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#### ORIGINAL ARTICLE





## HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION & HIV / AIDS: STUDY OF SANGLI AND KOLHAPUR CITY

#### B. N. PATIL

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#### **Abstract:**

#### I.HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

Education as a meaningful experience requires an endless search for new and better knowledge. The aim of Education is to make an ideal future citizen, who can take wise decisions in the best interest of society Education has no boundaries. An individual's capacity to be creative is the only limiting factor. The human rights education emphasized cognitive learning for young people. In proclaiming the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education in Dec. 1994, the General Assembly defined human rights education as "a life – long process by which people at all levels of development and in all strata of society learn respect for the dignity of others and the means and methods of ensuring that respect in all societies". The Assembly emphasized that the responsibility for human rights education rested with all elements of society – government, non-government organizations, professional associations, and all other sectors of civil society as well as individuals.

#### I.HIV/AIDS

Since the early 1980s HIV/AIDS has claimed 22 million lives and infected over 60 million persons, and it will kill millions more if it is controlled. Its spread is fueled by a wide range of human rights violations.

including sexual violence and coercion faced by women and girls, stigmatization of men who have sex with men, abuses against sex workers, and violations of rights of young persons to information on HIV transmission. Human rights violations only add to the stigmatization of persons of highest risk of infection and thus marginalize and drive underground those who need information, preventive services and treatment most desperately.

The interaction between HIV/AIDS and human rights is most often illustrated through the impact on the lives of individuals of neglected people, and violation of their rights in the context of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

People affected by HIV may progress toward the realization of their rights and better health if the enabling conditions exist to the alleviate the impacts of personal, and societal issues on their lives. This requires policies and programmes designed to extended support and services to affected families and communities.

#### II.THEME

 $\,$  HIV / AIDS affected individuals are not only suffering from lack of information but also are neglected by the society. As a result they do not obtain timely education and information regarding reducing the seriousness of the ailment and preventing its spread. In this paper it is argued that denying this critical information to the HIV / AIDS patients is a violation of human rights. The inaction of the state and the non-

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responsive society are highlighted as the source for this denial of right. The organizations which are working on this aspect are surveyed for assessing their contribution.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

The major objectives of study are as under

- 1. To study the Human rights education.
- 2. To analyze the types of human rights education related to HIV/AIDS.
- 3. To examine the importance of human rights education for HIV/AIDS affected individuals
- 4. To give appropriate suggestions.

#### **III.METHODOLOGY**

The present paper is based on both the primary and secondary sources of data collected from NGO's functioning in Sangli and Kolhapur. Firstly the researcher prepared a list of NGO's working for HIV / AIDS. The office bearers of these agencies were contacted and interviewed. The secondary data were collected with the help of booklets, news papers, reports etc.

#### IV.THE ORGANIZATION IN THE STUDY AREA

#### i) Mukta Services for Commercial Sex Workers

**Health Care Facility** – Mukta offers quality health care services at a minimal cost for the management of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and common illnesses. STI drugs are given free of cost to community members.

 $\textbf{Counseling}-STI \ and \ general \ counseling \ services \ are \ provided \ at \ Mukta \ centers.$ 

**Referral Facilities** – Mukta has established referral linkages with specialized agencies, such as voluntary counseling and HIV testing centre, facilities offering care and support services for people living with HIV / AIDS and to hospitals for management of serious illnesses.

**Promoting Condom Use** – Mukta stocks free government supplied condoms as well as priced condoms for distribution / sale to community members. The correct use of condoms is also demonstrated to the community.

**Rest & Recreation** – Mukta provides space for community members to rest and participated in recreational activities like indoor games. At the centre, there are also facilities for entertainment.

**Issue Based Services** – At Mukta, community members have the opportunity to discuss and address issues, such as the need for ration cards, insurance policies and bank accounts, violence by regular partners, harassment by police etc. The Mukta staff facilitates these sessions.

**Community Kitchen** – Community kitchens are set up at some Mukta centers. This is a unique opportunity for members to get nutritious food at a reasonable price. In some centre the kitchen serves HIV positive members. These kitchens also operate as an income generating activity for the members.

**Vocational Training** –Mukta centre facilitates specialized vocational training, like tailoring, beauty care, embroidery etc.

**Collectivization** – Mukta encourages community members to form collectives, such as self – help groups or issue – based groups for savings and other areas of concern to the community.

**Services for Children** –Mukta centre offers space and facilities for tuitions and crèches for the safe keeping and nurturing of the young children of community members.

**Legal Aid & Literacy** – Mukta strives to assist the community with legal issues through voluntary resource persons, and by providing training in legal literacy. Through advocacy programmes, Mukta raises

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awareness about the rights and responsibilities of members of the community. Adult Literacy –Mukta centre offers adult literacy classes for community members.

#### ii)PSI-Population Services international (1980)

This organization has been working in 70 Countries on various issues and specifically working in India for HIV/AIDS. IN India it is working in four states—Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh.

The activities of these agencies are:

#### a)PAC: Positive Association with Condom:

This organization conducts different type of activities like Game shows at public places like brothel areas, movie theatre that how individual has to take care from HIV/AIDS diseases.

#### b)TEAM

#### i)KCPT: Key Clinics Promotion Team

Under this, PSI works for sexually Transmitted Diseases. Here, the organization conducts street play, solo, one to one, one to group and, Health Camp, Arranging key Clinic facilities for sexually Transmitted Inmates. Key Clinics network is developed by PSI organization with appointing panel doctors to provide treatment to patients.

#### ii)PAC: Positive Association with Condom

Agency gives information that how individuals have to use condoms for protecting from HIV / AIDS. For this it arranges Tent Programme, Game shows, one and one, one to group discussion, health camps etc. At the same time they find STD patients. After every 3 months they change the themes and they get changes through output tracking survey. Every month they conduct one meeting to get feedback from their team and guide line.

#### iii)Mukh Nayak

This organization was established by professional social worker (MSW) in 2003-2004 with objective of working with make sex male. It conducts street play at public places on various themes to find out MSWS. Organization refers STI patients in private hospitals.

#### iv) Verala Development Organization

This agency was established in 1967. Initially it was worked for water shed project. Now it has been working for HIV / AIDS specifically for migrant people. The agency conducts the programmes for arranging migrant people like solo, one to one, and one to group, street play, medical camps, slide shows, poster exhibition etc at the construction and residency of the migrant people. They form the peer group from the target group and provide training to preach their members about the issues.

#### $v) Sangram\ Development\ Organization$

It's target group is commercial sex workers. Sangram agency organizes conferences for giving justification to commercial sex workers. It provides counseling services, medical treatment and rehabilitation of commercial sex workers. Agencies forming self help groups of C.S.W. for making them independent from their profession.

#### vi)Amich Amche

The specialty of this organization is its board members are HIV positive. In office staff both positive and non-positive members are working. It shows that how the NGO tries to provide them all type of rights. This organization has been working in five talukas for rehabilitating HIV positive people. It provides pre-test and post test counseling to the inmates.

#### V.SIGNIFICANT OBSERVATIONS

Major observations of the study are as under:

1)In Kolhapur and Sangli City there are NGO'S that are involved in sensitizing the younger generations about HIV/AIDS diseases.

2) Voluntary effort is also being made by the groups to provide education about the right of HIV / AIDS

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patients.

- 3)To make human rights information available to every corner of society/ community, NGO's conduct various activities.
- 4)Some NGO'S are rehabilitating the HIV / AIDS people by farming self help groups. This concept helps them to get right of economy.
- 5)One of the NGOs is running its activities with HIV Positive members. Here they get right of social involvement/participation.

#### **VI.CONCLUSION**

The main objective of the present paper was to highlight the Human Rights Education with reference to HIV/AIDS. For the purpose a survey of the organization working on this aspect in Sangli and Kolhapur City was made. From the overall observation it is clear that in the area of study there are organizations which are working for Human Rights aspect of HIV / AIDS. Though they a carrying on their activities, the support for the society is subdued. The appreciation of the activities being done by the organizations does not exist as the society is still traditional and rigid in these areas.

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