



TRANSformation

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Voluntary Health Services (VHS) has been successful in implementing our scheduled and planned programmes for the year 2017. Over the last 6 months, we would like to showcase our achievements not just in numbers and achieving targets but, in having brought about changes at the national and state levels within our Country.



Figure 1 Chief Minister, Govt. of Puducherry inaugurating Trans-genders Day

Overall, we've been able to train 2409 individuals from our national law enforcement, judiciary, healthcare and auxiliary service providers between January and June 2017. We've also been able to conduct a national event at 13 states which has been a key driver in achieving some of our policy level changes and

initiatives. The opportunity to interact with key personnel and decision makers, aided in increasing their knowledge about Transgender rights to health, employment, education and representation.

Our efforts are broadly classified under

a. Sensitization

We've been successful in providing sensitization training for 173 individual of varying backgrounds such as healthcare, media personnel, law enforcement and judiciary. We were able to provide information on issues surrounding gender identity, human rights, Trans-gender mainstreaming and the challenges faced by and exist within the trans-gender community as well as their specific healthcare needs and susceptibility to STI and HIV.



Figure 2 Shri. Tiruchi Siva, Member of Parliament honoured by Community leaders during Transgenders Day

b. Capacity Building

We provided capacity building training to 351 staff of local CBO's and CSO's as well as Trans-gender communities in being able to first understand the gaps that exist in accessing medical services, and to further suggest effective and relevant strategies to help increase service and testing uptake within the community. We also provided an additional training for STI counsellors who were previously unaware of operational guidelines for conducting Trans-gender health assessments.

c. Resource Mobilisation

A three day resource mobilisation training programme was conducted for 18 staff from eleven CBO's to be able to better map resources, improving communication skills, identifying donors and managing events. These CBO's will be continuously monitored to ensure these skills are effectively implemented.

d. Events

Multiple events were conducted throughout the country as part of the TG day marked on the 14th of April. These events were successful and we had a whopping 1771 people, across thirteen states, participate in the festivities and events conducted. The events were successful in bringing about changes in policy and facilitated advocacy with government bodies.



Figure 3 Transgender people at Uttarakhand showing their solidarity

Our policy level achievements in specific areas have been;

Firstly, lobbied for two states , Pondicherry and Chhattisgarh, to identify and recognise the 14th of April as TG Day.

Secondly, we have also initiated a census and/or population mapping in two states, Pondicherry and Bihar, which has not been conducted before.

Thirdly, education, employment, housing and development schemes have been a challenge for Trans-people to access. Following continuous attempts we have been able to make the state agencies of the following states; Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Pondicherry, Bihar, Gujarat, Chandigarh, Karnataka, Uttarakhand and Kerala, take action in line with improving accessibility to such schemes for minority populations.

Fourthly, we've been able to facilitate the establishment of a welfare board in Bihar, Gujarat and Uttarakhand. This will provide a legal platform for Trans-genders to negotiate their needs and requirements.

Fifthly, the state agencies of Chhattisgarh and Chandigarh have agreed to take steps to revise curriculum in law universities, to provide information on the rights of the trans-people.

Sixthly, the government of Rajasthan has assured police and other law enforcement officials will not resort to violence and harassment of trans-people.

Lastly, in Delhi, a trans-gender wing as part of youth wing in a political party has been formed for engaging trans-gender people to advocate for their rights. They have also been provided the opportunity to undergo a para-medical volunteers training.

VHS looks forward to the rest of this annual year to bring more changes in the inclusion and empowerment of the Trans population in India.



Figure 4 Shri.Jitendra Saraswathi, Ms.Lakshmi Narayan Tripathi at the Transgenders Day event at Uttar Pradesh



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