

ISSUE- IV

# MACS NEWS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF MANIPUR STATE AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY

State Remembers lives lost to  
**AIDS**

**APRIL-MAY 2009**



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## STATE REMEMBERS LIVES LOST TO AIDS

Joining in the largest ever global grassroots AIDS event, the 26th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Day under the theme, "Together, We are the Solution" was observed in different parts of State on Sunday, May 17, 2009 under support from Manipur State AIDS Control Society. Starting from 1983, the third Sunday of May every year is being observed as the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Day under various themes to commemorate the lives lost to AIDS, demonstrate support for people living with HIV/AIDS and to mobilise community based response to HIV/AIDS

The observance was organized by the Manipur Legislators' Forum on HIV & AIDS and positive networks such as Manipur Network of Positive People (MNP+), Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS, Manipur (NPM), Manipur Network of Positive People (MNP+), Thoubal district, People of Positive (PoP+), Manipur and Sadar Hills Positive Women Network (PWN+).

Manipur Legislators' Forum on HIV & AIDS and Manipur State AIDS Control Society observed the day at Manipur Assembly complex. The function was attended by Dr. S Budhichandra Singh, Hon'ble Speaker, Manipur Legislative Assembly, Shri TN Haokip, Hon'ble Minister IPR, Dr. Borajao Singh, Hon'ble MLA and members of positive networks. Shri V. Vumlunmang, IAS Commissioner (H&FW), Govt. of Manipur and Project Director, MACS and Dr. Kh. Pramodkumar Singh, Project Director (Technical), MACS also attended the function.





## COVER STORY

An interaction between the widows infected and affected by HIV/AIDS was also held. Later in the evening candles were lit in the Assembly complex by the MLAs. Prizes to the students who secured positions and consolation prize winners for the State level painting competition organized under the same theme for students studying in classes IX to XII was also distributed on the day.

Manipur SACS and Manipur Network of Positive People (MNP+) jointly observed the day at MDU Hall along with lighting of candles in memory of all those who have lost their lives to AIDS. The observance was attended by Shri V. Vumlunmang, IAS Commissioner (H&FW), Govt. of Manipur and Project Director, MACS, L Deban Singh, MNP+, Dr. Kh. Pramodkumar Singh, Project Director (Technical), MACS, Dr. K. Priyokumar Singh, Nodal Officer of ART Centre, JN Hospital, Porompat and Kh Kuleshore Singh, President, ISTV cable network as chief guest, president and guests of honour respectively.

In his address as chief guest of the function, V. Vumlunmang pointed out that inspite of setting up various testing centres, the number of people coming to voluntarily test their blood for HIV status is still very low and added that MACS would be working towards encouraging the people to know their HIV status voluntarily. He also assured that MACS would look into what else could be done to stop HIV-Hepatitis C co-infection and ensure the requirements for harm reduction.

Speaking as one of the guests of honour, Dr Kh. Pramodkumar Singh expressed concern over cases of HIV infection increasing at an alarming rate in Manipur. Around 2000 people are being infected every year, he informed the gathering and added that although MACS can ensure the medical care of the people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA) in Manipur with support from NACO, it could do nothing precious with regard to social and economic needs of the affected women and children among the general population.

The day was also observed by Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS Manipur (NPM) at Hotel Mass with support from Manipur SACS. The function was graced by Dr. Kh. Pramodkumar Singh, Project Director (Technical), MACS, Khaidem Mani, Senior advocate and human right activist and Dr. Keisham Priyokumar, Nodal Officer/ART Centre in-charge JNIMS. It was also attended by representatives from NGOs, CBOs, Members of DLN and special Invitees from MSACS, Doctor and Legal Frontier. Kh. Pradipkumar Singh, Senior Mr. Manipur and Brand Ambassador MACS in his speech said that people outlook towards the PLHIV itself make us self stigmatised. Taking this as a challenge he came out to make a path for the future generation that a PLHIV can do better and excel like any other people.







MNP+, Thoubal also observed the day at MNP+ Community Hall, Thoubal Awang Leikai. The program was organized by MNP+ Thoubal, TNP+ Thoubal, DKT India (Project AASHA), CHAHA Project (Sneha Bhavan, Thoubal). The observance was attended by DLN Members, and members of different NGOs, community leaders & students. Later in the evening a candle light procession was taken out from District Hospital, Thoubal and proceeded to different parts of Thoubal along with distribution of pamphlets to different communities at different spots. Clubs, local organizations, religious institutions also lights candle in their respected locality in the evening.

In fond memory of the millions of lives lost to the global pandemic, SASO also observed the day with SASO president K Birjit, Senior Medical Officer of JN Hospital Dr Lokeshor Singh and chief editor of Hueiyen Lanpao Ratan Luwang as functional president, chief guest and guest of honour respectively. The observance concluded with lighting of candles in honour and memory of the lives lost to HIV/AIDS as well as those living with the virus. The day was also observed by Integrated Women and Children Development (IWCDC). The observance was marked by distribution of nutritional items to female ART patients of IWCDC.

## WORLD AIDS ORPHANS DAY

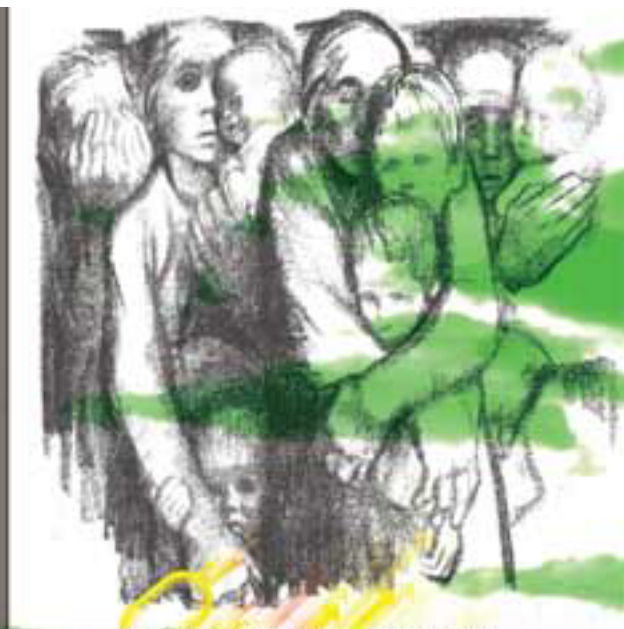


The World AIDS Orphans Day was observed at Kangla Hall on May 12, 2009 under the joint aegis of the SASO, MNP+, DPU and Sneha Bhavan. The observance was graced by MACS Project Director (Technical) Kh Pramodkumar, UNAIDS State Coordinator H Sushilkumar and Director Social Welfare S Saratkumar as chief guest, guest of honour and president respectively. The World AIDS Orphans Day (WAOD) is a grassroots campaign launched in 2002 by FXB (Francois Xavier Bagnoud) to draw attention and advocate on behalf of the more than 25 million children orphaned by AIDS.

A welcome song entitled "WALK IN THE LIGHT, WALKING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD" was presented by the children of Carmel Jyoti. Children of Sneha Bhavan also made a presentation entitled "LOVE HAS NO BOUNDARY".





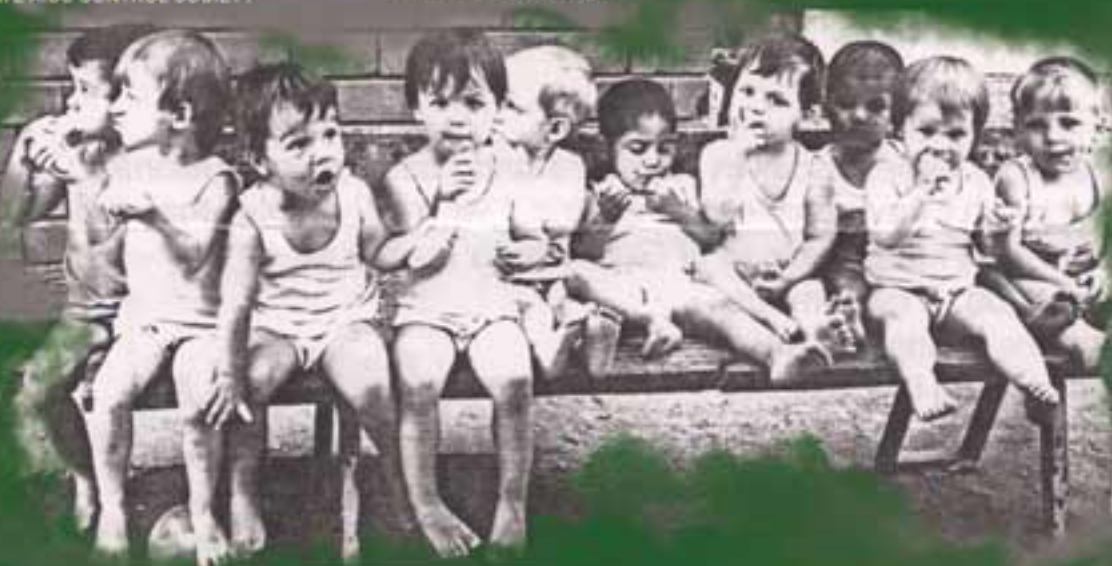


MANIPUR STATE AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY

#### THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE OBSERVANCE WAS TO

- ☒ Focus public attention on the plight of these vulnerable children and the consequences of their social and economic exclusion.
- ☒ Lobby Govts. to consider these vulnerable children as a priority and ensure that urgent measures are taken to reintegrate them back into their society.

More than 300 participants including Government officials, representatives from NGO, legal forum, PLHA networks and children from different parts of the State participated in the observance. The observance concluded with children from various districts showing their talents in the form of dance, song, recitation and news reading.



### CHURCH JOINS HAND TO FIGHT HIV & AIDS PANDEMIC



A one day state level Advocacy workshop on HIV/AIDS for the Faith Based Organisation (FBOs) was conducted on 8th April, 2009 at MSACS Conference Hall, R.D. Wing, Lamphel, Imphal. The Advocacy workshop was attended by 29 Zonal Executive secretaries, 5 institutional heads of the Manipur Baptist Convention.

The Manipur Baptist Convention is constituted by 29 Associations and five institutional heads. There are 1200 churches under the Manipur Baptist convention. This is one of the well organised FBO in Manipur. The MBC is a bonafide unit of Churches of Baptist Convention, North East India (CBCNEI) and Baptist World Alliance (BWA).

The workshop was attended by Dr. Kh. Pramodkumar Singh, Project Director, Technical, Dr. N. Shyamjai Singh, Dy Director (IEC). The workshop was moderated by S.K. Victor, Consultant, Civil Society & Mainstreaming, MSACS. Kh. Pramodkumar Singh said that HIV/AIDS in the beginning, was referred to as a moral disease, as a result, there has been lots of stigma & discrimination, but today we cannot consider HIV/AIDS a moral disease as the virus has already penetrated into the general population. He mainly focused on the role of religious leaders/churches in the fight against the epidemic. He said this epidemic requires the full involvement of FBOs, therefore church/leaders have huge responsibilities.





## PROBLEMS/ISSUES RAISED IN THE WORKSHOP

One important resolution was identification of Nodal Officers from each association including the apex body MBC. After the formation of coordination committee on HIV/AIDS from the side of MBC, important issues/problems raised in the workshop shall be taken up with full commitment and sincerity. The workshop was concluded with all the participants joint their hands together as a mark of solidarity and a benediction was pronounced by the general secretary, Manipur Baptist Convention.

□\*The General Secretary, MBC said that they used to bring out newsletter/conducts awareness campaigns sponsored by MSACS but this was abruptly discontinued. He reiterated that they are ready to conduct awareness campaigns with technical as well as financial support from the MSACS.

□\*Newsletter: They are ready to bring out monthly/quarterly newsletter

□Blood donation camp: Voluntary blood donation camps can be organised provided necessary supports are provided.

□\*Admission/Monthly fees exemption for those HIV/AIDS infected children in all the mission schools.

□\*Inclusion of HIV/AIDS awareness activities in the annual budget of the churches/associations.

□\*Awareness campaigns during half yearly/annual gathering of youths/women/general functions.

## DECENTRALISATION OF HIV SERVICES



In line with NACP III and the need for increasing accessibility and availability of non-stigmatising HIV services in the state of Manipur, a pilot project is being implemented by Solidarity and Action against the HIV Infection in India (SAATHII) in Imphal West in partnership with MACS, NRHM, Imphal West & Positive networks/NGOs/CBOs. This project is funded by UNAIDS with technical support from World Health Organisation -India and UNICEF.



A sensitisation workshop was conducted on 06 March 2009 at Hotel Nirmala for key stake-holders of the project in order to brief them on the concept of decentralization of HIV services proposed activities and seek their support. Shri V Vumlunmang, IAS, Commissioner, Health & Family Welfare was the Chief Guest of the program. Guests of honour includes Dr Kh. Pramodkumar Singh, Dr RK Lakshana, District AIDS Officer, Imphal West, Dr Jadumani, District Mission Director (Chief Medical Officer), Imphal West, Ms Rosenara from NERO, Guwahati, MACS Officers and key functionaries from RIMS, JN Hospitals, Positive networks, NGOs and CBOs working in the field of HIV prevention, care and treatment in Imphal West.



SAATHII

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As part of Joint UN program for decentralization of HIV services, with support from WHO – Country office for India, SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency), Manipur State AIDS Control Society (MACS), NRHM, Imphal West and implemented by Solidarity and Action against the HIV infection in India (SAATHII), a three-day workshop was conducted from April 27 to 29th, 2009 for experts working in the field of HIV/AIDS in Imphal to highlight the WHO – IMAI methodology (Integrated Management of Adolescent and Adult illnesses). The experts consist of HIV physicians, nurses and counsellors working in government facilities and NGOs. In this pilot phase, they will be the future trainers and mentors for doctors and para-medical staff of PHCs and CHCs in Imphal West.

The workshop at Hotel Nirmala is facilitated by leading technical experts from Maulana Azad Medical College and Hospital, Delhi, Engender Health Society, Chennai, St John's Research Institute, Bangalore, PSG Medical College, Coimbatore, FHI, Chennai, SIAAP, Chennai and SAATHII.

## WORKSHOP FOR EXPERT PATIENT TRAINERS (EPTS)



As part of Joint UN program for decentralization of HIV services, with support from SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency), Manipur State AIDS Control Society (MACS), NRHM, Imphal West and implemented by Solidarity and Action against the HIV Infection in India (SAATHII), a two-day workshop was held for preparation of Expert Patient Trainers (EPTs) on 24 & 25 April 2009 at Diocesan Social Service Society, Mantripukhri. The EPTs who are People Living with HIV (PLHIV) from various positive networks, NGOs and CBOs will play an important role in training of government health care providers according to WHO – IMAI (Integrated Management of Adolescent and Adult illnesses) methodology. They will also help in strengthening the referral and linkages for HIV care. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Ranjit Singh, GIPA Coordinator, MACS (Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS) stressed the importance of decentralization for HIV programs in the state which can be strengthened by systematic involvement of EPTs.







## TRAINING IN PPTCT COUNSELING FOR PPTCT COUNSELLORS

Moving along the line with the state programme to save newborn babies from HIV and with the aim and objective to equip the counselors with do's and don'ts of PPTCT programme, a '12 Days Training in PPTCT Counselling for PPTCT NGO Counsellors', was organized by 'Enhancing Institutional and Counselling Capacities of Counsellor Training Institutes', Department of Psychiatry, RIMS, Imphal in collaboration with MACS, supported by UNICEF (Assam Office) at Jubilee Hall, RIMS, Imphal from 11th to 22nd May, 2009. The first 5 days was devoted to PPTCT programme using PPTCT Modules (India) December 2004. In addition to the PPTCT programme, the training programme also covered some important aspects of HIV/AIDS Counselling using HIV Counselling Training Modules for VCTC, PPTCT and ART Counsellors, NACO 2006. The whole training programme covered 41 sessions in total collaborating as much as 18 prominent Resource Persons of the state.

All together, 18 counsellors from PPCTC took part in the training programme. The participants were all counsellors in 18 PPTCT NGOs across the 9 districts of the state. The participants were exposed to all aspects of PPTCT program as well as that of a HIV/AIDS counselling. Besides NACO Modules, the participants were instilled with the local scenario and aspects of learning. A field visit was organized at PPTCT Centre, RIMS, Imphal.

**Pre & Post Test Evaluation:** Pre & Post Test Evaluation of all the participants were carried out in the beginning of the programme so as to examine their knowledge and knowhow of the field they are in. The result of the post-test evaluation showed a remarkable increase of 14% from the pre-test result. The post-test evaluation result showed an average of 63%.





## INDUCTION TRG OF NURSES ON HIV/AIDS COUNSELLING:



A "12 days Induction Training of Nurses on HIV/AIDS Counseling" was held from 4th to 16th May 2009 at Mini Auditorium, RIMS Imphal organized by Dept. of Psychiatry, RIMS Imphal with supported from Manipur State AIDS Control Society (MACS). The main objective of the training programme was to capacitate the participants in dealing with various issues arising out of HIV/AIDS. Altogether 24 Nurses from NRHM and State Government took part in the 12 days training. The training programme covered important aspects of HIV/AIDS counseling.



### HIV PREVALENCE RATE AMONG DIFFERENT POPULATION GROUPS AS PER HSS REPORT:

Risk Group	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
ANC	1.34	1.66	1.3	1.4	1.3
STD	1.3	7.2	12.2	4.8	4
FSW	12.8	12.4	10	11.6	12.9
MSM	29.2	14	15.6	12.4	16.4
IDU	30.7	21	24.1	19.8	17

### PERFORMANCE OF 54 ICTCS DURING THE PERIOD: APRIL-MAY 09

Indicator	General	ANC	HRG
Target for 1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr	13750	11250	9500
No. tested	4355	8182	676
No. found HIV+ve	418	45	27
No. of MB-pairs received NVP		34	







1ST PRIZE WINNER OF STATE LEVEL SPOT PAINTING COMPETITION ON THE OCCASION OF INTL AIDS CANDELELIGHT MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE



2ND PRIZE WINNER OF STATE LEVEL SPOT PAINTING COMPETITION ON THE OCCASION OF INTL AIDS CANDELELIGHT MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE



3RD PRIZE WINNER OF STATE LEVEL SPOT PAINTING COMPETITION ON THE OCCASION OF INTL AIDS CANDELELIGHT MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

PAINTING COMPETITION





Designed by: D'Mantra



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