

Committed Community Health Worker (CCHW) certified course

BACKGROUND ;

India is a decade into the HIV/AIDS epidemic and still 80 per cent of the persons infected by HIV are still young sexually active males. Since the first case was detected in Mumbai in 1989 in an Indian male who came in from Africa, the epidemic seems to be becoming a generalized epidemic mostly transmitted through the sexual route.

The Humsafar Trust (HST) being an agency working for MSM and TGs with a long record of projects in the sexually active MSM and TG populations in Mumbai and Thane region . It was awarded the first pilot project to work within sexually male populations in Mumbai in 1999 and also housed the first voluntary counseling and testing center (VCTC) within an NGO. It is one of the largest funded USAID/FHI projects in India and has been designated as a UNICEF best practices model for sustainable community based organizations (CBOs) in India.

MSM and Transgenders face a lot of stigma and discrimination and find it difficult to access health delivery systems. Hence Humsafar Trust introduced CCHW course to train MSM and Transgender in sexual health issues. These trained volunteers were placed in government hospitals thereby facilitating access to the health delivery systems. Outreach workers had to undergo an interview and the selected volunteers were enrolled in the course.

PURPOSE ;

This course is meant for grass root, outreach workers in an organisation the course will go through the genesis of self transformation, working with groups, information on the pandemic and home based care. The course aims at empowering individuals towards mobilization of the community to develop self help groups and work towards betterment of the communities struggle against HIV.

HST provides a month long day course for developing CCHW. This course has been designed to train community based volunteers and outreach workers to become effective health workers in the community. The participants undergo basic training and offer help at worksites to the clients.

This course was started in LTMGH in 2002. In the year 2003 Humsafar started its In house training and the participants were sent to various hospitals like LTMGH and Cooper for practical training sessions and internship.

Humsafar Trust has trained 16 members so far and it is also planning to provide this course to the volunteers of other NGOs.

The following contents are covered in the course:

TOPICS INCLUDED ;

- I COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS IN RELATION TO THE EPIDEMIC HIV
- II PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT
- III WORKING WITH GROUPS
- III HIV/AIDS / OI's & STI's
- III PSYCHOLOGICAL ISSUES FACED BY PLHAS
- IV CARE FOR HIV AIDS PATIENTS
- V HOME CARE FOR BASIC SYMPTOMS OF AIDS
- VI WOMEN AND HIV AIDS
- VII RIGHTS OF HIV/AIDS PATIENTS
- VIII REFERRAL AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS
- IX ISSUES OF MSMs
- X TESTING FACILITIES AND UNIVERSAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS
- XI DOCUMENTATION SKILLS

This course also includes visit to hospitals for getting oriented to the hospital settings.

After completion of the course the participant has to do an internship with one of the hospital for a period of one month, after which the candidate was awarded the certificate. The health worker is then placed in the community health setting.