



SAMABHAVANA SOCIETY

(Registered under the Maharashtra societies act 1860) Registration no: F-22993/2000

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

1st April 2002 -31st March 2003

Bankers: Corporation Bank-Mulund (w) Branch, Mumbai
Registered address: 6, Sumangal, Sec-2B, opposite
Engineering College, Airoli,
Navi Mumbai 709

Tel No: 91-22-27693192

Email: samabhav@vsnl.com

Website: www.samabhavana.org

Portal: www.indiaids.org

ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Members,

The managing committee of your society is pleased to present its Report along with the statement of accounts on the working of the society for the year ended 31st march 2003.

8 meetings of the managing committee were held during the year where different inputs were provided.

Programme:

This year was quite an eventful year full of various activities and the organization surged ahead with various programmes and projects; the organization got a seed grant from *UNAIDS* for a period of 3 months - April, May & June which got extended to July 02 due to technical reasons for its web initiative project www.indiaids.org that enabled us to technically upgrade the site and also network with other agencies for garnering financial and goodwill support.

Samabhavana society was interviewed in Mumbai in the month of May 2002 by *Joanne Csete of Humans Right Watch (HRW)* a International agency based in New York, USA for its ground breaking innovative work in the sector of Male Sex workers; and this same report was read out by the *Ex President Bill Clinton of U.S.A* in his speech at Barcelona XII AIDS conference where we were lauded for the work being done and at the same conference abstract submitted by the Secretary Mr.Jasmir Thakur was accepted and invited by *The XII World AIDS Congress at Barcelona, Spain* in July 2002 to make a poster presentation on its innovative project of Male Sex workers and was given full scholarship by *Ford Foundation-India office and CIE- New York, USA* .

In June 2002 Samabhavana Society was invited by *Indian Institute of Population Science (IPPS) & RISHTA* project a joint venture between *Government of Maharashtra and University of Connecticut (USA)* to make a presentation on Indian sexual minorities diaspora, immediately after that a training programme by *Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS) - CARAT dept* was organized for training NGO/CBO

The organisation received its Permanent Account Number and 80- G Certification from Income Tax Authorities.

Samabhavana society was selected as Master Trainer by *Female Health Company- UK and Hindustan Latex Limited, India* to be a Master trainer for its Acceptability study research programme on Female condoms in October 2002, simultaneously *Indian Network of Positive people (INP+), Chennai* invited Mr.Jasmir Thakur as resource person for issues on HIV

positive on its web initiative www.indiaids.org, a formal presentation was done to the *INP+* board and discussion was conducted.

This year in November 2002, we were also invited by *IMRB* to conduct two studies one on Migrants for *Avert society and FHI* and second study on STI prevalence among the Migrants and one of its sub group that emerged was masseur community by *Mumbai District AIDS Control Society (MDACS)*

Our 1st December 2002- *World Aids Day* programme was very eventful and successful thanks to *Mr.K Vaidyanathan and Avert team* who gave a non-funded NGCBO like ours an opportunity to show case our work. People seeking information through out the day thronged our stall at the NGO mela. We got 2 computers from Avert for showcasing our India specific website www.indiaids.org. On one computer, where we had displayed animated condom wearing process both male and female condoms and on the other computer we had games and quizzes related to safe sex and HIV /AIDS. People of all ages enjoyed playing these quizzes and as a token of appreciation we gave away 400 caps with hidden condom pocket. Besides this we distributed more than 3000 condom keys chains and about 5000 male condoms that we got from *dkt India ltd* and 500 female condoms (first time in India) from *FHC*. We had also prominently displayed our *KABP* study of male sex workers and masseurs at the stall. This study evoked a lot of response not just from the general public but also among dignitaries like *Dr.Watsa, Dr.Prabhu* and on top of it, this study also attracted the attention of *Hon. Health Minister Shri.Digvijay Khanvilkar and State Minister Shri Eknath Gaikwadji*. He was very keen to know in details about problems faced by these male sex workers and in fact he was shocked to find that we were non-funded and doing so many activities. He requested us to meet him personally to discuss all issues regarding our organization and funding. We handed him our brochure and poster of *indiaids* portal

We also had 35 youngsters from the male sex worker & masseur community participating in the rally; the entire world aids day was very successful for our organization as we had more than 3000 visitor's approx to our stall, our websites both www.indiaids.org and www.samabhavana.org have registered sudden spurt in number of hits since the *WAD*

The secretary *Mr.Jasmir Thakur* was invited by *DAIRRC* as speaker for *HOPE 2002 conference on HIV & drugs* and the President *Mr.D.K.Shenoy* and Treasurer *Mr.Sanjay Singh* were present as delegates on 1st, 2nd & 3rd December 2002

In year 2003 *Avert Society* invited the *Samabhavana* on 6th & 7th January 2003 for a workshop for submitting a proposal to *Avert Society* attended by the President *Mr.D.K.Shenoy* & Secretary *Mr.Jasmir Thakur* for proposal submission on Male Sex workers and Masseurs in Mumbai, Maharashtra, which was duly done by 20th January 2003

We were also invited by *Snehalaya- Sholapur, Maharashtra* – an NGO that works with women and children of Women in sex work & children affected by HIV & AIDS in the sugar cane sector to be the chief guest and guest of honour on 26th January – Republic Day, and the national Flag was hoisted by the President Mr. Shenoy among many dignitaries and a modest speech was given by the President and the Secretary.

In February we were invited by *Indian Institute of Planning & Management (IIPM)* for a focus group discussion on impact of HIV programme in India moreover Mr. Jasmir Thakur was invited to present paper on online Advocacy as well as facilitate the session on same and its Treasurer Mr. Sanjay Singh was also present at the oneworld.net – UK workshop organized by oneworldsouthasia.net – Delhi for its SAARC country workshop.

On February 14th – Valentines day the organisation collaborated with *Stree sangam- Humjinsi* and created awareness on same sex issues in four colleges of South Mumbai, namely, *Bhavan's, Wilson, St. Xavier's and Sophia's college* where we distributed pamphlets and chocolates and it was a great day as we got overwhelming response from all these colleges and were also interviewed by *Aaj Tak* the news channel and a German correspondent from a *Deutsche TV & Radio programme* also interviewed us.

In March 2003 the organisation conducted a workshop for *Bombay International High School*, Mumbai on issues of Abuse – sexual and drugs and Impact of Internet for standard 9th & 10th children.

This year Samabhavana society continued its extensive linkages with International and National Agencies like *UNAIDS, UNDP, FHI, USAID, DFID, PATH, Pop council, HIV Alliance, Save the Children-UK, AUSAID, HLL, NACO, Female condom company and many others*, who supported us with Female condoms and dental dams which were distributed to lesbian & bisexual women, Hijras (in commercial sex work) and Male sex workers.

The linkages were done for getting financial and goodwill support for our projects on web initiative project www.indiaids.org – a India specific HIV/AIDS portal, Targeted intervention on Male Sex workers & Masseurs, and ~Aadaa~ the comprehensive condom pack and project proposals were submitted to INGO's.

The unique programme of Job placement to HIV+ persons that we had started last year was ongoing by giving jobs to 9 more people in private organisations.

Through out the year we have been doing intervention with the support of volunteers by distributing condoms and assisting the respondents to access health care facility as and when required.

Like the last year this year also entire programmes of the organization were carried through core funding from its member except the seed funding received from UNAIDS and conference scholarship support for Barcelona from Ford Foundation

Appreciation:

The organization would like to Thank *Dr Hema Jerajani, Dr.Rajiv Jerajani, Mr. Andy Piller and Mrs. Arundhati char, Hutoxi Batliwala, Sandra, Madhav, Dr, Sandeep, Bhisham* and other staff members of *dkt INDIA* for there continuous support.

We also are very grateful for the valuable guidance and support given to us by *Mr. David Miller, Mr.K. Pradeep, Helen Dsouza, Anjali Aneja and Mr.Anand Tiwari-UNAIDS, Joanne Csete of Human Rights Watch, Roshmi Goswami, Yamini Mishra, Rekha Kapoor of ford Foundation - India and Sonja Mcgurk - CIE- USA, Warren Mitchell & Anne Philpot of Female Health company - UK & G.Manoj, Sushmit Mitra, Amit Jain & Neelima Jha of HLL* besides them we also thank the *Avert team especially PD-Mr.Vaidyanathan, Mr.Jawahar Joshi, Mr.Sandeep, Mr. Mahesh, Nidhi, Tejashree, Shobha, Nandini, Paula and Hemant* and the event managers as well as *Dr.Yusuf Merchant* and the *team of DAIRRC, Mr.Shankar Talwar of IMRB, Dale Chadwick, Maartje op de Cout, Nitya Jacob, Jaba Menon, Anu Kumar of one world.net* and never the less special mention of *Mr.K. Abraham of INP+* and for the continuous guidance from *Dr Sharad Narvekar, Manisha Bharthi, Dr. Asawari Herawadekar and Dr.P Salil - Dy.Director- Blood Safety - NACO.*

Last but not the least we also place on record. Our sincere thanks to our *President Mr.D.K.Shenoy* for his immense support during the troubled times without whose guidance we could have been a lost ship in troubled waters, *Mr.Sanjay Singh-Treasurer* for spending his valuable time in upgrading & Maintaining the website for the society and also the entire board of Samabhavana society for its never ending encouragement and dedicated support through the year.

Thanking You,

Sincerely Yours,

For Samabhavana Society
Sd/-
Jasmir Thakur
Secretary & E.O

Mumbai

Dated: 15 /4 /2003