



Ready for life

Two years back, the Government of India launched the world's largest vocational training programme – the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) – which aims to skill 2.4 million young people in diverse trades. While there is no discrimination with regard to who can avail the training programmes offered by the government, there are, however, sections among the young people who are marginalised and

unable to access the offered services because of various factors. Among them are young people who are living with or affected by HIV. Needless to say, these young people require special focus and attention owing to the marginalisation they face due to their HIV status. With the objective of ensuring equal educational and economic opportunities for young people living with HIV, Alliance India is implementing a skill building programme for them with support from Oracle. This programme

will train and place 500 youngsters in job by March 2018. During its start-up phase, training and technical partners have been identified for the states selected for implementation. Over and above that, interested and eligible candidates have been identified to be enrolled under the programme. Orientation and counselling sessions for the candidates have started in the state of Uttar Pradesh during August 2017. The response to this programme from Vihaan implementing partners and candidates has been remarkable.



Responding to real needs

Rahul*, from Maharashtra, was born with HIV. He is seventeen-years-old and is on Antiretroviral Therapy (ART). He has been associated with Vihaan programme since its inception. He lost both his parents to HIV recently within a short span of six months. Since then he has been sailing through difficult times. During that period, he appeared for his secondary school examinations but he could not clear it. He was totally heart-broken and did not have any motivation to study further and clear the examination. He is now living with his grandmother who works as a housemaid. She is not in a position to financially support his studies and provide him two

square meals. At this juncture, the Care and Support Centre (CSC) where he is registered intervened to provide him series of counselling sessions to motivate him to start preparations and attempt again to clear the examination. The CSC also offered to support him to meet the tuition expenses and also offered to provide him monthly nutrition through the support of Give2Asia. Rahul is motivated now and promised to work hard to clear the examination. The CSC has also extended him support to undergo skill training once he completes his exams. Through Give2Asia support, Vihaan programme is providing nutritional and educational support to 120 adolescents living with HIV in the districts of Guntur in Andhra Pradesh and Pune in Maharashtra.

**Name changed to protect the identity of the individual*

An insightful interaction

It is known to everyone that Vihaan is an outreach-driven programme. The size of the population managed by an outreach worker (ORW) varies from state to state. In a metropolitan city like Mumbai, the number of clients managed by an ORW is proportionately high where a CSC caters to more than 10,000 clients. Still, how they meticulously plan outreach and prioritise clients for follow-up was a key concern for the members of the oversight committee of India's Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) who visited our CSC in Mumbai on 17th August 2017. Responding to their queries, the outreach workers demonstrated the key features of eMpower tablet application and explained to what extent technology helps them in their day-to-day activities and improve their efficiency. Mumbai

being the biggest city in the country, the committee was also very keen to learn about the strategies in place to track lost to follow-up (LFU) cases in the city. The CSC team also explained the ward-wise outreach plan recently developed across all six CSCs in the city and how instrumental it is in getting better results with minimum efforts and resources. While acknowledging the operational challenges for a programme of the scale of Vihaan, the committee members emphasised on the need for the CSC to focus more on partner testing and social welfare linkages for the clients. The team that visited the CSC included Dr. Inder Prakash, DDG (Public Health); Dr. Yatin Dholakia, Alternate Member, CCM; Dr. Rajat Adhikary, UNAIDS; Mr Utpal Das, NACO; and Dr Sandhya Gupta, India CCM Coordinator.



Vihaan Updates

- 11,89,715** PLHIV received care & support services
- 5,50,517** PLHIV linked with social protection schemes
- 1,27,667** Family members and partners of registered clients linked to ICTC
- 3,67,096** Lost-to-Follow-Up PLHIV tracked and returned to ART services
- 9,90,782** PLHIV screened for TB

(Through August 2017)