

# HAYAT-E-NAU

## SOCIETY FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

### PROJECT REPORT

MAY 2007- APRIL 2008

### *HIV/AIDS AWARENESS AMONG YOUTH and GENERAL PUBLIC*



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## **Abbreviations are used in the Project Report**

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CBO	Community Based Organization
CBR	Community Based Rehabilitation
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
Hyd.	Hyderabad
INGO	International Non-Government Organization
NGO	Non-Government Organization
IEC	Information Education Communication
PLWHA	People Living With HIV & AIDS
STI	Sexual Transmitted Infection
T.B	Tuberculosis

## Project Profile

Project Title: HIV & AIDS Awareness among Youth and General Public

Organization Name: Hayat-e-Nau Society for Human Development

Sponsored By: Trócaire, Ireland c/o Missionary Sisters of St. Columban, Hyderabad Diocese, Pakistan

Report for the Period: May 2007 – April, 2008

Target Area: Jurisdiction of District Hyderabad

Country/Region: Hyderabad, Sindh – Pakistan

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**Project Code:** INT 07– 02– 4  
**Project Duration:** May 2007 – April 2008  
**Date of Report:** June 30, 2008

# A. NARRATIVE REPORTING

## 1. INTRODUCTION/OVERVIEW

### Introduction of the Organization

Hayat-e-Nau [Urdu for New Life] Society for Human Development is a local, officially registered NGO with a strong grassroots base within the local communities of Hyderabad city and the rural areas of the district.

It commits itself to work for integral and sustainable human development based on the principles of social justice. Hayat-e-Nau seeks to be in solidarity with the poor, marginalized and oppressed in their efforts for empowerment, development and the promotion of their dignity and human rights.

It was established with a clear vision to contribute towards efforts of civil society and government, in enabling poor and disadvantaged communities to be healthy (MDGs 4, 5 and 6) literate (MDGs 2), politically aware, and Socio- economically self-reliant (MDGs 1, 7 and 8).

It practices an open-door policy that welcomes everyone, crossing boundaries of race, creed, color and gender in its efforts to work for interfaith social harmony.

### Brief History:

Hayat-e-Nau was started in February 1997 with a Program of Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) for Children with Disabilities under the supervision & management of Caritas Pakistan Hyderabad.

**According to plan, Hayat-e-Nau** became an independent organization in November 2001 and was registered in February 2004, under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860.

Hayat-e-Nau believes that ***God's love extends to all humankind.***

**Vision:** To work towards the building of a just and human society; where people and structures reflect God's reign of truth, justice, compassion, human dignity, freedom, peace and love for humankind.

**Mission:** Hayat-e-Nau practices an open-door policy that welcomes everyone into its mission to eliminate poverty. In its faith commitment (***love your neighbor as yourself***) it strives to work for integral and sustainable human development and seeks to be in solidarity with the poor, marginalized, and oppressed in Pakistan. It joins in the people's personal & community efforts for empowerment, development and the promotion of their dignity and basic rights. The members of Hayat-e-Nau are committed to sharing, learning and capacity building in the context of the Pakistani realities of poverty, exploitation, exclusion, discrimination and the unfolding challenges of globalization.

Our main focus is on the rehabilitation and development of basic life skills in **Children with Disabilities**, but we are also working on cross cutting themes such

as **Gender Equality, HIV/AIDS, T.B, Environmental issues, Disaster Response** and a **Rights Based Disability Awareness Campaign** among youth and the general public through the medium of Street Theatre and Interactive Community Dialogue Sessions.

## **Introduction of the Project**

The **HIV & AIDS Awareness among Youth and General Public Project** was started in May 2007 with the financial assistance of Trócaire/Columban Sisters and concluded in April 2008. This project was a continuation of our “HIV/AIDS Awareness Project 2005 – 2006” which was completed in September, 2006.

The project was intended to provide a platform to reduce the vulnerability and exposure of adolescent boys & girls and adult men & women to HIV & AIDS and to explain the linkages between HIV & AIDS, STIs and T.B. also including reference to Hepatitis B and C.

The project was focused on the General Public, especially Youth and addressed cultural taboos around sex, specifically the ignorance and/ or misconceptions and myths surrounding HIV/AIDS in our society.

The prevention of HIV & AIDS through Awareness by offering both street theatre performance and personalized seminars to youth and general public that give accurate knowledge and correct information about HIV & AIDS – routes of transmission, mode of prevention and dispel related myths and misconceptions while at the same time addressing issues such as secrecy, stigma & discrimination of PLWHA was main goal of the project. Along with HIV & AIDS Hayat-e-Nau also covered TB, Hepatitis B & C and other sexual health related issues.

The social mobilizers and core team of Hayat-e-Nau, together with other competent professionals conducted seminars and training workshops to train community volunteer youth leaders (peer to peer approach) enabling them to provide regular updates regarding HIV & AIDS, TB, Adolescence, Hepatitis B & C and Reproductive Health related issues, etc. During these seminars and street theatre performances educational material was also distributed.

**Vision:** Prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and STIs

**Mission:** Reduce the vulnerability of youth (girls & boys) and general public through providing accurate information regarding HIV/AIDS and STIs to develop and cultivate appropriate behavior

**Goal:** Create awareness through inforamatory programs, seminars, trainings regarding health education and theatre performances to prevent the occurrence and spreading of HIV infection and STIs including T.B.

## **Objectives of the Project**

1. Build the capacity to improve the skills of social mobilizer, theatre team members and community volunteers through conducting training workshops.
2. Organize seminars and theatre performances to sensitize stakeholders (youth and general public) to improve their knowledge, behavior and attitude towards healthy living.

3. Increase awareness amongst the stakeholders through dissemination of educational material.
4. Establish linkages with stakeholders and other networks, and collaborate with government agencies, INGOs, NGOs and CBOs to ensure that currently neglected areas are reached.

## 2. ACTIVITIES/ACHIEVEMENTS

### 2.1 Capacity Building

To build the capacity of our theatre team with new techniques to make their theatre performance more effective and fruitful Hayat-e-Nau organized 3 day advance training on **17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2007** at their head office. Mr. Haris Rasheed, a well known Drama Director, from Lahore was the facilitator. The **twelve** members (**6 Male & 6 Female**) of our theatre team got the training. The training has played a vital role in enhancing the capacity of our theatre team with the latest techniques and effectively improved their performance. Having been energised by this training they presented **37** performances.



To further enhance the capacity and level of understanding and knowledge about HIV & AIDS a 2 day training workshop on **18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2008** updating the team on the latest developments and statistics was given by Dr. Kashif and Ms. Rehana who had just completed a Training for Trainers Course in Murree on HIV & AIDS from **23<sup>rd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2008** organized by Church World Services Pak/Afghan. This was held at Danishkada Hall, Caritas Hyderabad office. **Twenty one (14 Male & 07 Female)** participants availed of this training workshop.

The following topics were discussed in this training workshop.

- Happy and Healthy Life
- Peer to peer Education
- Good Decision Making
- HIV/AIDS and myths
- Stigma & Discrimination of PLWHA
- Rights-based approach (RBA) for Health Services among PLWHA
- Prevention of STDs/HIV/AIDS
- Prevention of Hepatitis B and C
- Linkages between HIV/AIDS, STIs and T.B including Hepatitis B & C
- Reproductive & Sexual Health issues



## 2.2 Awareness Seminars

During the reporting period **12** awareness seminars on HIV & AIDS and one on Adolescence were conducted in different areas of District Hyderabad to create



awareness among youth regarding the prevention of HIV & AIDS as well as addressing



myths, stigma and discrimination. Issues around sexual & reproductive health among male and female were discussed. To make the seminars valuable and productive, competent, experienced and proficient resource persons were invited to facilitate the seminars. The videos on adolescence namely “Sadia Bari Ho Gai” and “Nasir Ke Pareshani” from WPF – Islamabad were also shown to make the seminars more interesting and fruitful. Through these seminars **464 (184 male and 280 female)** target beneficiaries were given awareness about the said issues.



## 2.3 Street Theatre Performances

Street Theatre is a very effective tool to sensitize people on any given issue. Hayat-e-Nau Theatre Team have performed **37** theatre performances for youth and general



audiences of the District of Hyderabad on the themes of HIV & AIDS, T.B and Gender Issues.



Through these theatre performances **2,290 (1,322 male & 968 female)** were made aware of the said themes, highlighting the prevention of HIV/AIDS and addressing the myths, misconceptions and fears around it. The drama also challenged community attitudes towards AIDS in general and PLWHAs in particular. And **11** cases of T.B. were identified in different areas of District Hyderabad as a result of people going for testing following our T.B



theatre performances during this reporting period.

## Dissemination of IEC material

IEC materials were disseminated among the participants at the end of every seminar and street theatre performances regarding epidemic HIV/AIDS and T.B.

## Celebration of Special Events/Days



Our team participated in Walk against HIV & AIDS on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2007

World AIDS Day organized by SHEDS, Hyderabad



Theatre team performed a T.B tableau song on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2008 World T.B Day organized by The Asia Foundation

## 3. CHALLENGES/SOLUTIONS/LESSONS LEARNED

- Seeking the cooperation and involvement of local communities presented a real challenge to our social mobilizers in some areas of Hyderabad District due to the stigma of HIV & AIDS and the unwillingness to discuss this issue in the public forum. However, where this happened, with their approval, our team performed the drama on T.B and /or Gender Equality first. When these had met the community's approval the team would be invited back to give awareness on HIV/AIDS. We found this non-threatening approach worked very effectively for us.

- Often the community was slow to gather at the time arranged. When this happened the one of the team would play the drum through the streets and alleys thus stirring up interest, while other team members were knocking on people's doors inviting them to come and see the drama.
- Occasionally they met a community elder who wanted money to allow the program to happen in his area. When this happened the social mobilizer sought out other members of the community who facilitated the performances without charge.
- The Sindhi community in rural Hyderabad district practice strict segregation of the sexes; to facilitate this we offered separate programs for both male and female participants.
- The value of having a few extra trained theatre members meant they were able to stand in when another member was sick or away attending wedding/funeral/family functions.
- An individual member within the team can cause problems among the whole team. In some cases the underlying problem was identified and rectified while in others the person has been let go.
- It is a constant challenge to keep the members of the Theatre Team motivated and energized so that they present the drama with passion and conviction rather than in a routine way.
- There is a great need to reach out to other people in marginalized communities to create awareness about HIV/AIDS, T.B and Gender Equality.

#### **4. IMPACTS**

- **12** members of Hayat-e-Nau theatre team got training in the newest and latest theatre techniques which made their performances more effective.
- The awareness seminars on HIV & AIDS and Adolescence have not only given awareness, but also gave the people practical ways to prevent themselves from getting HIV & AIDS. It also spoke to and resolved the many health questions of adolescents' problems effectively. They also started sensitizing their peers about the said themes.
- **37** theater performances and **12** seminars were conducted in 38 areas of District Hyderabad through which **2,754** individuals (direct beneficiaries) were sensitized regarding HIV & AIDS, T.B and Gender issues and how to respond to them.
- The attitude of the general public towards HIV & AIDS and T.B patients became more understanding, sympathetic and positive.
- The general public was sensitized about gender equality although we realize this is only an important first step.
- 11 cases of T.B patients were identified in different areas of District Hyderabad as a result of people going for testing following our T.B theatre performances.
- Our theatre team has grown in knowledge, practical experience, confidence and maturity.
- Our linkages and relationship with other stakeholders, networks at local and national level have strengthened. In addition to **37** Trócaire funded performances our theatre team has been invited to put their skills at the service of other NGOs. They gave **8** extra theatre performances reaching **1,629** people. (See attachment)