

**Providing services through
targeted interventions**

(VAMP)

2013-2014

Area of Operation : Sangli, Miraj, Jat, Satara, Karad, Koregaon, Lonand, Wai, Nippani and Rabkavi, Mahalingpur- Budhani, Mudhol, Jamkhandi, Kesargop, Belgaum, Gadhinglaj.



VAMP the collective of women in sex work, works in Sangli, Miraj, Satara and areas of North Karnataka. The collective through support received from the Maharashtra AIDS Control Society is implementing HIV prevention activities amongst its core target of sex workers.

To date VAMP has a registered membership of over 5000 members in the rural areas of Southern Maharashtra and North Karnataka. In the year 2013-14, VAMP reached out to over

3300 sex workers with HIV prevention and related health services.

Through the intervention, VAMP collective members are giving information on HIV prevention, care and treatment. Sex workers are also able to access health system without stigma due to the linkages established with the district health care providers and officials.

Another key role that the collectives are playing is to continuously reach out with information on services, and enable more people to participate in the collectivisation process.

Due to this process of collectivisation, the sex workers community and local advocacy initiatives with Government officials', social entitlement schemes are accessed by sex workers. VAMP has also been helping sex workers from other cities in responding to crisis within the sex work community.

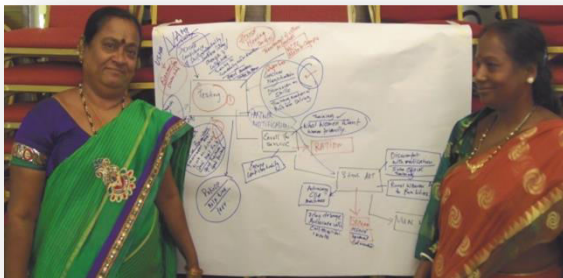
Regular supportive monitoring through outreach programs has increased linkages to public health care facilities and the ART centre.

A key factor in both these initiatives remains the strong guidance, leadership of the community leaders..

ACTIVITY	FSW
Referred for testing	2462
Tested	2324
Total Results	2324
Negative	2279
Positive	45
Positive Counseling	45
Pre ART	30
Registered People on ART	11

The VAMP interventions having started much earlier, have 91 sex workers who work as peer educators, outreach workers, program coordinators.

a. VAMP assisted the sex workers in Kolhapur after a massive raid that took place in Dombarwada and the women were put into rehabilitation homes. They led a delegation from Kolhapur to meet the District magistrate to stop further raids. The VAMP team documented the crisis and raised the issue with the UN Special Rapporteur who visited India and before the CEDAW Committee. The VAMP team helped them to access legal advice for unconditional release of the sex workers.



b. VAMP participated in a rally to protest the death of Dr. Narendra Dabholkar a social worker and reformer who was working against superstition in Maharashtra.

c. VAMP participated in the global consultation on Pre Exposure Prophylaxis being made available to women in sex

work.

d. VAMP representative Kamlabai Pani attended a regional consultation organised by Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW) in Cambodia on law, rights and economic empowerment for sex workers in the Asia Pacific region.

She shared VAMP's experience of strengthening access to health care and social and legal entitlements through the collective model, which was well received by the participants from other countries.

e. VAMP made a poster presentation in Bangkok on the role of community theatre to fight stigma and discrimination. The conference was attended by Rajendra Naik, Sunita More and Shashikant Mane from the VAMP, VMM and SANGRAM.



f. Meenakshi Kamble from VAMP presented before a group of activists, academicians and NGO participants at the CREA Hindi Institute and spoke about the collectivisation model adopted by VAMP and the fight against stigma and discrimination faced by sex workers.

g. Kiran Deshmukh from VAMP has participated in four judicial training workshops organised by Partners in Law and Development in New Delhi.

On the occasion, Kiran presented to Civil Judges, Senior Judges of the District courts of Delhi on the problematic implementation of the law and its inability to address the violence faced by sex workers by state and non - state actors.

The presentations and following discussions have been well received by the judges and organisers. They have indicated that these open discussions on issues directly with the community had enabled them to appreciate vulnerabilities faced by the community much better.



h. VAMP provided relief and support to Karad sex workers whose houses were gutted in a fire that affected the entire area. The VAMP team provided emergency rations, clothes and educational material for the affected children.