

Commitment gets recognized

Every year the Lucknow-Kanpur chapter of FICCI-FLO calls for nominations for outstanding women of Uttar Pradesh from different categories including Social Work, Healthcare, Education and Entrepreneurship among



others. There is also a separate category for women who have made it against all odds which also includes an award for 'Outstanding Women in Community Action for AIDS Prevention'.

Under this category, Ms. Pratibha, Former Peer Counsellor, Lucknow CSC received the 3rd UP FLO Award on 28th April 2018 at Kingston Lawns Banquet Hall, Status Club, Kanpur Cantonment, Kanpur. Mr. Madhur Bhandarkar, Film Director, Script Writer, and Producer was the chief guest at the event. Ms. Pratibha is from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh and has been living with HIV since 2007. We are proud of you Pratibha!

Educate, not discriminate

Mr. Kumar lives with his wife and two daughters aged 10 and 6 years, respectively, in Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh and has been taking ART from Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi for a long time now. His daughters are enrolled in Christu Jyoti Senior Secondary School, Baghpat. On 27th April 2018, the school authorities called Mr. Kumar and asked him to not send his daughters to school anymore and apply for a Transfer Certificate when they got to know that one of them is HIV positive.

When Mr. Kumar informed the authorities that his younger daughter is HIV positive and elder daughter

is negative, they demanded the HIV status report of his elder daughter and asked him to not send the younger daughter to school any longer due to her HIV status. After failing to convince the Principal and Vice-Principal with the help of his brother, Mr. Kumar immediately approached National Coalition of People living with HIV in India (NCPI+) for help. National Coordinator, NCPI+ visited the school and tried to meet the Principal of the school, but she refused to meet him.

Mr. Khan then approached the Chairperson of Child Welfare Committee, Baghpat for further action and filed a complaint on behalf of

Mr. Kumar where he mentioned the relevant anti-discrimination clauses in The HIV & AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017 and the orders passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Naz Foundation (India) Trust vs. Union of India & Ors (Writ Petition (C) No.147 of 2014) which states that educational institutions cannot suspend/expel a child solely on the basis of their actual/perceived HIV status. Acting on the complaint, the Chairperson called the Principal and gave oral orders to ensure that both daughters join the school immediately and don't face any problem in future. Now both girls are readmitted in school and happily receiving an education.

Passionately saving lives

Pinkiben has been working as an outreach worker in Vihaan for more than 8 years now. She has completely dedicated herself to the service of PLHIV. Pinkiben herself has been living with HIV for more than 9 years now. She has lost one of her kidneys, but any health issue or her struggle to support her family has never come in between her commitment and compassion for the PLHIV cause.

When Ms. Raanu (name changed), a resident of Chamanpura Ahmedabad got pregnant this year, Pinkiben took her into her care and educated her about the importance of regular ANC check-ups and institutional delivery. Pinkiben also wrote her contact number in the green book provided



by the ART centre asked Raanu to contact her case of any emergency.

On the date given by the doctor for her delivery, Raanu got in an auto to reach the hospital but labour pains started immediately. In such a critical condition, Raanu could not travel to the hospital and the delivery took place at home. Raanu's husband called Pinkiben immediately and explained the situation. Pinkiben educated him on the universal precaution that must be taken, over the phone. Pinkiben then immediately rushed to PPTCT centre in Ahmedabad BJMC Civil Hospital and explained the situation to the counsellor there. The counsellor Ms Heena educated Pinkiben on how to give nevirapine and also educated her on the precautions to be taken to avoid parent to child transmission of HIV.

With the medicine, Pinkiben immediately rushed to Raanu's house and administered the suggested dose of medicine to the baby. She also ensured that both the mother and baby are admitted to the hospital for two days for all routine check-ups

including the first DBS. Pinkiben is constantly following this case and educating Raanu on safe breast feeding as well. The entire Vihaan family is extremely grateful to our frontline soldier Pinkiben and her immense efforts.

Pinkiben has many more stories to share. CSC is in close proximity to the famous civil hospital. All clients who visit the hospital from outside the district reach out to Pinkiben for her support. She goes there, helps them to access each department in the hospital and renders all possible support. One can see Pinkiben roaming in and around civil hospital even in the wee hours of the day. Pinkiben's determination, dedication and discipline are extremely motivating factors for all of us in the Vihaan family.



Vihaan updates

Out of **12,60,472** PLHIV registered under Vihaan care and support center as on April 2018.

- 85,306** received differentiated care and support services
- 16,068** ART LFU/Missed PLHIV were re-linked to ART services for treatment
- 6,560** PLHIV linked with social protection schemes and Entitlements
- 2,165** Family members and partners of PLHIV were tested for HIV
- 52,440** PLHIV screened for TB
- 172** Pregnant Women identified at the Program linked with PPTCT

