then took the matter to the high court, who 9 months ago confirmed that she was the rightful owner of the land. In the summer season she produced her first crop.

While working on her land on the 17th January she became involved in a dispute and was killed. Her mother-in-law and her two brothers-in-law are in police custody on suspicion of her murder.



She was born in the village of Morale in Sangli District. She married Rajendra Kadam in 1997, but after a year he died of AIDS. She was devastated to find that she too was positive. Soon after, in 1999, she joined Aamhich Aamache Sanstha Sangli.

She heard from a doctor in Sangli Civil Hospital about her property rights, so she went to see the advocate Dattjiravo Mane who advised her on her struggle for her rights. For years she fought a legal battle. During this time she was receiving counselling and advice from Aamhich Aamache Sanstha Sangli.

In 2001 she became an outreach worker at the drop-in centre (DIC), and in the same year a board member of Aamhich Aamache Sanstha Sangli. She showed a talent for leadership and was soon organising and leading many activities. She established a strong taluka network at Palus Taluka near her home.

She was such a good worker that she was appointed Counsellor at the Drop in centre in 2007. In March 2008 she was elected President of Aamhich Aamache Sanstha Sangli, and in August 2008 she was elected onto the board of NMP+ as Vice President. She was a very active contributor to the Vision Workshop in late December, where she helped formulate the future direction of NMP+ reported on the following page.

She was regarded as a sister by all positive people she came into contact with, and was greatly loved by the staff of Sangli network.

Vision of the future

All NMP+ board members, and 11 staff, spent the 26th to the 29th December in a rural retreat to devise a future for NMP+. The workshop established a Vision and Mission for NMP+.

Vision

An improved quality of life of people living with HIV and an increased active participation in society.

Mission

To improve the quality of life and provide a sense of belonging to people living with HIV and their families for full active participation in society, and reduce further HIV transmission.

The workshop broke down the mission into some principle objectives;

Objectives

- To develop and strengthen governance.
- Formation of maximum Taluka Level Networks and reach to maximum PLHIV for network building and service delivery.
- To improve communication channels among board members and staff and bring clarity about roles and responsibilities as well as enhance capacities for good governance.
- To make available job opportunities for PLHIV.
- To do applied research for making effective working systems in the organization.

They decided that the organisation should present certain values. These should become a guide to all decision-making in the future.

Values

- integrity
- accountability
- credibility
- organisational commitment
- participation
- transparency

The meeting concluded that NMP+ is weak in governance, social relations and fund-raising. Objectives to improve these were made for the next two years.

Where next? There will be a Strategic Operational Plan for NMP+, drawn from the discussions. This is being put together and will be issued to all NMP+ board members, staff, and to each district shortly. There will then be 3 or 4 regional meetings to discuss the plan with all districts.

Below, delegates in earnest discussion.



Human Rights Law Network advocate on 2nd line

Two lawyers from the Human Rights Law Network (HRLN) came to the NMP+ offices and interviewed 10 members from various parts of Maharashtra who have been denied access to 2nd line treatment.

The lawyers have taken Xerox copies of their documents and are working on the cases. HRLN have also agreed to do a law clinic offering individual advice to delegates who attend the conference on *Women's law and health* which NMP+ is planning for the 7th and 8th March in Pune.

Amravati advocacy, World AIDS Day

Amravati district staff and members met with other NGOs and college students to march through Amravati city, chanting slogans and showing banners. Pamphlets with district contact information were distributed. Another NGO who were partners in the march did some street theatre to raise awareness about HIV. The procession went around the city and finished up back at the Amravati District General Hospital.

Top right; network staff prepare to march

Bottom right the rally marches through the city



Vidhya Kadam at work



Pravin leading on insurance

Pravin Salunke, Coordinator for Samarth, is now responsible for bringing the new health insurance scheme to Maharashtra. Scheme is run by Star Insurance and subsidised by PSI (Population Services International) using funds from PEFAR (President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief), and USAID.

Ten districts have had a presentation so far, with all districts scheduled to have a visit. Pravin is sharing the presentations with the agent Sunil Maiskar. There are 3 levels for the one year insurance, which is available to those with a CD4 count of 300 or above:

| Premium | Coverage |
|---------|-----------|
| 1133 rs | 30,000 rs |
| 1432 | 40,000 |
| 1909 | 60,000 |

For more information, or to apply, ask at your local district or contact Pravin or Sunil.

Pravin 9850935886

Sunil 9822697843

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and Evaluation teams are to visit every district between the 4th and 16th February. Each team consists of one board member and one member of NMP+ staff. They will spend 2 days at each district. One day will be spent evaluating the programme, the second finance and governance. Guidance will be given. Details of who will visit each district, and when, will be emailed out in the next few days.

Staff news

Ganesh Kuldharne has taken over the Young People's Reproductive and Sexual Health Rights (YRSHR) project. He retains his responsibilities for the Paediatric AIDS Initiative.

Shashikant Todmal is now Coordinator for the new Migrant Worker Project. Funding for this project comes from MSACS. The post of Chaha Counsellor has been taken by **Meera Tryambake**.

Beed positive speaker

The Beed network has been busy. They organised a positive speaker and poster exhibition working with Mahila arthik Vikas Mahamandal.

In the picture below, district network officer Mangal Mohalker presents a Positive Speaker session to the large crowd. The session was funded by MSACS.



Stars of the month ☆

Computer Management Information System staff

Plus newsletter would like to honour the outstanding achievement by ACT staff at NMP+, in getting all data for 3 years onto the computer database. In particular the work of **Ashwini Gujar**, who with the support of **Sanju Kale** from Parbhani, and **Balaji Ubarhande**, worked unstintingly for weeks on the mammoth task. For this outstanding work, in entering all the district data onto the INP+ database, they are our stars of the month.

Please send pictures, contributions or suggestions for the newsletter to Vincent McDonald, Communications Adviser, at yjmcd@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