

**Awareness Program for
Under Trial Prisoners of Central Jail, Bhopal
April 30th - May 1st, 2009**



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Madhya Pradesh State AIDS Control Society, Bhopal

A Report

Awareness Program for Under Trial Prisoners of Central Jail, Bhopal April 30th - May 1st, 2009



As part of mainstreaming activity, a two day awareness program for Under Trial Prisoners was carried out in *three batches (two male batches & one female batch)* at Central Jail, Bhopal on April 30th & May 1st, 2009. A total of approximately **1320** prisoners over two days (around 1200 male & 120 female) were oriented on the basics of HIV/AIDS and related services.

Major Objectives:

- *To disseminate the information and knowledge to the Under Trial Prisoners on HIV/AIDS*
- *To create the willingness for Counseling and testing of HIV within the target group*

- *To develop the strategy for further intervention with the Jail department for other Jails of State.*
- *To finalize the nodal officers at state head quarter and other jails*
- *To establish the relationship with officers from jail department and jail officers*

Guest officers-

- Shri Sanjay Mane, IG Jail (Day one)
- Shri Mari Kumar, IG, PHQ and State Nodal officer for HIV/AIDS (Day two)
- Shri Purshottam Somkunwar, Superintendent of Central Jail

Experts/Resource Persons/Officers from MPSACS/TSU

- Dr. D M Saxena, State Epidemiologist
- Mrs. Shraddha Bose, JD - IEC
- Shri Prashant Maliya, DD - CCC
- Dr. Parshuram Tiwari, Team Leader - Mainstreaming
- Dr. Apurva Chaturvedi, Team Leader - Strategic Planning
- Ms. Anjali Datta, Consultant BCC
- Shri Kamlesh Manhar, DA - IEC



The orientation started by welcome of prisoners and guests. **Ms. Shraddha Bose, JD- IEC** gave a welcome address emphasizing the need of the program.



Mr. Sanjay Mane, IG Jail was present in the program on day one and in his address to the prisoners he said that

HIV/AIDS is one of the serious concerns of the present time of world society. The awareness program on HIV/AIDS is useful for prisoners as they are from villages, labor and are not much educated. He emphasized that all have some information on the issue with myths and misconceptions. So the systematic and correct information is the need of the hour for all. He very interestingly compared the use of condom as a precautionary measure with an ancient practice of keeping onion for preventing oneself from dehydration during hot summer. In his concluding remarks he appreciated the initiative taken by MPSACS as it would benefit the prisoners and their families and friends.

Shri Maria Kumar, IG - Police in his address made the group realize that we have been blessed with one life only and if it is prevented from HIV/AIDS, we would lead a healthy and happy life. He emphasized that the need of the hour is to protect



ourselves from this deadly infection and spread awareness among others. He stated that money, power, status or big name is not needed to lead a happy life instead one should possess an open mind. He emphasized the fact that one s/he is responsible for his/her health, no one else including God can take care of it. Thus one needs to know the truth, take all precautions with full responsibility and lead a happy and healthy life.

Seconding the thoughts of Mr. Maria Kumar, *Mr. P. Somkunwar, Superintendent, Central Jail* stated that one needs to save the prestigious life on the basis of the knowledge being acquired



from this orientation program. He appreciated the initiative of MPSACS and showed his desire of continuing such programs in future too.

The basics of HIV/AIDS were provided to the :

- male prisoners by Dr. D.M. Saxena, State Epidemiologist
- female prisoners by Dr. Apoorva Chaturvedi, Team Leader - Strategic Planning



The main topics covered during this session were history of the virus, HIV, AIDS, difference between HIV and AIDS, immune system, meaning of HIV positive, HIV-transmission, comprehensive HIV-AIDS care, HIV-AIDS scenario (global and in India) and HIV-AIDS situation in Indian States.





Services linked to HIV/AIDS were explained in detail by *Mr. Prashant Malaiya, DD - CCC.*

He gave a overall picture of ICTCs and ARTs. A very healthy question and answer round was carried

out with the group on the information provided to them.

Entertainment

The group was also shown a few short films on HIV/AIDS and they sang a few songs on the orchestra too.



Major Observation and Suggestions:

- As most of the prisoners did not feel comfortable in discussing the issue, so it is suggested that in future intervention/presentation should be based through film show and in Hindi

- As some of the prisoners are highly literate and also appearing for some degree, they can work as volunteer for HIV/AIDS in their areas through linking with TI and other agencies after being released from Jail.
- MPSACS can establish linkage between the local ICTC and Jail for providing counseling and voluntary testing of HIV
- MPSACS TI partner Gandhi Bhawan Trust is already working in this mode in the central jail and they need linkage with local ICTC for counseling and voluntary testing of HIV.

Regarding ICTC

- Counseling on HIV/AIDS can be provided in the jail through the outreach activity.
- A counseling camp can be organized in the jail premises thereafter testing for HIV/AIDS can be done through the fixed procedure of ICTC.
- The HIV testing protocol of NACO shall be followed in the testing procedure.

Regarding ART

- The persons found HIV positive shall be referred to the nearest ART centre for pre ART registration and baseline CD4 count. This referral can be individual or accompanied with the support of medical officer, Jail.

Training

- Trainings for the COs of the jails (13) allotted to us shall be carried out respectively and all trainings shall be completed by September 2009.
- A written order is required to be issued by IG Jail to all the Jail superintendents for their positive response in all the proposed activities of MPSACS.

Report Prepared By

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A glimpse of the program



