# Prayas Health Group Annual report 2018-2019



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Dear friends,

We are pleased to present the annual report of Prayas Health Group (PHG) for the year 2018-19.

This report gives the details of our activities from April 2018 to March 2019.

We are grateful to our donors, funding agencies, friends and well-wishers for their continued support.

We are indebted to our patients, participants in our programs and research projects for keeping on motivating us to continue our work.

Dr. Sanjeevani Kulkarni

Coordinator, Prayas Health Group

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# SERVICES PROVIDED AT PRAYAS

- 1. HIV Care at Prayas Amrita Clinic
- 2. Prayas Counseling Center
- 3. Affordable Anti-retroviral Therapy for Adults [Sakav Program]
- 4. Free HIV care and ART for Children [Child Care Program]
- 5. Prayas Health Laboratory
- 6. Cervical Cancer Prevention and Screening

## **HIV Care at Prayas Amrita Clinic**

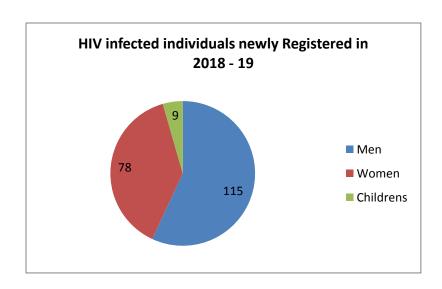


HIV care is being provided at Amrita Clinic (AC) since 1989. AC was the one of the first centers which started providing clinical care to HIV infected persons. In 2006 it became one of the activities of Prayas Health Group (PHG). Prayas continues to provide treatment and care to

HIV infected individuals through AC.

Till March 2019, total 8350 patients have been registered at AC. Out of these 7702 were adults and 648 were children. Of these 5038 adults and 426 children were ever started on ART.

In this year a total of 202 HIV infected individuals were newly enrolled at AC which included 115 men, 78 women and 9 children.



# **Prayas Counseling Center**





Addressing the psychological needs of HIV-infected individuals is an integral part of comprehensive care. Prayas through its counseling center has been providing psychological support to HIV infected and affected individuals. The counseling services are provided free of cost. Started in 1998 the services of counseling center are being continued through trained and dedicated counselors. Prayas counseling center provides counseling regarding

- Pre and post HIV test
- Pre and post-exposure prophylaxis
- HIV care
- Sexual and reproductive health related issues
- Prevention of mother to child transmission
- Disclosure to HIV infected children
- Growing up concerns of HIV infected adolescents
- Parenting issues among HIV infected individuals
- Marriage among HIV infected individuals

Prayas has also developed reader friendly educational material addressing various issues of HIV care, which is also used to support counseling.

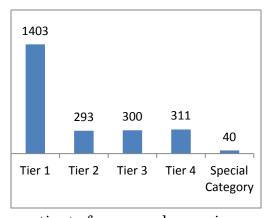
# Affordable Anti-retroviral Therapy [Sakav Program]

To provide anti-retroviral treatment (ART) at affordable cost Prayas initiated Sakav program in 2006. SAKAV is a self-sustaining program under which every patient receives medicines at rates much lower than in the market. Surplus from the affording patients is used to offset costs for those with very low incomes.

Table 1: Total number of people taking ART under Sakav program from 2006 till March 2019

Parameter	Total number
Total number of HIV infected adults ever started on ART in AC	5038
Adults transferred to government free ART centers for continuation of ART.	810
Patients reported to be expired.	519
Patients lost to follow up	1879
Currently taking ART from the Sakav program	2347

The distribution of people who are currently on ART (N=2347) is given in the graph. These tiers are decided based upon the paying capacity of the patient.



Tier one patients pay the maximum amount (which is still highly subsidized as compared to the treatment in other private clinics) and tier 4 the minimum. There is also a special category in which two of the combinations of ART which are not covered under Sakav program are provided at subsidized cost to

patients from very low socio-economic status.

# Free HIV care and ART for Children [Child Care Program]

This project supports treatment for children whose parents cannot afford treatment. The medicines and investigations are provided completely free or with partial support from Prayas. The consultation fees for these children are waived. Such support is provided till the children attain 18 years of age. We spend around Rs. 2.5 - 3 lakhs per year on ART medicines for these children. The resources are generated through individual donations from well- wishers. The following table gives details of children enrolled in this project.

Table 2: Details of children enrolled in Child Care Project

Concession	Number of children
100% concession	11
50% concession	09
Partial Concession	13



# **Prayas Health Laboratory**

The PRAYAS Health laboratory was established in 2007, with the purpose to provide diagnostic and prognostic tests required for the management of HIV at



subsidized rates. The tests available are Rapid HIV antibody detection test, routine hemogram, biochemistry tests, urine analysis, serological tests for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and VDRL, CD4/CD8 counts, and viral load. HIV DNA PCR test & genotyping test for drug resistance are done at another commercial laboratory at

a special concessional rate for PRAYAS. Histopathology reporting of FNAC & biopsy samples from Cervical Cancer Screening and Prevention project is done in the laboratory.

Table 3: No. of tests done in Laboratory from April 2018 to March 2019

Tests	Prayas AC	Tests done through other projects /samples from other places	Total
Anti HIV	523	20	543
CD4	2937	48	2985
Routine ART monitoring tests	2074	82	2156
HbsAg	552	20	572
HCV	630	20	650
VDRL	575	0	575
Viral Load	2100	48	2148
HIV DNA PCR	17	0	17
Abacavir sensitivity test	12	0	12
Drug resistance(PI+RT)	7	0	7
Drug resistance(RT)	42	0	42
Urine Analysis	150	82	232
Lipid Profile	1319	82	1401

# **Cervical Cancer Prevention and Screening**



In May 2018, the WHO Director General made a call to all countries to take action to help end the suffering caused by cervical cancer. Cervical cancer prevention is an important public health priority in India. India has about a fifth of the global burden of cervical cancer and one woman dies due to cervical cancer in India

every eight minutes. We initiated our work in cervical cancer prevention in 2010 and we now have a large program for cervical cancer prevention which provides free cervical cancer screening and treatment of cervical pre-cancer to about 400 women per month in the low and middle-income strata with the support from our generous donors. Since the beginning of our work in 2010, we have provided cervical cancer prevention services to over 14,000 women.

We have following ongoing programmes:

#### A: Cervical cancer prevention services at Prayas

Funding support: Cipla Foundation

After we completed the enrollment of our research study among HIV infected women which began enrolment in 2010 and was completed in 2013, we started providing affordable cervical cancer screening to other women living with HIV who visited our clinic as a part of standard of care. For last 3 years, our clinic at Prayas is supported by Cipla Foundation both for follow up of women enrolled in the study as well as routine screening. We have provided cervical cancer screening services to

more than 1400 HIV-infected women, about 300 HIV uninfected women and Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccinations to more than 250 girls.

At Prayas, we have a dedicated clinic where cervical cancer screening, colposcopy, biopsy, appropriate treatment for cervical cancer precursor lesions (ablative treatment using cold coagulation and excisional treatment using Loop Electro-Excision Procedure), and HPV vaccination is provided at extremely affordable costs.

#### B: Cervical cancer screening services in the community for women from the low and middle-income strata

Funding support: BMC Software India Pvt. Ltd.

Live Life Love Life Charity Foundation has been facilitating a grant by BMC Software India Pvt Ltd through their CSR initiative to Prayas since October 2016 for the community based cervical cancer prevention program. This support is to conduct cervical cancer screening camps in Pune city to increase awareness and to provide free cervical cancer screening to women from the low socio-economic group. BMC Software has also donated a mobile clinic van which is used as an onsite screening facility with provision for appropriate treatment in the community setting. From April 2018 till March 2019, we have conducted 112 cervical cancer screening camps in the community and screened over 4800 women. Screened positive women were treated following the WHO guidelines.







### C: Training in cervical cancer prevention services:

We have conducted 6 sessions for the doctors from Pune, Solapur, Satara at the Health and Family Welfare Department, Aundh, Pune who are undergoing training for Population based screening. About 40 doctors were present at each session.









# **INTERVENTION PROJECTS**

1. Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV

(PMTCT Project, currently funded by the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Maleria (GFATM) with MSACS)

2. Adolescent HIV Project

(Currently funded by Keep a Child Alive (KCA))

3. Free mobile voice call service for improvement of maternal and child health indicators (mMitra Project)

(Currently funded by ARMAAN, Mumbai)

4. Techno-peer intervention for improving sexual self-efficacy among the adolescents and youth of Pune District,
Maharashtra (Techno-peer Project)

(Currently funded by ViiV Healthcare's Positive Action Program)

#### Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV

#### Overview of ongoing project: Svetana - PMTCT project

This year PMTCT project has crossed the milestone of screening a million women. Till today the project has been able to provide PPTCT cascade services to 12,15,116 pregnant and lactating women accessing care in private health sector.

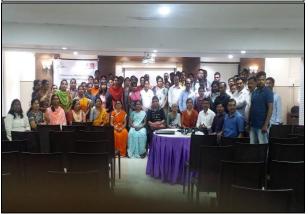
"Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission of HIV and Syphilis" is one of the oldest programs of Prayas, initiated in 2002. In 2012 Maharashtra State AIDS Control Society entrusted the responsibility of scaling up of PMTCT services in private sector of six high prevalence districts (Ahmednagar, Satara, Sangli, Solapur, Pune and Kolhapur) from the state of Maharashtra through Public Private Partnership (PPP). Till 2017 the program was exclusively implemented in private health sector.

Project Svetana, initiated in 2015, a National Public-Private Partnership (PPP) initiative to scale-up Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission of HIV and Syphilis services in private sector of 14 states, is supported by Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM). The goal of the project is to achieve 'Elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV and Syphilis' in the country. Prayas is implementing Svetana project in these 6 districts. In 2019, the project has started support to the public sector as well. Currently total 2018 facilities are associated with program as PPP and referral facilities. If any HIV infected woman is identified at such facility, they refer her to the program for prevention of HIV and Syphilis services. Since the inception of the project 12,15,116 pregnant women received HIV testing services. We have been able to serve 3141 HIV infected pregnant women for prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV.

Table 4: Program data of Svetana - PMTCT project (April 2018- March 2019)

Parameters	Public	Private	Total
Number of women provided pretest and ANC counseling	-	198112	198112
Number of pregnant women tested for HIV	-	198112	198112
Number of HIV infected pregnant women enrolled in the project	302	196	498
Number of HIV infected women delivered	255	157	412
CD4 count uptake	289	192	481
Maternal ARV uptake	289	192	481
Infant ARV uptake in the Program	246	153	399
Babies tested for HIV by DNA PCR at 2 months of age	225	154	379
Babies reactive for HIV at 2 months of age	15	2	17

Experience sharing Meeting of Private Health care Providers on EMTCT



District Level Sensitization of Public Health care providers on EMTCT of HIV and Syphilis



## Adolescent HIV Project

This is a sixth year of Adolescent HIV program, funded by 'Keep a Child Alive' Foundation. The following activities were conducted in the year 2018-

- Supporting activities of Pune peer support group in reaching out to the adolescents living with HIV (ALHIV) from other districts, and inviting them for GUWHATTA workshops.
- 2. Contacting new institutions (residential and community based) to reach the unreached ALHIV
- 3. Actively encouraging GUWHATTA graduated ALHIV to attend peer support group meetings in Pune, Latur and other districts.
- 4. Organizing GUWHATTA workshops for ALHIV.
- 5. Organizing a meeting with marriageable candidates and their parents to discuss the myths and truths about HIV and marriage
- 6. Developing a booklet on HIV and marriage.
- 7. Organizing webinars on various issues related to HIV and youth.

# There were two new activities that happened in last year. Granny Cloud Initiative



As part of our project activity, we initiated Granny cloud sessions for our peer support group members since last quarter. In 'Granny Cloud Initiative' the medium of interaction is through skype calls as these grannies are located overseas. It is aimed to improve English speaking capacities through casual discussion with English speaking grannies /grandpas and to get better

exposure to the new medium of communication, new people, new thoughts, and experiences. Mr. Rodger from Melany, Australia was their 'grandpa' for these

sessions. During the Reporting period we have completed seven granny cloud sessions.

Fellowship from Treat Asia initiative: As it has already been conveyed in earlier reports, two peer support group members have received two years' fellowship from Treat Asia initiative, which offers two year class for empowering adolescent and youth with proper knowledge. As part of this activity they have attended a workshop for young advocates working in the field of HIV in Malaysia and Amsterdam during the reporting period

Formation and meetings of peer support groups at various places in Maharashtra



was one of our major agendas for this year. In the year we could help to organize eleven (11) meetings at Pune, Yawatmal, Hingoli,

Kolhapura and Latur.

So what Members visited new ALHIV members at Kolhapur

# Growing up with HIV and Transitioning to Adulthood (GUWHATTA) workshops

In this year two **GUWHATTA** workshops were organized.

Table 5: GUWHATTA workshops organized

Sr. No.	Date	Where	Participants from	
1.	$23^{ m rd}$ to $27^{ m th}$ April $2018$		Pune, Sangali and Kolhapur	
2.	25 <sup>th</sup> to 29 <sup>th</sup> September		Pune, Hingoli, Yawatamal	
	2018		and Kolhapur	

#### Workshop on HIV and Marriage

With a purpose to empower young people living with HIV to deal with the issues around marriage and to address their concerns through positive conversation within the peer groups and with the parents, a two day discussion with young adults living with HIV and their parent was planned and conducted on 17th and 18th Nov 2018.

**Participants** - Total 26 (Ten boys and sixteen girls) GUWHATTA graduates participated in this discussion. Participants aged between 18 to 26 years.

#### Participant's feedback

- 1. 'I learned a new perspective to understand a concept of marriage'
- 2. 'I used to only think of the expectations from my prospective partner but today
  I thought of myself as a partner and listed my own qualities for being a
  partner'
- 3. 'I always wonder about the girls' perspective while choosing a life partner, today I have got to know about it'
- 4. 'I can look beyond the marriage ceremony now!'
- 5. 'I used to think that I will not be marrying anyone in my life, but now I should rethink about my marriage'

A booklet of 50 pages on HIV and Marriage is prepared and is available on Prayas website.

# Webinars

We organized three webinars. **Table 6: Webinars** 

Webinar	Subject	Date		Profile of	Questions
				attendees	
Webinar 1	HIV update: status of clinical research, epidemiological transition of the infection at state and national level	15 Nov 2018	Participants, Conducted by Dr. Vinay Kulkarni	Adolescents and young adults living with HIV, representati ves from community based organization, counselors at Government settings, officers from national program	Questions were basically focused on PPTCT program implementation issues, management of side effects of few medicines. Availability of few medicines at govt. facilities etc.
Webinar 2	Describing HIV act passed in Sept 2018	18 Dec 2018	Participants, Conducted by Advocate Rama Sarode		Questions were focused on rights of people living with HIV such as having right of insurance, right to employment, what if the rights denied / how one could access the legal services etc.
Webinar 3	Issues around the HIV and Marriage	10 Jan 2019	30 Participants, Conducted by Dr. Sanjeevani Kulkarni		Questions were more about choosing life partner like what could be the medical conditions before you go forward to the selection of partner, age of partner, issues to be discussed with negative partner.

### mMITRA Project

mMitra is a free mobile voice call service that provides timed and culturally appropriate comprehensive information on preventive care and simple interventions to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity in urban areas.

Prayas is implementing mMitra (mobile mitra) project in Pune city, the project is supported by ARMAAN, Mumbai based organization.

Through this project, pregnant and lactating women receive messages on antenatal and postnatal care. Medically verified, individualized voice messages of 60 - 90 seconds (145 messages in all) in Hindi or Marathi are sent to pregnant and lactating women. The service is provided weekly or bi-weekly directly to the mobile phones of each enrolled woman in their chosen language and timeslot. The voice calls are specific to the woman's gestational age or age of infant and are sent directly to pregnant woman and mother with infants.

The enrollment of eligible woman in the program is carried out by a trained 'Sakhi', identified by the organization. The intent of implementing the mMitra program is to communicate and to engage with pregnant women and women with children less than one year of age (women) on preventative care measures and about simple interventions to reduce maternal and infant mortality and morbidity.

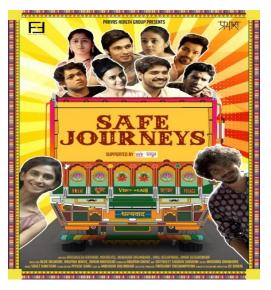
Prayas is implementing mMitra project in Pune city since May 2016. We are working with Municipal corporation facilities and private/trust based hospitals from Pune city catering services to urban poor women. Currently mMitra services are offered through 9 private and 16 PMC hospitals. We are reaching to approximately 2000 women every month through 30 Sakhis working on the project. Since the inception of the project 56,367 women received comprehensive antenatal and postnatal care counseling services through using mobile technology.

Table 7: Annual data from April 2018 to March 2019

Private and Public sector Nu	umber of facilities	Number of women enrolled in the project
Private (Trust) hospitals	9	7572
Pune Municipal	16	12132
corporation Total	25	19704

### **Techno-peer Project**

The project tries to approach sexual health issues as embedded within the wider issue of human sexuality. This intervention is planned to be implemented in Pune district, for which a number of peers would be identified, from various local NGOs working with youth, to assist in generating discourse on related topics. These peers will mainly mobilize larger audience and will be a sensitized point of contact for larger audience for their questions related to mentioned topics. There will be training for these peers in which detailed discussion would be carried out to have a clearer understanding about the clinically correct information about these issues and more positive attitudes about the issues of sexual health. The developed content would be made freely available on social media and the official website of Prayas Health Group. This project is financially supported by ViiV Healthcare. The duration for this project is two years. The second phase has already been started in which implementation of developed content will be done.



The initiative by Prayas Health Group, under Techno-Peer Project largely aims increasing sexual self-efficacy of young adults. Considering that anything remotely related to sexual behavior is a much tabooed topic in India, especially when it comes to unmarried young population. The first step to achieve this larger aim would be by encouraging acceptance and creating discourse on these matters. Thus, as a part of Techno-Peer project, to address the

common problems faced by the youth in India, a web series named 'Safe Journeys' containing 8 short films was prepared. Films are on the following topics: Safe sex, Masturbation & Porn Addiction, Consent, Child Sexual Abuse, Self-Image, Unwanted Pregnancy, and Mental Health. In each film, the young characters make

an attempt to resolve the conflicts faced by them, in an adaptive and healthy way.

The films can be accessed on the Facebook and YouTube channels of Prayas Health

Group and also on the official webpage of Safe Journeys.

# ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS

- 1. Research study for cervical cancer prevention in HIV infected women
- 2. Youth in Transition: A life course study of trajectories of safer sex behaviors in young unmarried youth from urban area in Pune, Maharashtra.
- 3. Dolutegravir Phase IV Trial: Multicenter, non-randomized, non-controlled, open-label Phase IV trial to evaluate the safety, tolerability and effectiveness of Dolutegravir 50 mg tablet of Emcure Pharmaceuticals along with other anti-retroviral among HIV-1 infected subjects.

#### Research Study for Cervical Cancer Prevention among HIV Infected Women

Principal Investigator: Dr Smita Joshi, Senior Scientist, Prayas

Co-investigators: Dr Vinay Kulkarni, Director, Prayas, Dr Richard Muwonge,

IARC (WHO), Lyon, France

Funding support: Cipla Foundation since July 2016

We started the work in cervical cancer prevention when we initiated a research study among HIV-infected women. The study was supported by Union for International cancer control in Geneva for the cross-sectional component. However after the funding support was completed, we have sustained a large cohort of 1153 HIV-infected women with the help of several donors over the last 7 years. The details of the study have been provided in the previous annual reports. This cohort addresses important research questions for cervical cancer prevention in HIV-infected women and we have so far published three papers in indexed, international scientific journals and one paper in indexed, national scientific journal. During the reporting period, we published the incidence of cervical abnormalities in HIV-infected women according to their baseline HPV genotype infection in the prestigious 'International Journal of Cancer'.

#### Youth in Transition:

**Title:** A life course study of trajectories of safer sex behaviors in young unmarried youth from urban area in Pune, Maharashtra.

#### Principle Investigator: Dr. Ritu Parchure and Dr. Shrinivas Darak

Prayas had undertaken a life course study among unmarried urban youth of 20 to 29 years age group to understand trajectories of sexual health risks and its interlinkages with other domains of life. The study was conducted in two phases. In the first qualitative phase, we conducted 27 in-depth interviews of 13 boys and 14 girls and 14 in-depth interviews of health care providers to understand their perspective about sexual health needs of this group. Based on the results of first phase, the methodology and tools for the second phase of the research were refined. The enrollment for second phase started in July 2017 and completed in Dec 2018. Total 1240 youth (655 boys and 585 girls) were enrolled in this study. We conducted one-time one to one conversational interview with participants, using event history calendar and structured questionnaire. Currently we are in the process of analyzing the data collected though these interviews and writing the manuscript. The results will be disseminated with various stakeholders. We are also in the process of preparing a report of the findings of this study for the participants. This was the self-funded activity of Prayas Health Group.

A need for a safe and non-judgmental space to talk about these issues was expressed by almost all the participants. They could speak about things which they had never shared with anyone, especially about child sexual abuse related experiences. Many of them got knowledge about HIV, STIs, contraception, pregnancy, etc. It helped to improve their knowledge about sexual health. Few of the participants in need of psychological or medical services were linked to these services. In the month of Dec 2019, on the occasion of AIDS day, we offered free testing for HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and Syphilis. 80 participants tested themselves through this campaign and 31 participants tested themselves for HIV immediately after interview. The web series, 'Safe Journey' has been developed based on the insights from the YIT research study.

#### **Dolutegravir Phase IV Trial:**

**Title:** Multicenter, non-randomized, non-controlled, open-label Phase IV trial to evaluate the safety, tolerability and effectiveness of Dolutegravir 50 mg tablet of Emcure Pharmaceuticals along with other antiretrovirals among HIV-1 infected subjects.

#### Site Principle investigator: Dr. Vinay Kulkarni

This study is sponsored by Emcure Pharmaceutical Limited and National AIDS Research Institute is conducting this study through 10 sites all over India. PHG is one of the sites for this study. This is an open label phase IV study. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the safety and to assess the effectiveness of dolutegravir in causing HIV-1 suppression in combination with other ARVs in HIV-1 infected subjects. As per DCGI recommendation, total 250 HIV 1 positive adult participants will be enrolled in the study. In PHG screening started from 16th July 2018. Till March 2019 total 21 participants were screened for eligibility and 20 participants are enrolled in the trial. Total 12 participants have completed their 6th (last) visit in the trial.

# WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS CONDUCTED

#### A) Training and Awareness

Over the years Prayas has developed its expertise and conducted various training programs for health care professionals as well as the communities. Presentations, pictures, games, group discussions, role-plays, quiz are some of the techniques used while conducting training. These programs are innovative and participatory in nature. PHG has also conducted training programs for teachers to encourage safe environment in the schools, for HIV infected adolescents and young adults to address their concerns regarding growing up and for health care providers about management of HIV.

# B) Consultations with experts organized by Prayas Health Group

On  $28^{th}$ October 2018 understand the notion of sexual health in the light of abilities that today's adolescents and youth must possess, especially when placed in the Indian socio-economic cultural and consultation context, a workshop of experts was organized by Prayas Health



Group. The consultative panel comprised health professionals, trainers, and experts who have been working on SRHR. The group shared their experiences and knowledge to elucidate sexual health, its stakeholders and abilities required to maintain it. Total 14 experts from diverse background and Prayas team of 6 people

participated in this discussion. As a result of this fruitful discussion, a report named "Capabilities Matter" is made as a part of Techno-peer project focusing on Sexual Self-efficacy which is available on PHG website.

# C) Two-Day Discussion meeting about upcoming projects of Prayas Health Group

A two days participatory workshop on 11th and 12th September 2018 was organized by PHG in collaboration with Keep A Child Alive (KCA) and United Purpose (UP) in Pune. Kate from United Purpose (UP) and total 14 members from PHG were present. The main objective was to see how the collaboration of UP and Prayas can go in the future as well as how to strengthen the existing systems of Prayas. Overall workshop took place in mainly three components - Accountability & efficiency, Impact and Relevance & potential. These components were assessed through various methods like group discussion, charts making, futuristic planning about various aspects of grants, human resource, future current & tentative projects etc. Workshop helped in getting some present reality checks on the basis of which the strategies for future work can be decided.

# D) Workshop on qualitative research methods, JIPMER, Pondicherry

Dr. Shrinivas Darak was invited as an external resource person for add on program in Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), department of medical biometrics and informatics (biostatistics), on Qualitative Methods in Research. He conducted one-day workshop on 'introduction to qualitative research' on 23/04/2018 for the faculty at JIPMER.

### E) Workshop on qualitative research at Professors Academy, Chennai

Dr. Shrinivas Darak was invited in September 2018 to conduct two days' workshop on qualitative research for PhD students at the Professors academy, Chennai

# G) Workshop on Introduction to qualitative research

Dr Shrinivas Darak was invited in March 2019 to conduct workshop on qualitative research by Pravara Institute of Medical Science, Center for Social Medicine, Loni, Maharashtra. The workshop was attended by academic staff, researchers and PhD students.

# WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS ATTENDED BY GROUP MEMBERS

1) Workshops and meetings attended under Svetana- PMTCT project

Table 8: Workshops and meetings attended under Svetana- PMTCT project

No.	Workshop / Meeting	Date	Place	Organized by	Objective of workshop or meeting
1	CPME - District general body meeting of clinical laboratory practitioners	30/12/2019	Pune	Association of Clinical Laboratory Analyst And Practitioner s	Sensitization of ACLAP members on EMTCT goals and Objective, PPTCT guidelines
2	CME – obstetric gynecology society of Solapur	05/07/2018	Solapur	OBGY society of Solapur	Sensitization of gynecologist on PPTCT guidelines
3	Meeting for Brain Storming of EMTCT in India	01/06/2018	Delhi	UNAIDS	It was round table discussion on EMTCT at UNAIDS
4	Data Visualization workshop	6 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2018	Chennai	SAATHII	Participate to learn, how to create program dash board
5	National Workshop on EMTCT of HIV and Syphilis	24 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2018	Delhi	NACO	Program progress update presented at national level
6	SOP development workshop	$4^{\rm th} - 5^{\rm th}$ Apr 2018	Chennai	SAATHII	Development of SOP for Svetana project Phase II

- 2) Round table discussion of indoor air pollution organized by Vital Strategies and Indian council for Medical Research, June 2018

  Dr Ritu Parchure, Dr. Vinay Kulkarni, Dr. Shrinivas Darak and Dr Ashok Srinivas (Prayas Energy Group) were invited to attend a round table discussion on addressing indoor air pollution. Vital Strategies, an international public health organization, organized this event.
- 3) The 22nd International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2018)
  On 23-27 July 2018, Dr. Vinay Kulkarni attended the 22nd
  International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2018) held in Amsterdam,
  Netherlands. He was a part of the official delegation of AIDS Society of India.
  The theme of AIDS 2018 was "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges".
- 4) Annual conference of Maharashtra IADVL (CUTICON 2018)
  Dr. Vinay Kulkarni attended this conference in Nagpur on 23-25<sup>th</sup> November 2018. He Delivered a talk on "Resurgence of syphilis"
- 5) Poster presentation at AIDS Society of India Conference (ASICON) 2018, Bangalore

On 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> November 2018, Dr. Shrinivas Darak attended ASICON conference and presented a poster "Prevalence and correlates of common mental disorders among HIV uninfected women caregivers of HIV infected men in Pune, Maharashtra". This poster got 2<sup>nd</sup> prize as best poster.

6) The workshop of Household Energy Impact Evaluation (WHEIE), Colorado, USA, December, 2018



Colorado School of Public
Health, University of
Colorado Anschutz Campus,
in Aurora, Colorado, USA
organized a workshop for

researchers and practitioners engaged in cooking and household energyrelated projects around the world on conducting household energy impact evaluation. Dr. Ritu Parchure and Dr. Shrinivas Darak from Prayas Health Group and Ms Ashwini Dabadge from Prayas Energy Group attended this workshop.

- 7) 47<sup>th</sup> National Conference of Indian Association of Dermatologist, Venereologists & Leprologists (IADVL) and Dermacon International 2019
  - On 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019, Dr. Vinay Kulkarni attended the conference Dermacon held in Bengluru. He was invited to give the IADVL oration on 'HIV Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: Tracking the Epidemic'.
- 8) On 22nd Jan 2019 in Delhi Dr. Vinay Kulkarni with Mr. Ashok Srinivas of Prayas Energy Group met Dr. Vinod Paul of the Niti Aayog to present a concept about tackling household air pollution.
- 9) HIV Mysore- HIV/AIDS update 2019

On 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2019, Dr. Vinay Kulkarni attended 'HIV Mysore-HIV/AIDS update 2019' organized by Asha Kiran, Mysore. Dr. Vinay Kulkarni presented a session on 'HIV/AIDS where we were –where are we heading towards' and also co-chaired a scientific session.

#### 10) Pune Public health conference 2019

On 15th -16th March, Interdisciplinary school of Health Sciences, Savitribai Phule Pune University had organized Pune Public health Conference 2019. Dr. Trupti Darak presented poster on 'Abusive experiences in premarital relationship: A study among unmarried youths from Pune city'

## **PUBLICATIONS**

#### Publications in Peer Reviewed Journals

- 1. Management of cervical premalignant lesions; Basu P, Taghavi K, Hu SY, Mogri S, Joshi S.; Curr Probl Cancer; 2018 Jan 11; pii: S0147-0272(17)30195-2. doi: 10.1016/j.currproblcancer.2018.01.01.
- 2. Can a single dose of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine prevent cervical cancer? Early findings from an Indian study;

  Sankaranarayanan R, Joshi S, Muwonge R, et al.; Indian HPV vaccine study group; Vaccine.; 2018 Mar 15; pii: S0264-410X(18)30286-X; doi: 10.1016/j.vaccine.2018.02.087.
- 3. Are two doses of human papillomavirus vaccine sufficient for girls aged 15-18 years? Results from a cohort study in India; Bhatla N, Nene BM, Joshi S, et al.; Papillomavirus Res; 2018 Mar 22; pii: S2405-8521(17)30068-X; doi: 10.1016/j.pvr.2018.03.008
- 4. Incidence of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia in women infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) with no evidence of disease at baseline: results of a prospective cohort study with up to 6.4 years of follow-up from India; Joshi S, Muwonge R, Kulkarni V, Deodhar K, Mandolkar M, Lucas E, Sankaranarayanan R; Int J Cancer; 2018 Aug 22; doi: 10.1002/ijc.31826.
- 5. Two-dose Recommendation for Human Papillomavirus Vaccine can be extended up to 18 years- Updated evidence from Indian follow up cohort study; Basu P, Muwonge R, Bhatala N, Nene B, Joshi S, et.al.; Papillomavirus Research; 7:75-81.2019
- 6. Common mental disorders among HIV-uninfected women living in HIV sero-discordant setting: A clinic-based study in Pune,

- Maharashtra, India; Darak S, Pawar S, Phadake S, Kulkarni V; Indian Journal of Public Health; 2019
- 7. Increasing sero-discordancy among young HIV infected pregnant women from India: a likely pointer of changing transmission dynamics; Parchure R, Darak S, Jori V, Hegde A, Puri A, Kulkarni V & Gangakhedkar R.Mar; AIDS Care; 2019
- 8. Let's not let the guard down! Early indications of syphilis resurgence?; Kulkarni V, Parchure R, Darak S; Indian Journal of Dermatology Venereology and Leprology; Feb. 2019.

## **Published reports**

- 1. Fuelling the transition: Costs and benefits of modern cooking fuels as a health intervention in India; Year of Publication 2018
- 2. Capabilities Matter: Report on role of young people's abilities in promoting & protecting their sexual health and Rights; Year of publication 2018
- 3. CISAM-SHR: A Compilation of India Specific Audio Visual Materials on Sexual Health & Rights; Year of Publication 2018
- 4. Use of ECPs in India Systematic review of literature on use of emergency contraceptive pills in India; Year of Publication 2019.

## **IEC** Material published

#### 1. Pamphlet on Syphilis Testing in ANC



The objective of developing pamphlet was:

- To create awareness among pregnant women on importance of Syphilis testing and treatment during pregnancy and
- 2) To create awareness about congenital syphilis.

#### 2. HIV and marriage: A booklet

The book has been written in Marathi (our regional language). It is in the form of discussions happening at support group meetings on specific subjects. It contains information about almost every topic that an HIV infected youth needs to know before or even after getting married. The topics include prevention of sexual transmission of infections, child bearing in spite of being HIV infected in concordant as well as discordant setting, prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV, what it takes to evolve a healthy relationship, what are gender roles, what are sexual and reproductive rights and why are they important. It has a chapter for parents too. The book is now available on our website.

# PRAYAS INTERNAL COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE (IC)

Prayas IC was formed in the year February 2014. The mandate of this committee as per the Act published by Gazette of India, is regarding Sexual harassment of women at workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal)

Our committee includes following members:

- 1. Vijaya Jori, PHG representative and Chair person
- 1. Preeti Karmarkar, External NGO representative
- 2. Adv. Vrishali Vaidya, Advocate, External member
- 3. Shweta Kulkarni, PEG representative
- 4. Abhiram Sahasrabuddhe, PEG representative
- 5. Aparna Joshi, Accounts and Trust office representative
- 6. Dr. Shirish Darak, PHG representative

In the year 2018-19 total 2 awareness workshops were conducted in Prayas (for Health and Energy group). The main objective of these workshops was for increasing awareness and understanding about gender and sexuality. In the workshop, information regarding the act (For prevention, prohibition and redressal for sexual harassment at work place), the internal complaints committee, and its mandate was also imparted. In the last year, no complaint was reported.

# REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES

- 1. Dr. Sanjeevani Kulkarni is a representative and Chair Person of ICC (Internal Complaint Committee) of National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), and National Institute of Virology.
- 2. Ms. Vijaya Jori is a member of community advisory board of B.J. Medical College, Pune.
- 3. Dr. Vinay Kulkarni is on the consultancy services of Emcure Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and Mylan Pharmaceuticals to provide scientific advice not limited to development of new products /treatment regimens and ARV guidelines in the area of HIV/AIDS.
- 4. Dr. Shrinivas Darak is on the Doctoral advisory committees of PhD projects titled "An epidemiological study of gynecological problems among girls with cerebral palsy" by Dr. Arathi Rao and "An Investigation into the concept and assessment of well-being in Indian context: A mixed method approach" by Dr. Bhumika TV being carried out at the Manipal University, Manipal, India.
- 5. Dr. Shrinivas Darak is engaged as an adjunct faculty at the Public Health Evidence South Asia, Manipal University, Manipal.