

CHEYUTHA WCBO SUPPORT GROUP INFORMATION

Date of Initiation: - 2012

Members: - Positive women

Goal of the meeting: - To promote positive living and to develop communication skills to Women to address their issues

Aims & Objectives

- To help those women with HIV cope with the challenges
- Improve quality of life
- Reduce depression
- To promote ART Adherence
- To promote livelihood activities
- To provide nutritional support
- To link with social welfare & entitlement schemes

Organization Background:

Cheyutha, meaning, “helping hand” in Telugu, was established in 2005 with the supported by LEPRASOCIETY & TSACS in Hyderabad. The Women’s Community-Based Organization (WCBO) is a women’s community initiative for and by women living with HIV/AIDS, for care and support services with a special focus on women and children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Cheyutha has been rendering various care and support services such as counselling; referrals to Antiretroviral Treatment (ART) centres; free treatment for opportunistic infections (OIs); foster care for orphan children and semi orphan; educational support to infected and affected children; arranging positive marriages; taking up legal issues and fighting for the rights of the deprived and vulnerable women, with a special focus on empowering women to lead dignified lives.

Cheyutha has so far benefited a total of 2000 above women through these services.

CHEYUTHA WCBO holds support group meetings for Women with HIV once in every month since 2012.

Moderated by Mrs.Laxmi Priya, the founder member & Project director of CHEYUTHA WCBO with the help of staff & voluntary members.

The meetings generally are in Telugu local language and sometimes Hindi conducted at the office premises

The meetings provide an opportunity for women PLHIV to ask questions about their concerns, about their treatment and the side effects, in this forum, patients also get a chance to interact with doctors, outreach workers and each other in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere giving them the much needed psychological support as well as valuable advice and insights.

Women when they attend the support group they feel that they are not alone but other's also travelling in the same boat which develops self confident within them and change their life style which improve in taking the ART treatment regularly.

While attending the support group they also avail the Clinic services have free consultation and free medicine for opportunistic infections and provide Nutrition support which will be(Peanuts ½ kg, jiggery ½ kg, Till ½ which we will have calcium, protein, Iron) supplements.

Women also motivated to save some Rs.100/- from their pension which is provided by the government widow pension and ART pension during the COVID time that saving amount helped them to pay their House rents and to maintain the house without debts.

They maintain their own register follow with Agenda they have their own bank account where they deposit monthly savings, they have first and second leader as they are responsible to collect money and deposit in the bank and update them during the financial year.

The meetings have become a success with the group growing from 20 to over 80 members. A great bonding and sharing takes place where the women and get emotional support and professional advice as a part of this unique forum.

They also initiated Amruth Aahar saving one wrist full of hand rice daily and get them to the meeting and support the another member of the same, seeing this initiative other donors came forward to give dry ration to the community members.

Support group formation to adolescent Children

1. The criteria should be 10- 18 years below
2. The group can have infected and Affected who knows about their status have chance to meet their Peer friends
3. We can have 5 groups initially to understand how better we can have the more groups.
4. These group can been trained on the life skills, ART adherence, Prevention and treatment champions
5. We can also motivate children to save some pocket money in the kitty bank, the amount will which they will be getting from Art pensions
6. The group will be having different kind of activities which also have fun along with the information on their well being

Photos of Support Group



Reported by

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