



Building Skills for a Brighter Future

In line with their objective, CPK+ / Palakkad – Care and Support Centre (CSC) mobilised local resources from Lions Club, MA Play Foundation, Top in Town Enterprises, Doctor's Association, Train Passengers Association, Giant Group of Malampuzha, and 15 individual donors to organise a two-day life skill training programme for the children in Palakkad, Kerala. The programme was conducted on April, 7th – 9th, 2017 at Yuvashethra College, Mundur.

The training witnessed active participation of 30 children, where training sessions for personality development, confidence building, and interactive modules for skill development, yoga and various other cultural activities were conducted. The objective of the programme was to foster personal growth

amongst children and encourage self-reliance. Adolescents at the workshop opined, "The programme provided us a platform where we could express ourselves without any fear." One of the major outcome observed at the workshop was the bond that developed between the children, they played and learned together as a team and there were no inhibitions amongst them while voicing their opinions and expressing their feelings. The programme was also a good learning experience for the Vihaan team, as significant insights on the various psychological needs of the children and adolescents were observed and documented. Children in need of follow-up counselling were identified by the CSC team members during the workshop for further support.



34th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Day observed

The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial, coordinated by the Global Network of People living with HIV (GNP+). The day was observed throughout the country by 360 CSCs and 19 SRs in close collaboration with the SACS and DAPCU in 31 states and union territories of India. The theme of the day was - "**ENDING AIDS TOGETHER**".

All the CSC team and community members participated in the rally organised by the respective SACS and DAPCUs, followed by lighting of candles, two-minute silence as a sign of honour and offering floral tribute to the departed souls.

Timely intervention saves Amutha's life

Amutha is a 35-year-old woman hailing from a remote village in Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu. She was born with HIV and stays with her 85-year-old father. She supports herself and her father by selling flowers on the highway. Amutha discontinued her Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) and was a case of Lost of Follow-up (LFU). Outreach Worker (ORW) from the CSC visited Amutha and counselled her on the importance of continuing her therapy. During the session, the ORW got to know that Amutha was experiencing severe abdominal pain and complained of poor appetite and constipation. She was taken to the local government hospital for check-up and was further advised to undergo cancer screening. The diagnosis revealed that she was suffering from cancer, and was directed to get admitted in the in-patient ward of the hospital.

Her HIV status was disclosed by the staff at the hospital, following which the health care team

refused to provide her any medical support, nor were they agreeing to allot her a bed. The CSC team approached the Joint Director of Medical Services (JDMS), and requested him to provide her support and to initiate treatment immediately. There was shortage of universal protection kits and equipment for performing hysterectomy. Due to this, she was referred to Madurai government hospital by the senior medical officer and AMT RO, but her health did not permit her to travel. In the meantime, the CSC team approached the Christian Fellowship hospital for assistance, Amutha was admitted at the CF hospital for her surgery and treatment. Exemplary support and care was rendered to Amutha, because of which her life was saved. She is now regularly following up with the CSC team and has started her ART on a regular and timely manner. She is grateful to the Vihaan team members for their support.

Vihaan Updates

- 11,46,763** PLHIV received care & support services
- 5,17,026** PLHIV and family members linked with social protection schemes
- 1,17,497** Family members and partners of registered clients linked to ICTC
- 3,23,181** Lost-to-Follow-Up PLHIV tracked and returned to ART services
- 8,83,555** PLHIV screened for TB

(Through May 2017)