



Empowering Lives, Together



NETWORK OF KOLAPUR FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV + (NKP+)

Annual Report 2023 - 2024

EMPOWERING LIVES, TOGETHER



ABOUT US

The Network of Kolhapur by People Living with HIV (NKP+)



The Network of Kolhapur by People Living with HIV (NKP+), a district-level organization, has been working tirelessly for the people living with HIV (PLHIV) in Kolhapur since its inception in 2003. Initially, the stigma surrounding HIV and the fear of exposing one's status made it difficult for individuals to join the network. However, after considerable efforts from the Board members, NKP+ managed to form a small team of 15-20 PLHIV from across the district.

With the support of the Hon. Civil Surgeon of CPR Hospital, NKP+ began organizing Support Group Meetings, providing a safe space for people to connect and share their experiences. As awareness grew, more people started enrolling in the network, and NKP+ received invaluable support from both government and private doctors in assisting clients with medical care.

As the demand for ART (Antiretroviral Therapy) services increased, NKP+ began referring its clients to the ART center at Sangli Civil Hospital. The center's medical officer and counselor were instrumental in providing support, often referring Kolhapur-based clients to NKP+. This collaboration led to a significant rise in enrollment, strengthening the organization's role in the community.

Recognizing the need for a dedicated space, NKP+ established its own office and counseling center, enhancing the quality of services provided to its members. Today, the network not only offers medical assistance but also operates several projects addressing HIV/AIDS in the region.

Since its establishment in 2004, NKP+ has evolved into a vital support system for thousands of PLHIV in Kolhapur. What started as a small group has grown into a robust network, committed to improving the lives of PLHIV by providing healthcare, emotional support, and empowerment.



VISION AND MISSION

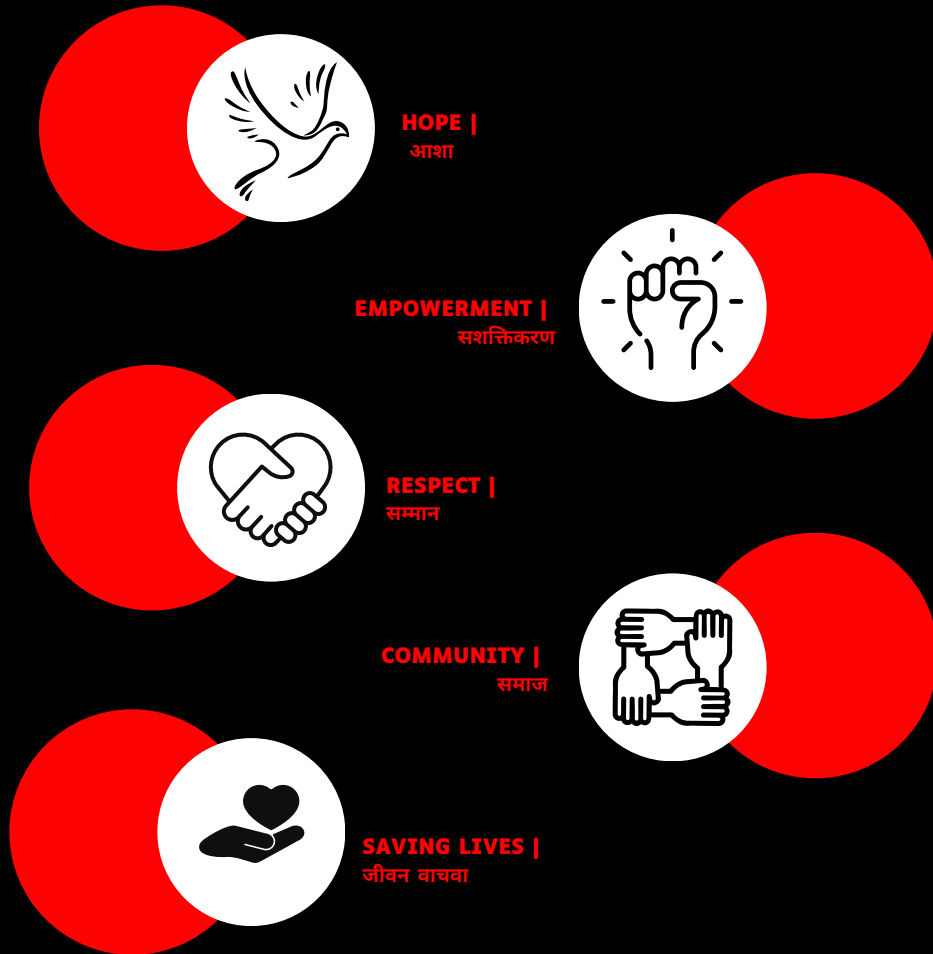
VISION

A world with Zero Stigma, Zero New Infections, and Zero Deaths from HIV: An inclusive and equitable future where people living with HIV (PLHIV) can live healthy, empowered lives without barriers or discrimination.

MISSION

- To enhance the quality of life for people living with HIV (PLHIV) by:
- Offering comprehensive healthcare and support services.
- Combating stigma and discrimination in all forms.
- Advocating for human rights and social justice.
- Empowering PLHIV through education, resources, and capacity building.
- Ensuring access to essential social entitlements and benefits.

OUR VALUES



OUR IMPACT

13,274

Registered cases of
PLHIV

12

Sub-districts in
Kolhapur

550

Registered cases of
CLHIV

OUR TEAM

NKP+ is proud of its dedicated team working to provide essential services to people living with HIV/AIDS in Kolhapur. Led by a **Project Director**, the team includes **Project Coordinators** who ensure efficient project implementation. An **Outreach Worker** conducts outreach and identifies those in need, while a **Health Promoter** focuses on education, prevention, and resource advocacy. **Peer Counselors** offer mental health support to those affected by HIV/AIDS. Our **Youth Volunteers**, consisting of Children Living with HIV (CLHIV), provide peer support and lead awareness activities in the community.





OUR APPROACH

In our mission to support people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV), we have focused on several key areas to eliminate stigma, promote education, and advocate for policy changes. Below is a summary of our key initiatives over the past year:



ELIMINATE STIGMA & RESPOND TO DISCRIMINATION

One of our primary objectives has been to combat the pervasive stigma around HIV and ensure that discrimination is addressed through community-driven efforts. Our key actions included:

- Identifying gaps in HIV knowledge: Conducted assessments to understand the gaps in community knowledge and awareness about HIV/AIDS.
- Peer and individual counseling: Offered personalized counseling sessions for individuals and their peers to address concerns and foster support.
- Activating Discrimination Response Teams (DRT): Mobilized DRTs to handle severe discrimination cases, ensuring immediate intervention and legal recourse where necessary.
- Media campaigns: Launched targeted media campaigns to raise awareness, debunk myths, and highlight the importance of ending HIV-related stigma.



ADVOCACY & POLICY CHANGE

Ensuring that PLHIV receive adequate support at a governmental and policy level is vital to their well-being:

- Linking PLHIV to social schemes: Connected individuals with essential social schemes and benefits that aid their financial and social stability.
- Advocating at government levels: Worked with policymakers to ensure that the voices and needs of PLHIV are heard, driving policy changes that make a tangible impact.

FOSTER PEER-LED SUPPORT



We believe in the power of community-led initiatives, especially in creating long-term support systems for PLHIV:

- Organizing community meetings: Facilitated regular community gatherings where individuals could connect, share experiences, and provide mutual support.
- Activating peer networks: Established peer networks to create a chain of continuous support and encouragement for PLHIV.
- Continuous follow-up and counseling: Offered ongoing counseling and follow-up services to individuals receiving treatment, ensuring they remain motivated and well-informed.

PROMOTE AWARENESS & EDUCATION



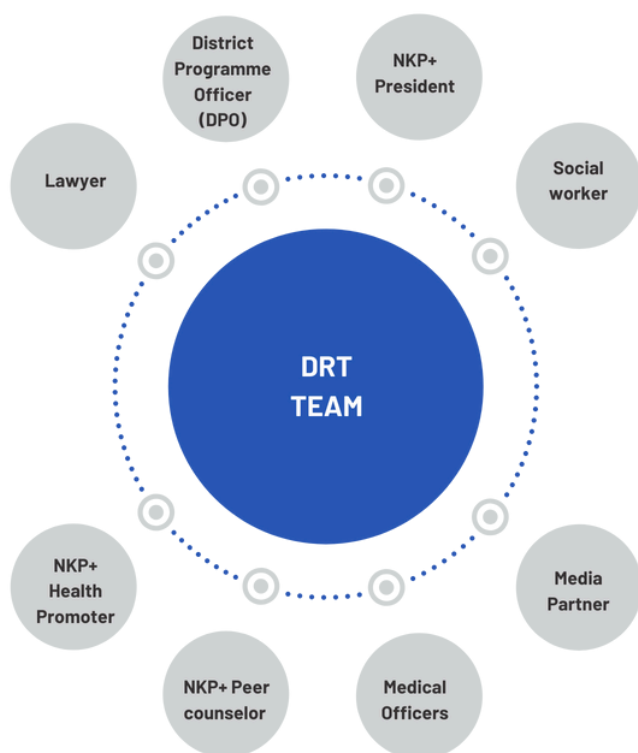
Education and awareness are crucial in the fight against HIV and the stigmatization that often accompanies it:

- Awareness programs in schools and communities: Conducted workshops and programs aimed at educating young people and local communities about HIV prevention, treatment, and reducing stigma.
- Publishing success stories: Shared the journeys and success stories of PLHIV in local media outlets to humanize their struggles and successes, helping to shift public perceptions and reduce stigma.



HIGHLIGHT ON DISCRIMINATION RESPONSE TEAM (DRT)

Our Pioneering Initiative towards Combating Stigma



The Discrimination Response Team (DRT) was born out of a deep understanding of the devastating impact that discrimination can have on individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Discrimination can lead to a wide range of problems, including legal challenges, violence, and domestic violence.

Recognizing that many individuals lack the resources to tackle these issues, we asked, "How can we build a team to advocate for change?" In response, we formed a diverse group of legal experts, social workers, activists, and individuals living with HIV/AIDS. This approach allows us to document discrimination cases, identify patterns, advocate for policy change, and provide targeted support.

Launched in 2014, NKP+ is proud to have one of the region's few dedicated DRTs.



HIGHLIGHT ON

VIHAAN PROJECT

Project Overview:

The Vihaan Care Support Center (CSC) was established on June 1, 2013, in Kolhapur with the goal of improving the survival rates and quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV).

Key Activities:

- Early Linkage: Ensuring timely connection of PLHIV to essential care, support, and treatment services.
- Treatment Adherence: Supporting PLHIV in adhering to antiretroviral therapy (ART) through education and ongoing assistance.
- Positive Prevention: Promoting safer sexual practices and HIV prevention strategies among PLHIV and their partners.
- Social Protection: Enhancing the social protection and well-being of PLHIV through various support initiatives.
- Stigma Reduction: Reducing HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination by strengthening community systems.

Through these targeted efforts, the Vihaan CSC strives to make a lasting impact on the lives of PLHIV in Kolhapur.



HIGHLIGHT ON ACTIVITIES



MARRIAGE MELAVA: FOSTERING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

On **May 15, 2022**, NKP+ organized a **Marriage Melava** specifically designed for HIV-positive youth, aimed at promoting healthy relationships and reducing the transmission of HIV. This unique event created a supportive and inclusive platform where HIV-positive individuals could meet and connect with potential life partners who shared their HIV status.

The Marriage Melava not only provided a safe space for participants to socialize and explore potential relationships but also played a crucial role in breaking down the stigma often associated with HIV/AIDS. By encouraging marriages between HIV-positive individuals, the event contributed to fostering a sense of community and understanding among participants.

The outcome was overwhelmingly positive, with several successful marriages resulting from the event. This community-based intervention demonstrated the power of collective support in addressing the specific needs of people living with HIV (PLHIV), highlighting the effectiveness of such initiatives in both reducing stigma and promoting positive partnerships.

NKP+ plans to organize similar events in the future, continuing to empower PLHIV through meaningful connections while furthering our mission to reduce HIV-related stigma.



Empowering Lives, Together

JOIN OUR MISSION - PARTNER WITH US!

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