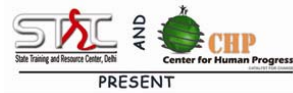


Meri Awaaz/My Voice - A Celebration of Voices from the Ground



मेरी आवाज़ My Voice

Meri Awaaz/My Voice - A Celebration of Voices from the Ground

An event to encourage community leadership for change through knowledge exchange using traditional and new media, technology, art, music & theatre



I am Living My Rights. STOP AIDS. Keep the Promise.

MY VOICE

मेरी आवाज़

Supported by
India Habitat Center



Designed by Harun Khan

15th December 2009
Amphitheatre, India Habitat
Centre, Lodhi Road
Special Addresses by
NACO, UNDP, DSACS, STRC

- 12.00pm : Onwards - VOICES: Art, Photography, Organisational Exhibits
- 12.30pm : Quiz Show by STRC and Humana People to People India
- 01.00pm : Louder than Words a Mime Performance by Shakti Vahini & IMDT (GB Road)
- 01.30pm : Community Voices
- 02.00pm : Theatre Performance by Deepshikha Samiti
- 02.30pm : *Laparwahi Bani Moosibat* a Magnet Theatre Performance by CHP
- 03.30pm : Community Voices
- 04.00pm : *Khud Jeeo Sabko Jeena Seekhao* Song by Mitra Trust
- 04.10pm : *Ek Radha Ek Meera* a Dance by Mitra Trust
- 04.30pm : *Hosh Me Josh* a Play by SHAPE India
- 05.00pm : Dance by SPACE
- 05.20pm : *Dandia Ras* by Delhi School of Social Work Society
- 06.00pm : Community Voices
- 06.15pm : *Jeene Ki Raha* Magnet Theatre by STRC & CHP
- 07.15pm : Film Screenings: Community Voices

Presented by

Center for Human Progress (CHP)
&
State Training & Resource Center (STRC), Delhi

India Habitat Center (IHC), New Delhi

15 December, 2009

With special thanks to UNDP, CFAR, DSACS, India Habitat Center, NACO, UNAIDS & all participating organisations.

Meri Awaaz/My Voice – A Celebration of Voices from the Ground

Introduction

Meri Awaaz/My Voice is a unique festival of voices from the ground which was held on 15 December, 2009 at India Habitat Center (IHC), New Delhi with the invaluable support of UNDP, Delhi State AIDS Control Society (DSACS) and CFAR; and the engagement of NACO and UNAIDS.

The festival which was led by communities (including, men who have sex with men¹, sex workers, injecting drug users and truck drivers) themselves, explored creative expression to understand HIV risks and vulnerabilities. *Meri Awaaz/My Voice* aimed to share knowledge, promote dialogue and support sustainable networking between and across communities and various contexts.

The festival brought together 1500 people, including 1000 community members, 60 organisations and every typology of at-risk group from across the geography of Delhi (including various Targeted Intervention or TI sites) to participate in the one-day event to showcase issues using creative expression (e.g., music, theatre, dance, art, photography and film), interactive games and capacity building exercises to promote dialogue and support cross-sharing of knowledge and understanding of issues relating to the lives and realities of communities. In addition to communities themselves, the event also reached several general audiences (including young and other professionals from various fields, including social science research, academia, environment, medicine as well as university students) and engaged donors, including NACO, UNDP, UNAIDS, UNICEF and ILO with the initiative.

Highlights of *Meri Awaaz/My Voice*

- *Meri Awaaz/My Voice* had the invaluable endorsement of NACO and UNAIDS; and the support of UNDP, DSACS and CFAR;
- *Meri Awaaz/My Voice* was a community-led festival;
- *Meri Awaaz/My Voice* brought together 1500 people from across Delhi to share, dialogue and exchange local knowledge about HIV risks and vulnerabilities;
- *Meri Awaaz/My Voice* gathered representation from 60 organisations (NGOs, CBOs, networks, alliances) from across the Capital;
- Every typology of at-risk community group was represented at the festival;
- The festival brought together several general audiences, university students, professionals and donors from across the city.



¹ The festival had a strong focus on sharing MSM issues

Aims & Objectives of the Festival

Meri Awaaz/My Voice aimed to support knowledge exchange on issues of health and human rights and promote a better understanding of HIV vulnerabilities between and across communities. By using various forms of expression like music, art, theatre, dance photography and film among others, the festival created a space to exchange knowledge, generate dialogue and build sustainable networking opportunities for communities in a festive mainstream environment. This showcasing and interaction was also intended to help implementing partners (e.g., TIs), SACS and STRCs to explore innovative ways to approach communities at the grassroots level.

Meri Awaaz/My Voice was a powerful platform for:

- Advocacy about public health, human rights and HIV issues;
- Cross-community dialogue about HIV issues and knowledge sharing about public health and human rights of communities;
- Usage of a variety of mediums to create dialogue and interaction around relevant issues; and
- Sustainable networking of communities with the engagement of a number of stakeholders, thereby creating a unique opportunity for mainstreaming issues.

Methods & Process



“*Meri Awaaz/My Voice – A Celebration of Voices from the Ground*” marked the culmination of the first phase of an ongoing, national-level initiative led by the Center for Human₃

Progress (CHP) and the State Training and Resource Centre (STRC), Delhi. In its first phase, *Meri Awaaz/My Voice* members (and NGOs and CBOs) in training and capacity building to promote community-led knowledge generation and exchange for HIV risk and vulnerability reduction.

These capacity building activities focused on Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) issues and were conducted across key Delhi State AIDS Control Society (DSACS) TI sites. Key capacity building activities involved an 11-day training workshop (interspersed with field-work) in Magnet Theatre² with MSM as well as preparation of creative tools and strategies by sex workers, MSM, transgender, truck drivers, injecting drug users to support community-to-community and community-to-stakeholder dialogue and exchange about HIV vulnerability reduction issues and strategies.

The following phases of the project will involve scaling up these activities to reach many more community members across India.

Participation & Partnerships

- The *Meri Awaaz/My Voice* festival had the invaluable support of UNDP, DSACS, CFAR and India Habitat Center.
- The *Meri Awaaz/My Voice* festival had the invaluable engagement of the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) and

Training and Resource Centre (STRC), Delhi. In its first phase, *Meri Awaaz/My Voice* members (and NGOs and CBOs) in training and capacity building to promote community-led knowledge generation and exchange for HIV risk and vulnerability reduction.



² Magnet Theatre is a mid-media dialogue-based tool for HIV/STI risk reduction conducted by and for communities. 4

UNAIDS, India.

- The UN and other major donors attended the festival to support it and underscore its significance.
- Several organisations (including NGOs and CBOs), alliances and networks representing various communities from across New Delhi participated in the festival to contribute to its goals.
- The festival showcased several theatre, dance, musical performances and film screenings. The festival also exhibited several creative tools generated by communities for HIV risk and vulnerability reduction. Interactive stall displays showcased, art, photography, Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials, condom vending machines, interactive games and many other creative dialogue-based tools generated by NGOs, CBOs and networks, including CSI, Deepshikha Samiti, DNP+, DSACS, Jagrati Yuva Manch, Kinnar Bharati Society, Mitr Trust, NACO/HLFPPT, NACO/PSI, Naz Foundation (India) Trust, Pahal Foundation, PFI, SHAPE India, SPACE, SPYM, SOSVA and STRC, Delhi.
- The festival brought together a range of at-risk communities, including, female, male and transgender sex workers, people living with HIV, men who have sex with men, injecting drug users and truck drivers and allied communities as well as youth (e.g., in- and out-of college youth) and their families from across the National Capital Region (NCR) of Delhi to highlight issues.
- The festival attracted the participation of 1500 people from across capital to make it an interactive and knowledge rich experience.



Interactive Stalls

12.00pm - Onwards - VOICES: Art, Photography, Organisational Exhibits Featuring...
CSI, Deepshikha Samiti, DNP+, DSACS, Jagrati Yuva Manch, Kinnar Bharati Society, Mitr Trust, NACO/HLFPPT, NACO/PSI, Naz Foundation (India) Trust, Pahal Foundation, PFI, SHAPE India, SPACE, SPYM, SOSVA and STRC, Delhi.



Performances

- 12:00pm** – Magnet Theatre performance by truck drivers & helpers from Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar (SGTN)
- 12.30pm** – Quiz Show by STRC and Humana People to People India
- 1.00pm** – Louder than Words a Mime Performance by Shakti Vahini & IMDT (GB Road)
- 1.30pm** – Community Voices
- 2.00pm** – Theatre Performance by Deepshikha Samiti
- 2.30pm** – *Laparwahi Bani Moosibat* a Magnet Theatre Performance by CHP
- 3.30pm** – Community Voices
- 4.00pm** – *Khud Jeeo Sabko Jeena Seekhao* Song by Mitra Trust
- 4:10pm** - *Ek Radha Ek Meera* a Dance by Mitra Trust
- 4.30pm** – *Hosh Me Josh* a Play by SHAPE India
- 4:45pm** – Dance by Kinnar Bharati Society
- 5.00pm** – Dance by SPACE
- 5.20pm** – *Dandia Ras* by Delhi School of Social Work Society
- 6.00pm** – Community Voices
- 6.15pm** – *Jeene Ki Raha* Magnet Theatre by STRC & CHP
- 7:00pm** – Keynote address by Ms. Aradhna Johri, Joint Secretary NACO
- 7:10pm** – Dance performance by Kinnar Bharati Society
- 7.15pm** - Film Screenings: Community Voices
- 8:00pm** – Musical performance by young people & communities, featuring Parmeet Singh

About the Center for Human Progress

The Center for Human Progress (CHP) aims to improve the quality of life of individuals and society by supporting, promoting and encouraging knowledge mobilisation for sustainable change.

As an NGO and social entrepreneurship CHP aspires to build knowledge-based leadership and create community empowerment in the process.

To achieve its goals CHP conducts various activities, including:

1. Training & capacity building
2. Education & awareness building
3. Communication & advocacy
4. Research & documentation

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