



AIDS PREVENTION SOCIETY (APS)

Monaliv Clinic & AIDS Research Centre
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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
Founder & Head of
Civil Society Organisation / NGO
“AIDS Prevention Society (APS)”**

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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

President
North East India Harm Reduction Network (NEIHRN)

- 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
(Trained & Supervised by Prof Michel Kazatchkine -
Director of Hospital Broussais, Paris who was the
Head, GFATM - Executive Director of GFATM-
Global Fund for AIDS, TB , Malaria)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES SINCE MEDICAL QUALIFICATION : -

1. **Medical Qualification – MBBS – 1977 , Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh
University, Assam, 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. *Conducted the first KABP Study for HIV risk taking among Injecting Drug Users in 1989-1990 (Studied Behaviour pattern of IDUs in North East when first HIV was detected in Manipur in 1989 by NICED-ICMR) and subsequently designed and implemented the first harm reduction project in the country for Injecting Drug Users & their Sex Partners and Conducted first KABP Study for HIV risk taking among Truckers & Sex Workers & designed and implemented first intervention project with truckers in the country .*
11. **Attended the first NGO Conference on AIDS in November 1991 organised by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare , Govt. of India & WHO .**
12. *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.*
13. *Presented the Paper on “Situational Assessment of IDUs in North East India – State Scenarios ”at the Sub Regional Conference on HIV/AIDS at Imphal , Manipur in 1992 (Sponsored by UNDP) & subsequently 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 in the US & the APS IDU Project in India in the Journal AIDSLINK 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. **Awarded “*Diploma in STD/AIDS*” from Bangkok, Thailand, November, 2000.**
23. **Attended Short Course on “*Reproductive & Sexual Health Research*” at London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine , London June-July 2003.**
24. ***Completed International Training on Methadone Substitution Treatment : Training on Opioid Substitution Treatment - attended the Training Workshop on Methadone Substitution 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 in “Methadone Clinics” .***
25. **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 .**
26. ***Conducted training sessions since 2000 for CSOs in North East India on a wide range of issues from HIV/AIDS Management & care , prevention, STDs , Harm Reduction – mostly on issues of HIV and AIDS, high risk behaviours including drug use, good practice of harm reduction ((i.e. outreach, drop-in centres, healthcare services ,overdose response, needle and syringe exchange programmes) , Drug pharmacology and drug use; Global and regional overview of drug use and HIV/AIDS; associated risk behaviours and harms; harm reduction interventions - needle and syringe exchange programs (NSEP); safer injecting and vein care including Abscess management , septicaemia , gangrene , pharmacotherapy (methadone); antiretroviral therapy (ART)& OI Management & Prophylaxis ; amphetamine-type substances (ATS); Blood-borne viruses (BBV)- i.e. HIV, HBV & HCV co infection , Substitution***
27. ***Provided technical support and consultations for Asian Harm Reduction Network (AHRN) Short Course on Harm Reduction for Health Workers of South East Asian Countries at Chiang Mai, Thailand in December 2007 on Pharmacotherapy: Methadone, Pharmacotherapy: Buprenorphine & on ART technical overview, including ART for people using drugs .***
28. ***As Founder Chairman of AIDS Prevention Society (APS) , Dr Ahmed is actively involved since 1989-90 in several HIV/AIDS related work with wide range of experiences which are recorded under the APS activities .***
29. **AIDS Prevention Society , Chairman , DR S I Ahmed was invited for the NGO Consultation Meeting of the formation of the GFATM- Global Fund for AIDS , TB & Malaria held at Brussels on 12 - 13 November 2001 as the NGO representative from India sponsored by WHO, Geneva. Govt of India was represented by Mr J V R Prasada Rao, Secretary to the Govt of India, Ministry of Health.**
30. **In the year , 2010 , deputed by MOHFW, Govt of India and British DfID, to Punjab**

for initiating OST (Opioid Substitution Therapy) with Sublingual Buprenorphine (BPN) as a substitute therapy for a large population of heroine dependent clients in Five Districts of Punjab State - heroine users . What we witnessed was the most horrific scenario in the country much worse than North East . Visited towns and villages of Punjab and interacted with drug users , their families, youths , NGOs, law enforcements, local Panchayat and MLAs, media personnel , women's organisations etc. Finally, started BPN sublingual OST for heroine users in Amritsar Medical College & Guru Nanak Dev Hospital Amritsar, District Civil Hospital at Tarn Taran, Batala hospital at Batala, Gurdaspur, Civil Hospital Jalandhar & Civil Hospital Ludhiana..

31. UN MEETINGS : Over the years attended the UN Hq New York as a Civil Society / NGO from the North East India - Sixth time invited to the UN Headquarter in New York :
- 2006: Invited to participate at the UN General Assembly Special Session - UNGASS 2006 at UN Headquarters in New York at the invitation of the UN from 31st May, 2006. Received Special Accreditation given by the President, UN General Assembly in March 2006 in its Meeting held on 27th March , 2006 for UNGASS 2006 for the review and High Level Meeting (HLM) on progress towards the implementation of the 2001 Declaration of Commitment Sponsored by UNAIDS . Raised the serious issue of Hep B & Hep C Co-infection with HIV in India's North East at the Satellite Roundtable at the UN General Assembly Special Session(UNGASS) .**
- 2015** : Participated at The 37th LDUN, held in March 2015 at the UN Headquarters in New York City, the theme was " Children In Need." UN in achieving the Millennium Development Goals by addressing important humanitarian needs such as eradicating poverty and hunger, providing access to education, combating diseases and ensuring environmental sustainability. - the opportunity to learn how, together with the UN, we can continue to help those in need on a global level.
- 2016** : **Invited to the UN General Assembly High Level Meeting - The UN General Assembly convened a high-level meeting - UN GA HLM from 8 to 10 June 2016, undertook a comprehensive review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declarations including concrete strategies for action to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030 and participated in the sessions of the UNGA- HLM .**
- 2017** : _ Attended the **39th LDUN at the United Nations** held on Saturday, March 4, 2017. With a theme of health and inclusion, achieving several of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) .
- 2018 June** : Recieved Special Accreditation from the UN and Invited to the Interactive hearing and General Assembly high-level meeting on the fight to end TB (04-5 June 2018) and also participated at the UNAIDS Satellite Session on 4th June, 2018 presenting North East India situation .
- 2018 September** : Participated at the Invitation to attend the UN General Assembly high-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis which took place at United Nations Headquarters, on 26 September 2018

32. Significant Contribution :

i) Pioneering HIV/AIDS Prevention Programme in India : As Founder Chairman-cum-Medical Director of AIDS Prevention Society (APS), a pioneering NGO of the country (www.apsindia.org), Dr Ahmed Implemented the First Harm Reduction Project in the Country with Injecting Drug (Heroin) Users and several pioneering Targeted Intervention Programmes for slowing down the epidemic of HIV-AIDS in North East India among Injecting Drug Users, Sex Workers, MSM, Truck Drivers, Migrant & Mobile Population & Street Children

- ii) Lakhs of People Benefitted with Primary Health & Family Welfare Services : With support of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt of India & USAID, Dr Ahmed has designed and implemented a pioneering Project-PVOH-II Project (1991-1996) & has taken Primary Health & Family Welfare Services to several Lakhs of people in remote inaccessible areas of Assam & Meghalaya border emphasising on tribal women and children for which his services were highly appreciated and awarded by USAID.
- iii) Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Prevention Programmes: Conceived, designed & Implemented several Comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention programmes in the community providing Care & Support Programmes for People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) with Opportunistic infections including TB.
- iv) Formulated Policy & Advocacy: Contributed & facilitated the Government to adopt Policy towards access to essential medicines in the North East India & access to Opportunistic Infections (TB) & Anti Retroviral Therapy medications for PLWHA.
- v) First Research Project in the Country for Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) of HIV supported by the European Commission (Brussels) : Supported by the European Commission and winning an International Competitive Bid for Scientific Research Projects, Dr Ahmed implemented the First Research Project in the NGO Sector in the Country for Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) of HIV & expanding Voluntary Counselling & Testing Centres for HIV services in the region
- vi) Charitable clinic and Mobile Clinics: Through Charitable Clinic and Mobile Clinics established by him, he provided free health services, Immunization, Laboratory Clinical services, outreach health services & Reproductive Health Programmes in Assam particularly to Lakhs of Women, Children, Youth & Students – and contributed for their all round development along with the health programmes.
- vii) .Established Nurse’s Training School: In 1986-87, Dr Ahmed established the AIHC(NGO)–Nurses Training School in Guwahati, Assam as its Director and trained more than 1200 ANMs(Auxillary Nurse & Midwife) which is recognised by the Indian Nursing Council & the Assam Nursing Council and with the help of the Govt of Assam they are appointed in the Govt. Health Deptt of the State
- viii) Contribution in Controlling Infectious & Communicable Disease in North East India Implemented several Infectious & Communicable Disease prevention & related public health programmes including TB in North East India. Another remarkable contribution is support he provides to Widows, Orphans & those affected by the AIDS epidemic
- ix) .Contribution in AIDS Vaccine development: Partnering With International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, he has taken the initiative in research on AIDS Vaccine development & established Resource Centre for HIV/AIDS information dissemination including research on HIV/AIDS/STD issues in North East India.

33. Awards/Recognition

STATE: Dr.Ahmed won several Awards and Recognitions:

1. The "Healthcare Leadership Award–Pride of India Awards" by WORLD CSR & World Sustainability Congress on 14th December,2018.
2. “ERDF Excellence Award” by University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya,
3. “Pride of North East Award” by Moromland Assam Award 2018
4. Recognised as “ An Ambassador for Peace “ by the Universal Peace Federation .

5. Recognised by Assam Police, Assam Rifles, CRPF and the CISF (Govt of India) for conducting HIV/AIDS and Drugs Prevention Programme for the forces and providing VCT services. .

NATIONAL:

1. In the year 1996, Dr. Ahmed was invited by Mr Frank G Wisner, US Ambassador to India as an International Visitor to the US as a visiting scientist to study HIV/ AIDS in the US.
2. In the year 1997, visiting US Secretary of Health and Human Services , Ms Donna Shalala recognising the services of Dr Ahmed invited him for a meeting at American Centre, Kolkata, 3. In the year 2010 , deputed by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt of India and British Dept for International Development, he was in Punjab for initiating OST (Opioid Substitution Therapy) with Sublingual Buprenorphine (BPN) with his team as a substitute therapy for heroine drug users and started BPN sublingual OST for heroine users in Amritsar Medical College & Guru Nanak Dev Hospital Amritsar, District Civil Hospital at Tarn Taran, Batala hospital at Batala, Gurdaspur, Civil Hospital Jalandhar & Civil Hospital Ludhiana.

INTERNATIONAL :-

1. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, Fellow of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Life Member of The American Medical Society of Vienna, Dr Ahmed received several awards including the UNAIDS award in 2005 for "Contribution in Global Fight Against AIDS",

2. In 2006, Dr Ahmed's organisation AIDS Prevention Society, received Special Accreditation from the President of the UN General Assembly and invited to participate at the UN General Assembly Special Session-UNGASS 2006 at UN Headquarters in New York. Dr Ahmed raised the serious issue of Hep B & Hep C Co-infection with HIV in India's North East at the Satellite Roundtable at the UN General Assembly Special Session(UNGASS) .

3. In 2015, he participated at 37th LDUN, held in March 2015 at the UN Headquarters in New York City, the theme was " Children In Need." in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

4. In 2016 was Invited to the UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS.

5. In 2017, attended the 39th LDUN at the United Nations with a theme of health and inclusion, achieving several of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) .

6. In 2018 June, invited to the Interactive hearing and General Assembly high-level meeting on the fight to end TB and also participated at the UNAIDS Satellite Session presenting North East India situation .

7. In 2018 September, he participated at the invitation, the UN General Assembly High-level Meeting on the fight against tuberculosis at its Headquarters in New York.

34. Impact of work done

Work done by Dr.Ahmed contributed in achieving several positive impacts in Assam, Meghalaya and other states of North East India where he worked since 1990-91 :

1. WORLD BANK REPORT Described Dr Ahmed's AIDS Prevention Society as a "Model in the country": World Bank Report and Observations of AIDS Prevention Society (APS) highlighted their successful community intervention. Senior key Official of the World Bank, Mr Michael F Carter, the Country Director being impressed with his first visit has again revisited APS in 2005, this time with a team of 5 officials and made an elaborate extensive field visits to several Projects - MTCT Project (Mother-to-child-transmission Prevention of HIV Project awarded based on an International competitive bid by Brussels, supported by the European Commission), The Truckers Project (supported by British Govt- DfID), Project Sakhi (CRS, US supported), IDU Project & Healthy Highway Project (CORDAID, Netherlands supported), SLIP - Street Level Intervention (US State Deptt supported) and Health Centres and Community Centres (BRO Collaboration). Along with the World Bank Report came a letter to Dr Ahmed noting their observations which were very encouraging for 150+ APS team where the World Bank suggested scaling up the positive impact of APS as a "Model in the country".
2. Skilled Health Workers created : Hundreds of Nurses- ANMs, Counsellors, Female Health Workers, Peer educators were created for strengthening health delivery system
3. Health services made available in most inaccessible areas in Assam-Meghalaya border in North East India achieving mother and child health care in those areas
4. Child Immunization against Preventable Diseases were massive - example being 100% coverage of Pulse Polio in Kamrup District and other districts in Assam.
5. Massive awareness of general population on HIV/ AIDS achieved.
6. State Govt Policy on AIDS adopted and Dr Ahmed played an important Advocacy Role - Free treatment with drugs for HIV/AIDS, their transportation, women and children, orphans care and support achieved.
7. Free Treatment on HIV/AIDS : Advocacy by Dr Ahmed contributed in making available Free treatment of HIV and Opportunistic Infections.
8. Stigma against People with HIV/ AIDS reduced. High risk taking population like Injecting Drug Users, Sex Workers, Truckers, Migrant Population, Men Having Sex with Men (MSM), Street Children were much more aware about HIV/AIDS taking precautions ultimately reducing the infection considerably. Health literacy improved- health related knowledge, attitudes, motivation, confidence, behavioural intentions and personal skills concerning healthy lifestyles, as well as knowledge of where to go and what to do to obtain health services were achieved.
9. Social action and influence – Dr Ahmed succeeded in achieving community participation, community empowerment, social norms and public opinion.
10. Healthy public policies and organisational practices – implementation of policy statements, legislation/regulations, resource allocation, supportive organisational practices and settings experiencing enhanced engagement with health promotion programs.

11. 'Second level' health promotion impacts achieved which included those relating to healthier lifestyles, more effective health services, and healthier environments.

35. Contribution to society

Dr Ahmed has made invaluable contribution to the community through his involvement in several NGOs which he established with his colleagues from the community. He formed the AAIS Clinic, Assam Imdadiya Hospital Committee, AIDS Prevention Society(APS), AIDS Literacy Society and was actively associated with other NGOs like the Lions Club, Friends-Of-Assam-andSeven-Sisters, North-East-India-Harm-Reduction-Network, Sachetan Nagari Manchha, Bosco Reach Out and many community based organisations :

1. Since 1982, Dr Ahmed was involved in providing free health services to the most down-trodden and economically disadvantaged population dwelling in the urban slums, railway tracks and the street dwellers in Guwahati city in Assam.
2. He mobilized the community in addressing the needs of the population in establishing low cost sanitation, safe drinking water, Immunization etc in collaboration with UNICEF in Guwahati City, Assam.
3. Dr Ahmed established a Charitable AAIS Clinic with his colleagues and with his personal contribution which was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Assam in 1985 and treated lakhs of economically disadvantaged, homeless, destitute women and children in the society over the years.
4. With his HIV/AIDS prevention programmes of his organisation AIDS Prevention Society (APS), he reached out very effectively to the general population, students in school, colleges, universities, youth clubs, Mahila Samitis, Women's Organisation, Lions Club , NGOs, semi government organisations , security forces and law enforcement agencies etc and addressed the common man in the society
5. He was invited by the World Bank to share the success of APS as a civil society in India responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in North East India , with senior officials and Country Directors of South Asia Region of the World Bank in New Delhi Country Office .
6. AIDS Prevention Society(APS) mission is to prevent and control spread of HIV /AIDS /STDs and to provide care and support to those who are already infected with various Opportunistic Infections - of which TB among the HIV being most important in more than 90%. Community action aims to encourage and empower communities (both geographical areas and communities of interest) to build their capacity to develop and sustain improvements.
7. He worked with the high risk groups for HIV with, Injecting Drug Users, Sex Workers, Truck Drivers, Migrant population , Street dwellers etc . He established Drop in centres for them , Rehab programmes, and even alternate income source for sex workers and trained them with skill development.
8. The ultimate goal of health promotion programs of Dr Ahmed is to improve health outcomes for communities. Health outcomes include improvements in quality of life, function, independence, equity, mortality and morbidity. Health outcomes are a function of

health promotion activities and a range of other social, environmental and biological determinants.

9. Through the “Sachetan Nagoric Mancha”, Guwahati, Assam, of which he is the Chief Adviser, he emphasised the collective responsibility of the community in organising special functions for Assamese “ Bihu”, Durga Puja, Republic Day, Independence Day celebrations, “Swachh Bharat” Abhiyaan etc.

36. RESEARCH : Dr Ahmed has to his credit conducting several research programmed on health and HIV/AIDS in the country supported by the US State Deptt, British DFID, European Commission, Health Ministry of Netherlands, Swedish SIDA, CORDAID, CRS of US and others, including initiating the Opioid-Substitution-Therapy for drug users in Punjab, India.

37. US STATE DEPTT INVITATION AS IVLP : The US Government and Administration of President Bill Clinton invited Dr Ahmed to the US for a month long programme in 1996 under the “International Visitors Program” as a Visiting Scientist to study HIV/AIDS Prevention and Public Health Issues in the US specially designed for Medical Professionals & was in CDC, Atlanta, NIH, Bethesda, the Executive Office of the President at the White House, the Capitol Hill, San Francisco General Hospital, Walter Reed Army Medical Centre, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and many institutions in several States of the US. Besides, his professional commitments,

38. COLLABORATIONS : Dr Ahmed has been also proactively associated with Lions Club, Friends-Of-Assam-and-Seven-Sisters, North-East-India-Harm-Reduction-Network, AIHC, Nagoric Mancha and many social organizations. He has been actively working with NASA, USA on several Projects and made a film on NASA's International Space Station with NE students interacting with Astronaut Mike Fincke .

39. CULTURAL ACTIVITIES : Besides, Dr Ahmed is closely associated with the cultural world as an actor and a singer. He has acted in several Assamese Films from Child Artiste (1959) to Lead Roles. His films include -Puberoon, Parinam, Basundhara, Khov, Bhoga Khireeki and others . He received the State Award for his acting as Best Actor in Negative Role in “Basundhara”, an Assamese Feature Film which won the National Film Award “Rajat Kamal” being the Best Regional Film in 2012.

40. As a member of IAPAC – Attended the The International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC) hosted “ **The 90-90-90 Targets Workshop** ” on July 22nd & 23rd , 2017 held at Paris, France as a Delegate Member from India at this International Meeting sponsored by UNAIDS.

41. As a member of IAPAC – Attended the The International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC) hosted **sixth “Controlling the HIV Epidemic Summit** ” on May 3-4, 2018, at the International Conference Centre in Geneva, Switzerland. The Summit sponsored by IAPAC in collaboration with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+), the Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR), and the Geneva University Hospitals (HUG). reflected a pathway towards the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. In support of connecting the dots between attaining the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets and controlling the HIV epidemic, the Summit clearly defined the meaning of “HIV epidemic control” – including sufficient nuance to allow for the heterogeneity of the AIDS

response. In addition, the summit examined proposed new metrics for assessing progress in national and subnational HIV epidemic responses.

WEB LINK : Please visit the following Web Link of APS

<http://www.apsindia.org>

<http://www.apsindia.org/pdf/aps-broucher.pdf>

http://www.apsindia.org/pdf/profile_ahmed.pdf

<https://youtu.be/lh2lfkxoXTo>

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 AIDS Society of India
- Member , Federation of NGOs of North East India
- Member , International AIDS Society (IAS)
- Member , Asian Harm Reduction Network (AHRN)
- 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 Injecting Drug Users 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. **Ensuring family care & community support for injecting drug users living with HIV/AIDS in North East India – 2003 .**
20. **“Integrated Health Services Project for Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS in Assam ,North East India”- 2005 presented in Bangkok , Thailand**
21. **The Epidemic of HIV/AIDS in North East India – 2005**
22. **“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**
23. **“METAMPHETAMINE IN NORTH EAST INDIA” - selected for presentation at the 1st Global Conference On Methamphetamine: Science, Strategy and Response, September 15th and 16th in Prague, Czech Republic (2008 Global Conference on Methamphetamine)**

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

UNAIDS 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 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 presented Dr S I

Ahmed President of NEIHRN (North East India Harm Reduction Network) with the Award - UNAIDS Plaque with a citation -Recognising his contribution in the Global fight against AIDS .

OBJECTIVES OF AIDS PREVENTION SOCIETY :

- § Improve the health status of disadvantaged, poor & marginalized population in North East India
- § Prevent HIV/AIDS /STDs - building awareness of HIV infections & promote safe and responsible behaviour in the community
- § Expand VCTC services & provide HIV/AIDS treatment education & provide Care & Support to PLWHA (People Living With HIV/AIDS) without stigma
- § Prevent Infectious & Communicable Diseases & address related public health programmes.
To create collaboration between TB and HIV programmes, reduce the burden of TB among people living with HIV and the burden of HIV among TB patients.
- § Research and Training on Communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) including lifestyle diseases.
- § Implement Reproductive Health Programmes (RCH) & health programmes for Women, Children, Youth & Students
- § Conduct AIDS Research & collaborate in AIDS Vaccine Initiatives
- § Develop & maintain APS's human resources, physical infrastructures and organizational systems
- § Make Advocacy for sound AIDS related public policy and individual rights & policy on access to essential medicines
- § Foster community through human connection and advocate supportive environment for people living with HIV/AIDS and those affected by the epidemic & establish & promote networks in the region

SPECIFIC AREAS OF OPERATION :

- § Targeted Intervention Programmes for slowing down the epidemic of HIV/AIDS in North East India among Injecting Drug Users (emphasizing Harm Reduction), Sex Workers, MSM , Truck Drivers, Migrant & Mobile Population & Street Children
- § Comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention programmes in the community & Care & Support Programmes for People Living With HIV / AIDS (PLWHA)
- § Policy & Advocacy towards access to essential medicines in the North East India & access to OI & ART medicines for PLWHA
- § Reproductive Health Programmes (RCH)
- § Women, Children, Youth & Students - development & health programmes
- § Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) of HIV & expanding VCTC services in the region
- § Widows, Orphans & those affected by the AIDS epidemic
- § AIDS Vaccine Initiative & Resource Centre for HIV/AIDS information dissemination including research on HIV/AIDS/STD issues
- § Infectious & Communicable Disease prevention & related public health programmes

- § To create collaboration between TB and HIV programmes, reduce the burden of TB among people living with HIV and the burden of HIV among TB patients.
- § Research and Training on Communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) including lifestyle diseases.

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

Dr. Ahmed was responsible for management of one of the first harm reduction projects for Injecting Drug Users in the country along with Manipur & Nagaland states of North East India . Based on the Outreach Model, the project through trained Peer Educators provided services with the principles of Harm Reduction for the Injecting Drug Users and those Drug Users at risk of injecting and sharing injecting equipment & their sex partners 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.

■ **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 1994-95.

■ **HEALTHY HIGHWAY PROJECT** – One of the first Targetted Intervention Projects in the country for Truck Drivers & Helpers for prevention of STD/HIV/AIDS along NH 37.

■ **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 .

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

The objective of this project is to make available a mutually supportive network of 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. APS has trained more than 600 GPs & NGOs under the project in these states . 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 & ARV therapy is provided to PLWHA.
Care & Support with Counselling services for PLWHA , home based care & nutritional counselling, & family counselling
◆ As an Advisory Board Member of ANP+ (Network of Positive People) & founder member of NGO networks in the region like NEIHRN (North East India Harm Reduction Network) & NE NGO Network , APS is currently responsible for capacity building of NGO partners in the region .

- **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 supported by Govt of Assam & UNICEF .

- **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)
8. State of Oregon - Portland Health Authority- study health delivery system for Native American Indians (Indian Reserves Kah-Nee-Tah), School Health Depo Provera Programme for Teen Pregnancy prevention., Public Health in the State
9. State of Minnesota - Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St Paul and the Public Health services in the largest Indian reserves .

■ **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, Nagaland , Tamil Nadu, UP & 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 first NGO Consultation Meeting of the **GFATM- 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 CENTRES (ICTC)** : APS Chairman has established the Voluntary Counselling & Testing Centres (VCTC) – Integrated Counselling & Testing Centres 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 .

■ **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.

- ***New Prevention Technologies (NPT) for HIV/AIDS: The Road Ahead for India*** – Conducted survey amongst the NGOs of Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram & Assam in September 2009 .

- Conducted A collaborative Study to assess understanding of current AIDS Vaccine Development Initiatives in India by NGOs of North East India .

- **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,

