



# VAMP

## Narrative Report

### 2017-2018



***VAMP's work at the grassroots is perhaps the most powerful factor that impacts how research, evidence generation, advocacy and policy briefs are created and disseminated. VAMP continues to gradually evolve and change its practices based on its core philosophy of community led decision making.***



## HIV/AIDS Prevention Efforts

VAMP continued to support for targeted HIV prevention initiatives in Maharashtra and Karnataka. VAMP members ensure greater participation in HIV/AIDS programming of the State AIDS Control Program.

Area	Condom Distribution
<b>Sangli TI</b>	661780
<b>Miraj TI</b>	308796
<b>Satara TI</b>	406420
<b>Sangli MSM-TG</b>	236091
<b>North Karnataka</b>	102000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1715087</b>

ICTC INITIATIVES UNDER TARGETTED INTERVENTIONS 2017-2018			
Activity	Female Sex Workers	MSM-TGs	Total
Referred for testing	2458	971	3429
Tested	2458	971	3429
Total Results	2458	971	3429
Negative	2453	967	3420
Positive	5	4	9
Positive Counselling	5	4	9
Pre ART Registered	5	3	8
People on ART	4	3	7

## Tanta Mukti Samitis

VAMP works in 22 brothel, home and street based sex work sites in Miraj, Sangli, Ichalkaranji, Karad, Satara, Kolhapur, Belgaum and Bagalkote towns reaching out to around 5000 women in sex work. Members of VAMP and SANGRAM mapped the areas which needed immediate intervention in setting up conflict redress mechanisms. In the initial phase VAMP set up Tanta Mukti Samitis (Conflict Redressal Committees) in one site in Sangli.

During the project period, committees were formed in two more sites in Miraj and Karad; after inducting older sex workers who were respected within the community. The committee members monitor new sex workers entering the areas, complaints against brothel madams, non-paying clients, and petty criminal harassment. At the street level, the committee members deal with infighting, violent clients, excessive alcohol use and issues of lodge owners who rent rooms for sex work.



### ***Establish VAMP Sanghatikas ( VAMP organisers)***

Another aspect of VAMPs collective building, perspective building, advocacy and outreach is the development of a core group of Sanghatikas or Organisers. As the next generation of sex workers are entering VAMP areas to work; their understanding of the collective - its history, struggles, principles, objectives and response mechanisms is limited. . In May 2017, post a meeting on the need to induct younger workers into the VAMP leadership, VAMP has decided to focus on this area of collective strengthening. **Ten VAMP Sanghatikas** have been selected from Miraj, Karad, Satara and Sangli in the first phase. These Sanghatikas are young sex workers with some skills in reading, writing and have some skills in reaching out to others in the community.. Their primary role is to participate in the trainings organised by VAMP and SANGRAM, and disseminate this information to other community members in their own sites. Gradually as their experience increases they will be able to travel to other sites and disseminate information.

Since their formation in July 2017, the Sanghatikas have undergone training on laws such as the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act and Section 370 Indian Penal Code which deals with client criminalisation, exploitation and safe working environment.

### ***VAMP Institute***

One of the most tangible outcomes of the **VAMP Institute** has been the emergence of a strong and informed network of sex work collective partners across seven states of India. Since the inception of VAMP Institute, over 400 sex workers from the first, second line and emerging leaders have participated in the Institute. All the collectives are members of the National Network of Sex Workers, and the training and mentorship of VAMP Institute has enabled the partners to forge strong partnerships, facilitated ease of communication and built trust amongst the partners. It has also led to stronger ownership of the movement for health rights including renewing demand for strong HIV prevention programs, joint negotiation at the state levels for better social entitlement programs. The collectives and federations have also become natural allies at government meetings negotiating for better health services provided by the Ministry of Health.

The training modules focused on the following strategies

- Conversations around sex and sexuality and the need for HIV/AIDS prevention amongst sex workers.
- Collectivisation to fight exploitative practices and increase HIV/AIDS prevention services amongst sex workers
- Updates on sex workers rights dialogues and issues in India, the South Asia region and globally.

VAMP continued to scale up the work with the community – building the collective, developing VAMP as a good practice site to enable visiting sex workers to share and learn, disseminate practices to sex workers from other collectives. Following the training, members ensure greater participation in HIV/AIDS programming of the State AIDS Control Program.



Training on ITPA and collectivisation



International Sex Workers Rights Day



International Sex Workers Rights Day



Sakhi award for MITRA - VAMP





**Meeting with Street Workers and Community**



**Training on currents trends of HIV/AIDS**



**Educational Tour for Children from Supplementary Education Class and Mitra Hostel**



**Teachers Day at Swadhyayn Sangli**