

CURRICULUM VITAE
OF
Dr. Syed Iftikar Ahmed
HIV/AIDS Physician &
Community NGO Activist of North East India



- Name** : **Dr. SYED IFTIKAR AHMED**
- Date of Birth** : **1st March, 1953**
- Profession** : **Medical Specialist including HIV Medicine**
- Permanent Address** : **Monaliv Clinic & AIDS Research Centre
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- Designation** : **Chairman Cum Medical Director
AIDS Prevention Society (APS) www.apsindia.org
(A Premier NGO of North East India)
Monaliv Clinic & AIDS Research Centre
Zoo Narangi Road,
Guwahati-781 021, Assam, India**
- Educational Qualifications** : **1. MBBS Degree
Assam Medical College,
University of Dibrugarh, Assam, India**
- 2. DTM & H (Tropical Medicine)
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
University of Liverpool , U.K.**
- 3. Diploma in STD/AIDS
Bangkok,
Thailand.**
- 4. “Clinical Management of AIDS”
Hospital Broussais,
Paris , France
(Under the Direct Supervision of Prof Michel
Kazatchkine - Director of Hospital Broussais ,
who is currently the Head of the Global Fund
for GFATM)**

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES SINCE MEDICAL
QUALIFICATION :-**

1. **Medical Qualification – MBBS – 1977 , India**
2. **Internship, Assam Medical College, Assam, India , 1977-78**
3. **House Physician in Medicine in Assam Medical College, India , 1978**
4. **Clinical Attachment at East Glamorgan General Hospital, U.K.1980-81**
5. **Senior House Officer in Medicine at St. Joseph’s Hospital, Republic of Ireland, 1981**
6. **Senior House Officer in Medicine at St. Lukes’ Hospital Kilkenny, Republic of Ireland. 1981**
7. **Diploma in Tropical Medicine & Hygiene (Full Time student of University of Liverpool, U.K. at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (U.K.) 1981-82**
8. **General Practice at Monaliv Clinic & Research Center, Guwahati, Assam, India since 1982 - Medicine, Infectious Diseases, Public Health .**
9. **Attended the E.H. Dyer Lecture on Retroviruses (HIV) at the National Institute of Health (NIH) , Maryland ,Bethesda, U.S. –1989**
10. **Attended the first NGO Conference on AIDS in November 1991 organised by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare , Govt. of India & WHO .**
11. **Deputed by WHO as WHO Consultant to conduct training programme on AIDS under the “ Universities Talk AIDS “ Programme for University staff of 11 East India states in November 1991.**
12. **Conducted first KABP Study for HIV risk taking among Truckers, Sex Workers & Injecting Drug Users from 1991 – 1993 and subsequently designed and implemented first harm reduction project in the country and intervention project with truckers .**
13. **Attended the International Conference on AIDS / STD World Congress in Amsterdam , The Netherlands , in July 1992**
14. **Trained on “ Management of HIV Infection with Available Resources ” in November 1992 organised by AIDS Society of Asia & the Pacific as part of CME (Continuing Medical Education) Programme .**
15. **Studied street level Outreach Work of the Injecting Drug Users Project Implementation at The SHOW Project of Whitman-Walker Clinic at Washington DC , USA - published joint paper sharing experience of the SHOW project & the APS Project in 1993 .**
16. **Trained on “ Substance Abuse Prevention – Demand Reduction Programme ” organized by U.S. Department of State , Bureau of International Narcotics Matters , Centre for Substance Abuse Prevention & US Embassy of India in August 1994 .**
17. **Trained on “ Therapeutic Community (TC) for Substance Abuse Prevention organized by USIS & Pertapis Half Way House , Singapore in August 1995.**
18. **In 1996, at the invitation of the US Government visited US under the International Visitors Program (IVP) as a Visiting Scientist to study HIV/AIDS in the US under the program - “ HIV Prevention and Public Health issues in the US ” at some of the premier US institutions & organizations.**
19. **Attended the 3rd International Conference on Home and Community Care for PLWHIV/AIDS in Amsterdam , The Netherlands .**
20. **Trained on “Clinical Management of AIDS” at Hospital Broussais, Paris, France under Prof. Michel Kazatchkine in March –April 1998.**

21. Attended “ The Advanced Course on HIV Clinical Management ” organized by the International AIDS Society (IAS) at Kuala Lumpur , Malaysia in October 1999 .
22. Diploma in STD/AIDS from Bangkok, Thailand, November, 2000
23. Short Course on “Reproductive & Sexual Health Research” at London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine , London June-July 2003
24. Training on ‘ Methadone Treatment for HIV Prevention ’ at Hong Kong organized by UNAIDS October 2003
25. Providing providing care & support services including treatment related support services to PLWHA (People Living With HIV/AIDS) in North East India , providing HIV/AIDS treatment & promoting adherence interventions & techniques .

APS was accredited by President, UN General Assembly in March 2006 & also in March 2008 & Dr Ahmed Participated at the UN General Assembly Special Session - UNGASS 2006 & Special Session in June 2008 at UN Headquarters in New York at the invitation of UNAIDS .

UN AWARD 2005

“Recognising Contribution in the Global fight against AIDS ”

Dr.Peter Piot, , Executive Director of UNAIDS and Under Secretary General , United Nations visited AIDS Prevention Society (APS) , a premier NGO of North East India based in Guwahati, Assam on 18th November 2005 . Dr.Piot was accompanied by Mr.J.V.R.Prasada Rao, of UNAIDS, Bangkok, Mr. Denis Broun , UNAIDS Country Director , India and other UNAIDS senior officials from Geneva . Dr. Piot presented Dr S I Ahmed with the Award - UNAIDS Plaque with a citation - ‘*Recognising his contribution in the Global fight against AIDS*’ .

MEMBER OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES :-

- Fellow of the Royal society of Medicine, London, U.K.
- Fellow of the Royal society of Health, London, U.K.
- Fellow of the Royal society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, London, U.K.
- Member of the American Medical Society, Vienna, Austria.
- Member of International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care (IAPAC),Chicago,USA
- Member, Blood Transfusion Council, Assam, India
- Member AIDS Society of India
- Member , Federation of NGOs of North East India
- Member , International AIDS Society (IAS)
- Vice President North East India Harm reduction Network (NEIHRN)

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS :

Dr. Ahmed published several papers on different health issues and presented several of them before the international forums at international conferences , workshops and meetings since 1991 . Some of these publications are :

- 1. “Truck Drivers as Vulnerable group in the North East India ” - 1991**
- 2 AIDS & its related issues - 1992**
- 3. North Meets South to Share Outreach Experience – a joint paper written with The SHOW Project of Whitman-Walker Clinic at Washington DC , USA - published joint paper sharing experience of the SHOW project & the APS Project in 1993**
- 4. The Spectrum and Chronology of HIV infection & AIDS - 1994**
- 5. Rajiv Gandhi Workforce on AIDS in North East India - 1997**
- 6. Impact of community involvement to reduce HIV transmission among drug users - 1997**
- 7. Referral System for STD Management among Truck Drivers along the highways At 12th World AIDS Conference , Geneva, Switzerland - 1998**
- 8. Nutritional Counseling for people living with HIV/AIDS & their families - the APS experience-1999**
- 9. Formulating effective strategies to make treatment services for Sexually Transmitted Diseases - STDs accessible to Truckers and to Women who sell sex along the National Highways in India - 2000**
- 10. “AIDS Workforce in North East India “ - formulating effective network of General Medical Practitioners & Non Governmental AIDS Service Organizations in providing Care and Support - 2000**
- 11. Economic factors in development and accessibility of AIDS Vaccine in developing countries - 2000 - presented in Cairo for IAPAC**
- 12. Effective approaches to provide STD Management services for women who sell sex in unorganized sector to prevent HIV/AIDS in North East India -2000**
- 13. Preventing HIV/AIDS in urban slums in North East India in women who sell sex in unorganized sector – 2001**
- 14. Ways & Means to prevent HIV/AIDS with emphasis on role of students and teachers**
- 15. HIV/AIDS epidemic in Assam , India - the Reality & the Response -2001**
- 16. Sensitization and involvement of the community can make harm reduction for Injecting drug users effective for prevention of HIV infection. – 2001**
- 17. Developing and Strengthening Prevention Strategies for HIV Positive injecting drug users - in 2002 at XIV International AIDS Conference in Barcelona .**
- 18. Reaching Out Effectively to Injecting Drug Users in Guwahati city in Assam, India - at 14th International Conference on the Drug Related Harm ,Chiang Mai , Thailand 2003**
- 19. “Integrated Health Services Project for Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS in Assam ,North East India”- 2005 presented in Bangkok , Thailand**
- 20. The Epidemic of HIV/AIDS in North East India – 2005**
- 21. “HIV Infection Among Transport Workers Operating Through Siliguri-Guwahati National Highway , India ” - published in JIAPAC (Journal of the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care – Chicago , USA)) - March 2007**

EXPERIENCES IN IMPLEMENTING HEALTH PROGRAMMES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRY INCLUDING EXPERIENCES ON HIV/AIDS PROGRAMMES :

Dr.Ahmed has carried out several studies in the field of HIV/AIDS since the early years of the epidemic in the region since 1989-90 . He has conducted several studies and surveys among different groups of people from the beginning of the AIDS epidemic in North East India on behalf of AIDS Prevention Society (APS) of which he is the founder Chairman & Medical Director . APS has undertaken and conducted several studies and surveys on behavior pattern of groups which includes Injecting Drug Users (IDUs), Sex Workers , Truck Drivers entering North East India and among youth, Students and General Population. Awareness programmes on HIV/AIDS and Drug Abuse have been undertaken for various groups of people including students and youth, women, sex workers, truck drivers, defence personnel and health workers besides the general population at large. The KABP study among the Truckers conducted by Dr.Ahmed in 1991 has been one of the pioneering studies in the country which has caused immense concern to WHO-GPA then and subsequently for the first time a countrywide halt point study was undertaken supported by the British ODA . He has formulated several HIV prevention strategies and implemented various intervention programmes to slow down the epidemic of HIV/AIDS in the region .

As Chairman of AIDS Prevention Society (APS) , he was responsible for formulating project proposals, designing strategies, supervising teams, administering, implementing projects , conducting operational activities , developing and implementing the work plan , managing the work including the financial and human resources of the organisation and developing processes to improve work flow effectiveness and human resource productivity and formulating management information systems (MIS) for monitoring and evaluation of programmes and implemented the following projects in India : -

■ **INTERVENTION WITH INJECTING DRUG USERS, OTHER DRUG USERS AND THEIR SEXUAL PARTNERS IN GUWAHATI, ASSAM**

He was responsible for implementation of one of the first Harm Reduction Projects for Injecting Drug Users in the country supported by NACO, Govt. of India and the Swedish SIDA and implemented in the North East India in 1993-94 and substance abuse treatment . This project is located in Guwahati City in Assam State of India. AIDS Prevention Society has been implementing the Injecting Drug User Intervention Project with the component of harm reduction and HIV prevention supported by NACO, Govt. of India since January 1994

■ **HALTING AIDS ON HIGHWAYS –**

The KABP study among the Truckers conducted by Dr.Ahmed in 1991 has been one of the pioneering studies in the country which has caused immense concern to WHO-GPA and subsequently a nation wide Truckers Project has been undertaken in the country since 1995 supported by NACO & subsequently by ODA/DFID of the British High Commission. Besides this behavioral study of the truck drivers, a study on the prevalence of STDs among the truck drivers was undertaken in 1995.

■ **HEALTHY HIGHWAY PROJECT** –

■ **HIGHWAY HEALTH MANAGEMENT PROJECT (HHMP)** –

APS has successfully completed the first phase of three years of this ambitious project which is the first of its kind in the country. It is unique in the sense that three partner NGOs of the region APS, Bosco Reach Out (Legal Holder) and National Alliance Mission are jointly implementing this project where Primary Health and Family Welfare Services are integrated with HIV/AIDS prevention and STD prevention and Management along the National Highways 37,40 & 44 covering major areas along the highways in Meghalaya . The project is implemented covering a distance of over 300 Km covering the population residing along the highways and within one kilometer on either side of the highway with special emphasis on women , children and youth and also the mobile population on the highway including Truckers and helpers .

■ **TRAINING PHYSICIANS - RAJIV GANDHI WORKFORCE FOR PREVENTION , CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF AIDS IN NORTH EAST INDIA** –

The objective of this project is to train physicians on Clinical Management of HIV/AIDS & make available a mutually supportive network of Physician GPs (General Medical Practitioners) and NGOs (Non Governmental Organization) in North East India and to facilitate the actual collaborative process in establishing the network. The area of operation are in the States of Assam, Meghalaya , Nagaland and Mizoram in India's high HIV/AIDS prevalence region .

Dr Ahmed trained more than 700 GPs & NGOs under the project in these states in North East India . APS is implementing a Mobile Counselling Project in the urban slums of the city providing services on HIV/AIDS to the slum dwellers of the city.

RAJIV GANDHI MOBILE COUNSELLING PROJECT FOR HIV/AIDS IN GUWAHATI CITY, ASSAM IN NORTH EAST INDIA

■ **STREET LEVEL INTERVENTION FOR AIDS AWARENESS AMONG GENERAL POPULATION IN GUWAHATI CITY** – This project has been very successfully implemented in Guwahati City in Assam . The project was subsequently supported for two years by the US State Department .

■ **SMALL FAMILY NORMS PROJECT**

■ **TELEPHONE HOTLINE COUNSELING SERVICES FOR HIV/AIDS** –

“NACO –APS AIDS HOTLINE ”- For the first time in North East India , a Telephone Hotline Counseling Services Project for HIV/AIDS information was sanctioned by National AIDS Control Organisation to APS.

Integrated Counselling & Testing Centre (ICTC) has been established in the APS Clinic. Since early 2007 , the toll free number has been changed to “1051” and an interactive voice response services has been established by Assam State AIDS Control Society in collaboration with AMTRON at APS Head Office .

- **PROJECT SAKHI** (AN INTERVENTION PROJECT AMONG SEX WORKERS) - One of the first peer based intervention project for prevention of HIV/AIDS/STD among the sex workers in the North East India have been initiated by APS in Guwahati City in Assam . The project supported by Assam State AIDS Control Society has been started from March 2000. The project is currently supported by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) & rehabilitation programme for sex workers of Guwahati city has been initiated by APS and Self Help Groups have been formed .

- **TRAINING** : Besides implementing the various project mentioned above APS is also involved in conducting various training programmes for health workers on Primary Health, reproductive and sexual health and HIV/AIDS/STD by trained and experienced resource team.

- **CARE & SUPPORT WITH COUNSELLING FOR PLWHA** : Dr. Ahmed is responsible for implementing several targeted intervention projects in the community for slowing down the epidemic of HIV/AIDS and in providing care & support services including treatment related support services to PLWHA (People Living With HIV/AIDS) in North East India , providing HIV/AIDS treatment & promoting adherence interventions & techniques . APS Chairman , Dr.Ahmed is also involved in providing Counseling , care and Support services and Advocacy for people living with HIV/AIDS . Clinical Care to people living with HIV/AIDS is provided . Management of OIs (Opportunistic Infections) & ARV therapy is provided to PLWHA.

- **IEC MATERIALS PRODUCTION** : APS is involved in development of a variety of IEC materials .APS Chairman, is Editor in Chief of AIDSCAN- a quarterly newsletter of APS.

- **LEGAL , ETHICAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS** : The Legal, Ethical and Human Rights Division of APS is functioning very effectively under the Division Chief Dr. S. Rajkhowa of the Law Department of Guwahati University. He is organizing series of workshop involving several key persons of the related field - Lawyers, Judges and Human Rights Activists of the region.

- **NATIONAL WORKSHOP OF NGOs ON HIV/AIDS** : Chaired the Plenary Session – “ Best Intervention Practices in the NGO Sector ” in the first National Workshop of NGOs on HIV/AIDS organized by National AIDS Control Organisation in New Delhi in January 1998 .

- **NGO ADVISORY COMMITTEE** : APS Chairman, Dr.Ahmed, was a member of the NGO Advisory Committee (NAC) of the DFID British High Commission supported national Healthy Highway Project. The chairman has conducted as a NAC member several studies and formulated several programmes including the STD Drug Policy for the Healthy Highway Project.

- **PRIMARY HEALTH CARE IN URBAN SLUMS** : APS Chairman, Dr.Ahmed is regularly conducting Health Camps in the urban slums of Guwahati City and conducted several training programmes for the Traditional Birth Attendants and more than 140 TBAs were trained and provided the Delivery Kits.

- **UNAIDS STUDY TOUR TO THAILAND** : APS Chairman , Dr.Ahmed was selected by UNAIDS to be a member of the study team of NACO and UNAIDS who visited Thailand in July 1997 for better understanding of the AIDS epidemic in Thailand and the response to the epidemic both by the Thai Government and other Agencies including Voluntry organisations. Since then a number of collaboration activities are taking place. On an invitation from the Thai NGOs APS chairman visited Bangkok again in February 1999 for studying and collaborating on the sex workers project in that city.

- **CLINICAL MANAGEMENT TRAINING ON AIDS** : APS Chairman , Dr.Ahmed successfully completed the Training on Clinical Management of HIV Disease & AIDS at Hospital Brussais in Paris, France under Prof. Michel Kazatchkine one of the most renowned AIDS physician and scientist of France in March-April 1998 . Based on this experience and in collaboration with the State Physician responsible for AIDS Management (PRAM), Govt. of Assam APS have already started home base care for people with HIV in Guwahati City. Nutritional Counseling has been one prominent feature of the programme. APS plans to expand the Care and Support services to people with HIV/AIDS through a well designed programme in the near future.

- **UNICEF SUPPORTED URBAN BASIC SERVICES PROGRAMME** : APS has been conducting regular health education sessions in the urban slums of Guwahati City through its staff and volunteers, who are being posted with updated training and IEC materials. In eighteen urban slum areas of the city modern first aid boxes with supplies were provided to each slum community with training on their use. Under the UNICEF sponsored UBSP Programme of the Municipal Administration Department of Govt. of Assam it has improved services in several urban slums of the city where low cost sanitary services were installed.

■ **INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAMME (US GOVERNMENT)** : In 1996, at the invitation of the US Government , Dr. Ahmed visited US under the International Visitors Program (IVP) as a Visiting Scientist to study HIV/AIDS in the US under the program - “ HIV prevention and Public Health issues in the US ” at some of the premier US institutions & organizations on the specialties stated below :

1. University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (Opportunistic Infections in AIDS, Neuropathology in AIDS , Telemedicine , Tissue Engineering, Replacement Surgery - CD4/T cell replacement & donor cell sorting and facilitator cell transplants)
2. National Institutes of Health - NIH , Maryland (for AIDS epidemiology , Bio medical research, International Co ordination and efficacy trials - Canary Pox Vector Phase I AIDS vaccines & Microbicides)
3. Office of the National AIDS Policy in White House - Executive Office of the President , Washington (study of US National Policy on AIDS)
4. Capitol Hill-Senate Labor and Human Resource Committee , Washington (alcohol & drug abuse legislation , access to HIV treatment issues)
5. Centers for Disease Control CDC , Atlanta (International health program, universal precautions , Bio medical safety, Strategies for HIV/AIDS prevention)
6. San Francisco General Hospital - Ward 5A & Ward 86 (with Dr. Paul Volberding the pioneering physician who treated the first AIDS cases in 1981 - Opportunistic infection management study)
7. Center for AIDS Prevention Studies - CAPS of UCSF - University of California San Francisco (needle exchange program , testing for homosexual men for secondary prevention, sex education in schools , legal rights, testing , discrimination)

■ **PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AT AIDS CONFERENCES** Several Research papers of APS were presented in International Conferences on AIDS in Geneva, Amsterdam , Kuala Lumpur , Cairo , Durban, Melbourne, Barcelona & Chiang Mai (14th International Conference on Reduction of Drug Related Harm in April 2003) . Invited to the 7th International Congress on AIDS in Asia & the Pacific (7th ICAAP in Kobe , Japan in July 2005) as a Speaker for an Abstract Driven Session . Presented paper in the first Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive Health (APCRH) held in Manila , Phillipines in February 2001 .

■ **SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO APS CHAIRMAN** : The American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics and Temple University were pleased to award scholarship funds to the APS Chairman, Dr.Ahmed to attend the conference, “Health, Law and Human Rights: Exploring the Connections”, held on September 29 – October 1, 2001 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.USA

■ **CAPACITY BUILDING OF NGOs** : APS Chairman is responsible as a resource person for training for capacity building of NGOs for the states of Assam & Meghalaya- (Assam State AIDS Control Society & Meghalaya State AIDS Control Society) Several NGOs of Assam, Meghalaya & Manipur State visited APS Office and APS field sites as part of the visiting NGOs programme of ‘ exposure visit to experienced NGOs ’ .

- **GLOBAL FUND FOR AIDS ,TB & MALARIA** : APS Chairman was invited for the NGO Consultation Meeting of the **Global Fund for AIDS , TB & Malaria held at Brussels on 12 - 13 November 2001** as the NGO representative from India sponsored by WHO, Geneva.
- **MIGRANT POPULATION & CROSS BORDER ISSUES** : APS has conducted the Migrant Population Need Assessment and the cross border issues related to HIV/AIDS in the North East India in Meghalaya
- **INTEGRATED HEALTH SERVICES PROJECT(IHSP)FOR PREVENTION OF MOTHER TO CHILD TRANSMISSION(PPTCT) OF HIV/AIDS IN ASSAM, INDIA SUPPORTED BY EUROPEAN COMMISSION(EC)** : AIDS Prevention Society, Assam , has initiated from 1st March 2002 implementation of an ambitious five year project in Guwahati, Assam , first of its kind in the North East India - “ the Integrated Health Services Project for Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV in Guwahati, Assam ”. A major part of the project is supported by the European Commission for which an MoU was signed between the AIDS Prevention Society & the European Commission in December 2001 & APS was responsible for implementation of the project which included several scientific research based on several issues related to MTCT.

The overall goal of the project is to prevent Mother to Child Transmission of HIV among women of child bearing age in Guwahati, Assam state of North East India . The Project proposes to provide integrated health services to women of child bearing age and young

women for prevention of Maternal to Child Transmission of HIV. Under the Project , preventive strategy formulated would provide field based intensive education, information and communication about HIV/AIDS and its prevention to women of child bearing age specially young women over a period of 5 years in identified urban slum and semi urban areas of Guwahati city and its adjoining areas in Assam in North East India so that they can protect themselves from the infection. There would be strengthening of Maternal to Child Health Services so that Mother to Child Transmission prevention of HIV can be integrated. VCT services will be integrated with MCH services during ante natal visits through four health centres established within the project and will be offered after the intensive education session so that HIV infected women can reduce pregnancies and those who are already infected and pregnant can be provided ARV (Anti Retroviral) prophylaxis during pregnancy and provide ARV(Anti Retroviral) prophylaxis to the infant supported by Infant Feeding Counselling VCT will ensure women to take informed decisions about safer sex , having children and a healthy life style which will be linked to family planning services and to prenatal and obstetric services .

As the prevalence of HIV in ante natal clinic in Assam is still very low , the objective of the project is to reduce acquisition of HIV/STD by women of child bearing age by enhancing the knowledge about basic facts and prevention of HIV/STDs and encouraging them to adopt safer behaviours as part of Primary Prevention , Strengthening MCH services & integrating VCT during ante natal visits,Reduce pregnancy among infected women, Reduce MTCT among infected pregnant mothers providing ARV prophylaxis (which will be very less in number) and counselling on breast feeding.

- **VCT / ICTC CENTRES** : APS Chairman has established the Voluntary Counselling & Testing Centres (VCTC) at APS and another 5 VCTC which is providing services to a large number of people specially young people willing to know their HIV status.

- **AIDS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS** : AIDS Prevention Society has been involved in “YOUTH & AIDS PROJECT” –AIDS Education in Schools Programme since 1994. 20 schools were covered under the programme in the first phase and another 15 schools were covered under the project in the second phase . AIDS Prevention Society was involved by NACO & UNICEF in the regional planning phase for AIDS Education Programme in North East India and APS Chairman was responsible along with State AIDS Cell officials of Govt. of Assam for preparing the State Plan for AIDS Education in Schools in Assam. APS Chairman, presented the paper “Need for Intervention with School Students” at the Third Regional Workshop on AIDS Education in Schools organized by NACO, Govt. of India in Aizawl, Mizoram State in March 1998 in Collaboration with UNICEF, UNESCO, UNAIDS & UNFPA.

- **INTERNATIONAL AWARD** : Invited to attend the 2nd IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment with an International Award, in Paris, France in July 2003 organised by the International AIDS Society

- **ADVISER PAC OF DOORDARSHAN(Indian TV) & ALL INDIA RADIO** : Appointed as Member of Programme Advisory Committee of Doordarshan (Indian TV) & All India Radio (AIR) by Prasar Bharati , Broadcasting Corporation of India , Govt . of India .

- **SHORT COURSE IN LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE & TROPICAL MEDICINE**
 Attended the Short Course on Sexual & Reproductive Health Research in London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine in June-July 2003.

- **INTERNATIONAL TRAINING ON METHADONE TREATMENT** : Attended the Training Workshop on Methadone Treatment for HIV Prevention in Hong Kong in October 2003 organised by UN Regional Task Force on Drug Use & HIV Vulnerability in collaboration with UNAIDS,WHO, UNDCP & Red Ribbon Centre, Hong Kong .

- **TEAM LEADER FOR “ FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT STUDY” FOR OPIOD SUBSTITUTION THERAPY (OST) IN PUNJAB FOR NACO & DFID :**
 Dr Ahmed led a team to conduct the “ Feasibility Assessment Study” for Opiod Substitution Therapy (OST) in Punjab for NACO & DFID in May 2010 . To rehabilitate drug addicts and to check the increasing prevalence of AIDS, Punjab has been chosen by the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) to set up five opiod substitution therapy (OST) centres. The centres, which will treat only intravenous drug users (IDUs), will become functional in July/August 2010 in the Civil Hospitals at Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Amritsar, Tarn Taran and Batala. The centres would be first of its kind, as no such centres at present exist in state-run Civil Hospitals across the country. Earlier, such centres were run through the network of NGOs or at Central government-run institutes like AIIMS, New Delhi, and National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) Bangalore. Punjab had been chosen since it had a high number of IDUs and had a well-established network of healthcare facilities. Once registered with the centres, IDUs, who use syringes to inject drugs into their body, would be put on a year long course of an opium derivative (BPN- buprinorphine), the dose of which would eventually be tapered off. 500 drug addicts would be registered in the first

phase. Besides medicines, the staff at the centres, which include a psychiatrist and councilors, would be provided by the Central government.

■ **AIDS Vaccine Initiative & National Coalition on Health Initiatives -NCHI** :

As part of its comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS, the Government of India has entered into an agreement with the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) to develop and test AIDS Vaccines in India . Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in India have successfully delivered health initiative in the past and are presently at the forefront addressing multiple medical, social, legal, ethical and policy dimensions of the AIDS problem. Their participation in the vaccine development process will increase programme efficiency, maximise the utilisation of local resources and skills, secure sustainability of prevention activities and provide an opportunity to the community to play a leadership role in the AIDS vaccine research and development process.

AIDS vaccine research and development will however place an increased demand on NGOs and community based organisations as new strategies, innovative approaches and different service delivery packages will be required to address the differing needs of the communities involved in the process.

The National Coalition on Health Initiatives (NCHI) is a group of six nationally networked NGOs from the high prevalence states , including representation from

PLWHAs, which has come together with the primary objective of increasing community understanding and participation in the AIDS vaccine programme and other health initiatives. NCHI acknowledges the urgency and importance of preparing communities in India for an effective vaccine. The NCHI, with the help of NGOs, aims to strengthen the efforts of the AIDS vaccine programme. APS is a part of NCHI representing north east states .

The Objectives of the NCHI are:

- 1 Integration of HIV vaccines into existing prevention programmes of NGOs in India.
- 2 Development of a core group of NGOs interested in participating in the vaccine development process.
- 3 Mobilisation of communities by increasing awareness about safe and ethical vaccine development through widespread advocacy and information dissemination.
- 4 Act as point persons between communities and vaccine research team (s)
- 5 Build linkages with global non governmental organisations working on AIDS vaccines to share and learn each others experiences.

- **SUPPORT RECEIVED** : Activities of AIDS Prevention Society have been made possible through the establishment of an extensive networking with various National and International Organizations. Various agencies have been providing support and assistance to AIDS Prevention Society which includes National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) , Govt of India, European Commission , DFID British High Commission, UNAIDS, AIDSCAP, UNICEF , US State Department , USIA Washington D.C., NCIH- Washington D.C., CORDAID (formerly BILANCE and MEMISA) of the Netherlands, Bosco Reach Out(BRO), National Alliance Mission (NAM), YRG Care, Chennai, Rajiv Gandhi foundation (RGF), CASA, VHAI-Assam, Assam State AIDS Control Society , Govt. of Assam & Don Bosco Youth Centre, Shillong, CRS, IAVI , ICMR – NICED .