

Annual Report: 2020–2021



— The Desire For Life —

AARJU FOUNDATION

Reg. no: MAH/MUM/355/2010/GBBSD

Community based organization for promotion of sexual health and HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support for the community by the community.

ORGANISATION INFORMATION

Name of organization : Aarju Foundation

Registration date : 10th February, 2010

Registration number : MAH/MUM/355/2010/GBBSD

Registered office : Room No.6, Shri Balkeshwar Mahadev
CHS, Mahadev Bhai Road, Kandivli
(East), Mumbai - 400 101.

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BOARD MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS		Designation	Contact number
1	MANOJ JANI Akruti Elligence CHS, 6th Flr Flat No.603, Ramdev park Road Miraroad (E) Thane - 401107	PRESIDENT	9820173011
2	Avinash Babn Kushare Near Narayna Nagar School Chembur Mahatma Phule Nagar N1,Road,no 6 Chwal n,5 Tilak Nagar S,O Mumbai -400089	VICE-PRESIDENT	9320989556
3	Mohd Arif Anwar Khan Bangolw no.17 Gate no.26/0 Matheran Sukhapur Road New Petrol Pump New Panvel Prem Nagari Panvel Raigad Maharashtra-410206	SECRETARY	8308646362
4	Ramzan harun khan Marwadi chall no.28 room no 37 s.n path worli Mumbai 400018	TRESURER	9594140809
5	Pawan Ramnaresh Yadav House no. 38 Ravi Seth Ki Chwal , Opp Sandesh Kirana Store Jyotsana Nagar Nagaon Bhiwandi Thane -421302	EXECUTIVE MEMBER	9022884040
6	Rahul Rajendra Nalawade Room no,A/9,Plot no,550 Bhagyalaxmi CHS, Near Oxford School Charkop Sector 5, Kandivali West Mumbai-400067	EXECUTIVE MEMBER	7208705383
7	Anil prabhakar kale Bayjipura Indira Nagar Galli no.33 Aurangabad Maharashtra-431001	EXECUTIVE MEMBER	8007429331

Number of board meetings held in the year: 4

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

In the year 2017-2018, been a great year for us, we have successfully developed the entire program portfolio and have structured the planning processes of the organization. This year we launched our own programs and through the annual plans, we make sure our interventions are most relevant and implemented.

In the present plan, Aarju Foundation has adopted a new element of 'District as a Unit' wherein the focus would be given on empowering and strengthening the projects of the organization, those will focus on local specific development issues under the overall thematic approaches.

The District being a very important unit in three tier system of the Government, especially development planning and implementation, it is very important to work hand in hand with the government's development mechanism.

Also projects like Ab-Normal: Gender Sensitization Program, Aatmavishwas were launched. We need to connect to people and tell them our problems and sensitize youth. Aatmavishwas – A self belief psychosocial aid program for the sex workers to help them overcome negative coping capacities.

The organization, as the entire development sector, has faced a lot of challenges in recent days. The economic recession has led to the strategic withdrawal of major funding partners from progressive states like Maharashtra. CSR funding is an area that has not established yet in full clarity. More pressing development issues such as 'climate change', 'disaster management' etc. require new technical know-how, wherein Aarju Foundation will have to focus on in the coming years. The image of the sector perceived by the government recently is a real challenge for organizations like AF.

The year 2015- 16 has also bought a number of silver linings for the organization. FCRA registration has been applied for by the organization and we can now hope on partnering with International NGOs for our planned strategic interventions. I would take this opportunity to thank our esteemed board members for providing the required direction to the organization. I would also like to thank our staff members for their dedicated work. I would like to express my gratitude to the donors as well for their extensive support provided to us. Last but not the least; I would like to thank our constituencies for their openness, cooperation and gratitude towards us. They are the ones who make our work most meaningful!

Manoj D Jani
President

Aarju Foundation

INTRODUCTION TO AARJU FOUNDATION AND ITS WORK

The Aarju Foundation (AF) is a Community based organization which works for LGBTQ community. We work on advocacy, Health, Sexual Health, Awareness and Gender sensitization. Also AF is a male sexual health agency working the MSM- TG populations and groups at risk to HIV in the Mumbai and Thane district of Maharashtra.

Aarju aims to improve the quality of life of People Living with HIV/AIDS and sexual minorities. It works with sexual minorities concentrating more on the Kothi community and their Sexual Partners and his Family members. "Kothis are feminine gendered males who often have sex with other males and also play out the perceived gender role in the culture"

HISTORICAL DETAILS ORIGINS, BRIEF HISTORY, MILESTONES OF THE ORGANIZATION

AF is a nonprofit that registered itself with the charity commissionerate of Mumbai as a community based organization that would essential work with various Men who sex with Men population inclusive of transgender and hijra population in Mumbai and other district of Maharashtra through networks. Currently we implement HIV intervention project supported by MDACS and a new intervention project on TI plus services supported by Pehecan Round 9 GFATM project.

The voluntary work started in 2011 in Nashik and Aurangabad on MSM – TG and PLHIV issues have been going strong, since there is very limited resources available through private donations – the work is on a minimal scale. There have been attempts to resource mobilize through writing project proposals for Aurangabad for migrant and MSM, we hope that our work will be considered for funding in the coming AAP of MSACS.

This year's new projects are Ab-Normal and Aatmavishwas which are dedicated to LGBT community. Also we have new partners AHF with whom we do the HIV aids awareness and advocacy program.

CORE ORGANISATION VALUES

Aarju Foundation at all times in undertaking all its programmes and activities adhere to the following values:

- We involve MARPs and affected communities at all stages of our programme design and implementation
- All our programmes and interventions are targeted at vulnerable groups
- We ascribe to the rights-based approach in all our programmes and interventions
- We ascribe to the gender-based approach in all our programmes and interventions
- Our work and interventions take into consideration the socio-cultural context of our communities.
- Sustainability is at the core of all our programme design and implementation.
- We adhere to high standards of accountability, transparency and good corporate governance.

OBJECTIVES

Aarju Foundation's main objectives are to sensitize, educate and raise the awareness of with regards to the HIV/AIDS epidemic and related issues.

AF also aims to undertake AIDS prevention and control activities that will be more acceptable and receptive to the MSM – TG and people living and affected by HIV as per their socio-cultural and educational background. Additionally, AF examines ways of working with existing Human rights, SRH organizations and other NGOS in the fight against the AIDS epidemic, and to promote the health and well-being of affected communities.

MILESTONES IN FINANCIAL YEAR APRIL 2019–MARCH 2020

1 MDACS PROGRAM

Aarju being Voluntary Community Based Organization introduced many of new strategies to mobilize more and more new HRG- High risk group MSM population like, Street Plays, Advocacy campaigns, , Bcc- Condom promotion, ICTC- HIV Testing, STI Referral from April 2011 new financial year. This efforts of Aarju were no longer hidden/ unnoticed by higher authorities and were addressed with token of understanding as, one project funded by MDACS (Mumbai District Aids Control Society- by Govt. of India) of 1000 MSM coverage as a Denominator in October 2011. Here we started as proper work setup. It took almost a month to bring it to professional attire. We had so many sister concern and same geographical area location Voluntary organizations/ Civil society organizations/ Non-Governmental Organizations/ Community Based Organization visited our office in Kala Chauki. With the guidance by funding agency and helping hand from different entities and organizations Aarju started rowing its root in terms of work and its impact in terms of growth. We not only worked for MSM directly but also with Main stream society to be sensitized for the understanding of sexual minorities' existence, understanding and acceptance for it.

From October staff started filling up to result in complete organizational set up and whole ORGANOGRAM is depicted as follows

MDACS (FUNDING AGENCY)

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR
MANOJ JANI

PROJECT MANAGER
MR. Samad Khan

Doctor Mr. Naddim shiakh	Counsellor Mr.Ashma Patel
M & E Officer Mr. Minaz Shaikh	Accountant Mr.Avinash Nevrekar
10 ORW	

PROGRAMME PROGRESS CARD:

Aarju started formal set up from October 2011 and within a year Aarju reached to ultimate set by MDACS, i.e. 10000 new HRG's were covered with strategy of 2 contacts and one service, i.e. person should be mate more than two times in same month and one service out four- 1. ICTC referral, 2. STI referral, 3. Condom, 4. DIC.

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATIONS:

AF taken all possible initiatives to mobilize Key population and render services at the door step. Organization structure was as per the instructions from management body but AF had its own strategies to reach out hidden population too. We divided out fields into three parts, afternoon, evening and late evening till 12am so that maximum no of HRG is covered and can be referred for all necessary services they require. Voluntary workers were all time ready to assist our Kp's to channelize for services. Street plays added extra flavor in the dessert, AF mobilized many of its voluntary helpers to construct and conduct good social messaging street play on HIV/AIDS threat, its prevention and different linkages AF can guide MSM's to access as per the need.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Outreach coverage in Mumbai, under MDACS supported project

Month	Active Population – (Beginning of the Month)	New Registered During the Month	Drop Out	Active Population – (End of the Month)
April to Jun	535	0	0	535
July to Sep	3340	0	0	3340
Oct to Dec	6460	0	0	6460
Jan to mar	6445	0	0	6445
mar Total of 4 Months	16780	0	0	16780

2. STI Care

Month	Health Camps Conducted	Symptomatic Cases	Presumptive Treatment	No of KP tested for Syphilis	No of KP found Positive	Treated & Where
April to Jun	3	6	6	0	0	0
July to Sep	27	118	118	0	0	0
Oct to Dec	22	76	76	40	1	1
Jan to mar	19	333	0	79	1	1
mar Total of 4 Months	71	533	200	119	2	2

3. Behavior Change Communications

Month	IPC Session	IPC Session attended
April to Jun	0	0
July to Sep	320	3791
Oct to Dec	1218	12595
Jan to mar	1705	17052
mar Total of 4 Months	3243	33438

4. ICTC referrals and testing

Month	No. of KP Referred for ICTC	No. of KP Tested for HIV	No. of KP Found Positive	No . Of PLHIV Referred to ART	No. of PLHIV on ART	Regular Partner Tested for HIV	No. of RP Found Positive
April to Jun	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July to Sep	488	488	2	2	2	0	0
Oct to Dec	1025	1025	3	3	3	0	0
Jan to mar	1653	1653	2	2	2	0	0
mar Total of 4 Months	3166	3166	7	7	7	0	0

3. Behavior Change Communications

Condom Demand per Month - 32000						
Month	April to June	July to Sep	Oct to Dec	Jan to Mar	Mar-13	Total
ORW	0	0	0	0	0	0
PE	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depot	0	0	0	0	0	0
DIC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clinic	0	0	0	0	0	0
Event/Stalls	0	0	0	0	0	0
Social Marketing (Male)	0	0	3510	12710	0	0
Social Marketing (FC)	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	3510	12710	0	0

AHF – Migrant HIV – AIDS Aid aid and Awareness Program in Bhiwandi

Bhiwandi is unexplored area in case of HIV _AIDS population, no Government or NGO works their on this issue. Aarju is the only working agency there with AHF who covers the 70% of the population.

SRH- HIV integration advocacy done with Government hospitals in Mumbai, Nasik and Aurangabad.

Advocacy WITH NGO's & CBO's from Maharashtra

- Aarju conducted advocacy workshop with eleven NGO's & CBO's from Maharashtra and Goa working in HIV/ Aids prevention programmes. This advocacy was conducted with Board members of NGO's and CBO's about the SRH-HIV integration and bringing life towards the synergistic mode of having healthy life.
- This covered the Experiences of each Programme Directors till date experiences of poor health service provision due to concentrating only on HIV/ Aids, Condom and DIC (as basic parameters of services set by TI programmes designed by National bodies)
- Aarju staff conducted advocacy program with police stations to sensitize force to convey message of awareness on HIV/AIDS to future recruits by their own personals. Making them understand importance of awareness network for better health.

This program is been taken with following police station:

- 1-Kala chawki Police station.
- 2-Delight Road Police Station.
- 3-Paidhuni Police station.
- 4-Agripada Police station.
- 5-Nagpada Police station.

*Also conducted same program with I.T.I college (Mumbai central)

Advocacy with Government Health care providers

- All the Government hospitals under Aarju's Geographical vicinity are being covered by Aarju field workers. Which includes ICTC centers, ART Centers, STI clinics, but now Aarju Covered all the paramedical workers Psychologists and Medical Social workers for making referral strong and accountable in terms of better health assistance?
- Counsellors of Aarju has developed network with the psychologists available with Govt. hospitals to utter the best of mental health support in selective/ specific cases if required.

With private health care providers and care and support units

- FADA- international funded project organization which has group of female social workers with whom Aarju has networked and they are sensitized about the Married MSM's and we can easily refer MSM's female spouses, where in the secrecy is maintained with the utmost care.
- Chirag care and support, field action project by one of the social work collage in Mumbai, where with the same level of advocacy we have developed referral system and that same unit is sensitized about the SRH and its Importance.

District Level advocacy at Solapur

- This was unique program conducted with Police department and all other stakeholders. As we all know FSW, MSM, TG face so many problems when raids are done. Many times their problems are not heard by the police and violence , harassment faced by them in all this.
- In this all were gathered in hall and discussed their problems in view of police and the community. They came to mutual consensus and it was really fruitful discussion.

3 NUTRITION PROGRAM

As you know Aarju works with different groups who are affected by HIV -AIDS. We by collaborating with government help them to get better medical facilities and psychosocial help. Beyond that also we wanted them to do something for them, where we realized they do not get adequate nutritional supplies, also poverty and discrimination plays a role into it.

So we thought of providing them nutritional supplies every week since last year. This is for KPs , MSM, TG, FEW. With this we aware them on how to take care of their health and hygiene.

4 N.S.D.C (NATIONAL SKILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION) PROGRAM

Under this program Aarju efforts to empower their community through introducing them the course of beautician to earn their daily bread and being self-dependent. Currently batch of 30 students is taking course on Beauty and Wellness. They will be placed by this month and start earning on their own.

5

LIVELIHOOD GENERATION

Aarju wants to give support to community by giving them options of livelihood generation. One of them is making of sanitary napkins by Target group of Aarju.

6

THIRD EYE CAFÉ

Third Eye Café is new vision of Aarju where café is run by the transgender Community. This helps both ways gives livelihood and support to many , also helps to reduce the discrimination . It believes and making inclusive world for the different sex people.

7

AB-NORMAL – GENDER SENSITIZATION PROGRAM

AB-Normal is a gender sensitization program started this year which aims to sensitize youth about the Sex and Gender their orientations. How they should look at scientifically and hoe discrimination and small fun making makes their life and existent more difficult in patriarchic world.

Students hear the stories of struggle from LGBT community and with understanding and pledge to make their lives normal decorate their pictures with messages.

8

COLLEGE AWARENESS PROGRAMS

Aarju every year conducts a awareness program in Social science institute for the budding social workers who wants to work with community.

We tell them pressing issues faced by the community, advocacy required and current scenarios . This is conducted in TISS, St. Xaviers Collge, Maharashtra Vidyapeeth

Also in ITI colleges, awareness about the HIV and LGBTQ community is conducted.

9

MONTHLY MEET -UPS

Aarju conducts monthly meetings with the members and who wants be the members. In these meetings aarju conducts many awareness programs for the community about their rights, current advocacy campaigns, Schemes they can avail or can refer to others.

Also helps them to get their basic identification documents , provide advocacy support.

10 SUPPORT A RESEARCH

Aarju always helps the researchers and academicians to research on the TG community. This year MS. Liza Van Der from Belgium wanted to conduct her Doctoral research on Transgender community of India.

11 AATMAVISHWAS

Aatamvishwas is a group formed by the Female and Male sex workers in Bhiwandi by a Social Workers Vishwajeet Dilip. By profession he is a Seller but by heart he is devoted to help communities on ground.

We support this group to conduct activities which are mostly in psychosocial care and against the negative coping capacities they use.

➤ OTHER INITIATIVES TAKEN BY US

- Participated in Forum/ Network (Mumbai Aids Forum) working on HIV/AIDS programme to utter this information on regular basis and have always passed on few inputs about SRH advocacy and all issues related to ART & the treatment deliveries.
- Initiative taken by Aarju to make their community literate towards computers.

By introducing and starting computer classes at their center which includes courses.

1. Basic Computer knowledge
2. M.S Office (Word, Excel, Power point) etc
3. Internet browsing.
4. A different initiative taken by Aarju for kids age 7 to 15 years (One time)

Aarju also distributed educational stationaries to this kids(School bags, school kit, etc).

PHOTO GALLERY





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