

Annual Report: 2022–2023



— 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.

Office Address : House no.29 Near Vitthal mandir
Chiple sukhapuri Road new Panvel
410206

Phone : 9820173011 / 9769611966

E-mail address : aarjufoundation2010@gmail.com

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 4000018	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"

GARIMA GREH

In, September 2021, Garima Greh in New Panvel was inaugurated. These places sheltered homeless transgender. Here trans genders are exposed to various skill development courses. These include tailoring, beauticians, best out of waste biodegradable products, cooking and other activities.

To ensure the well-being of these transgender, we engaged in multiple activities including yoga, games like Carrom and Chess, dance, gardening, and police advocacy. As a community, we also took part in collaborative projects with the Rotary and Inner wheel club of Navi Mumbai.

NISD (FUNDING AGENCY)

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR
MANOJ JANI/ MANSI JANI

PROJECT MANAGER
Mrs. Rubina Khan Mendan

Doctor Mr. Mahender	Counsellor Mr. Ramzan Khan
Accountant Mr. Avinash Nevrekar	Bridge Coordinator Mr. Arif Khan
Multitasker worker Mr. Rajaram Regade	Cook Mrs. Sunita Koli
Sweeper Mrs. Ila Joshi	3 watchmen

We engaged in skill development sessions to help in their personal development. These included cooking, beautician training, art classes, computer classes, tailoring classes, mehndi classes and English-speaking classes.

Adhar Card, Pan Card, Voter ID Card, And Transgender Card Identity Cards:

The foundation also conducted campaigns/drives. The highlight drives included the Covid vaccination drive and a drive to make Voter ID cards after speaking to the election committee and, Aadhar and MDACS Voter ID camps.

The transgender community faces numerous challenges in acquiring essential identity documents such as Aadhar Card, Voter ID, PAN Card, and Ration Card. Lack of proper identification and proof poses significant obstacles in obtaining these documents.

a) Voter ID: Aarju Foundation faced significant challenges while trying to obtain Voter ID cards for transgender individuals. Despite submitting letters requesting assistance from the concerned authorities, they have only received 35 Voter ID cards so far. Additionally, the closure of the online registration website until 10th June 2023 has further delayed the issuance of 20 pending Voter ID cards.

b) Transgender TG Card: The process of obtaining Transgender TG Cards also presented difficulties for Aarju Foundation. The high agreement fee of 400 rupees per card made it unaffordable for many transgender individuals. As a solution, Aarju Foundation agreed to pay 200 rupees for each transgender TG card, while the remaining amount would be covered by the transgender individual. In this manner, they managed to obtain 53 transgender TG cards. However, challenges persist, as the new collector insists that TG cards should be made in Panvel, shifting the process back to Raigad.

c) Aadhar Card and PAN Card: The lack of necessary identification documents poses hurdles in obtaining Aadhar Card and PAN Card for transgender individuals. Aarju Foundation has made efforts to advocate for their inclusion and organized Aadhar Card. Camps, resulting in the issuance of 35 Aadhar cards and 25 PAN cards. However, many transgender individuals still lack these essential identification documents.

d) Ration Card: Aarju Foundation has submitted forms for obtaining Ration Cards for 35 transgender individuals. The application process is currently underway.

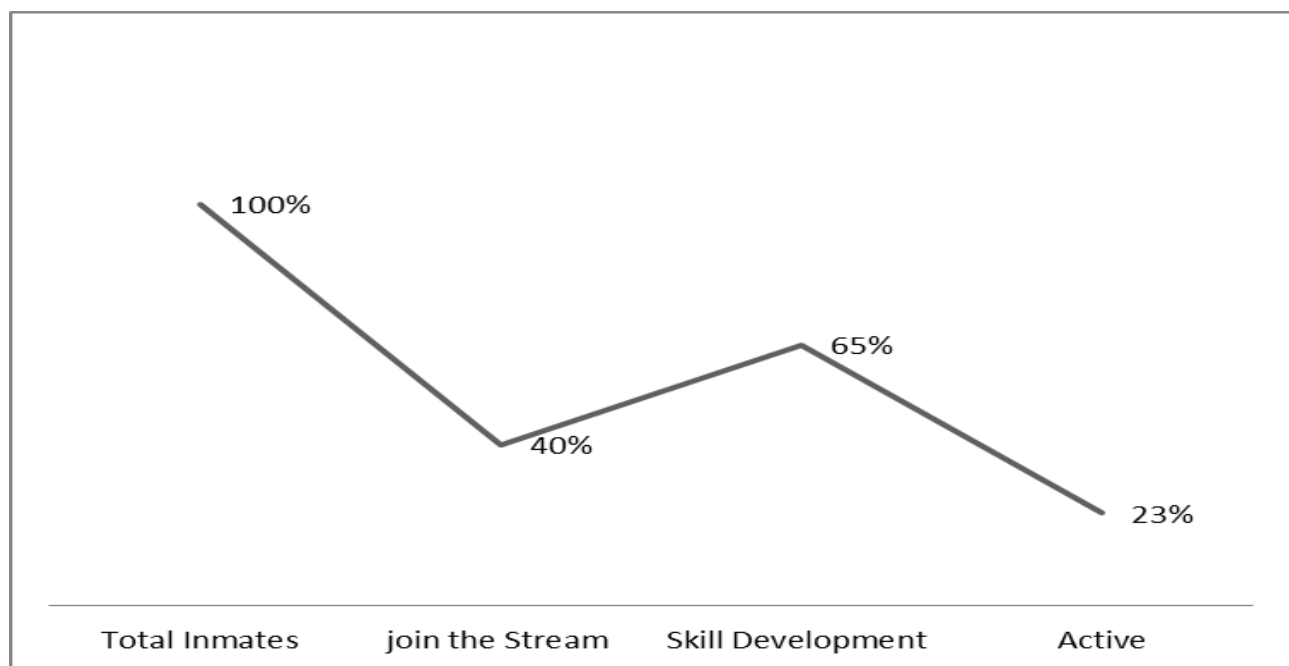
Through networking and advocacy, we got into touch with many stakeholders that have helped us extensively in their own capacity by providing us with resources. These include the group Art of Living that taught us the Sudarshan Chakra, Heart Fullness made us understand the importance of our **heart is our well-being**, **Pure Source clothing Pvt Ltd.** provided us with clothes from which we make cloth bags for sale, **goonj**, **Donat Card**, **Female individual club**, **Joyti care**, **Gujarati Mahila Mandal** gives us groceries, medicines etc., **Rajeshwari marvadi shamaj**, **Jain mahila mandal** and **Jeevan Sali trust**, **IAHV International Association for human Values** gave us things useful for the Community.

No. of beneficiaries to whom skill development training and employment provided

In, September 2021, Garima Greh in New Panvel was inaugurated. Here transgender are exposed to various skill development courses. These include tailoring, beauticians, best out of waste biodegradable products, cooking and other activities.

October-21 to March-2023, 59 inmates out of 23 % inmate are still active and doing skill development courses, 65% inmates of aarju Foundation are counseled on the basis of their education qualification experience and by counseling them and were provided job to join the stream.

The remaining 40 % inmates were taken by aarju foundation for doing small business for the future. Likes Skill development courses education, tailoring classes, beautician training, Mehdi Class, Art Class, Basic English speaking classes and all were taught how to cook at home due to this inmate generate future income source



Shelter Home Placement for Transgender Individuals :

Aarju Foundation has been operating a shelter home for transgender individuals with the support of the National Institute of Social Défense for the past three years. However, they have been facing difficulties in finding suitable places to run the shelter home. Society owners and landlords are unwilling to provide a location due to the stigma and discrimination faced by transgender individuals.

- 1) Amazon
- 2) Impact
- 3) Flip kart
- 4) Pepsis Company
- 5) Dathch Bank
- 6) Godrej Company
- 7) Sodexo Company
- 8) soho house

Advocacy and Engagement: Aarju Foundation has engaged in advocacy efforts, reaching out to local politicians, brokers, and social welfare officers to address the challenges they face. Despite these efforts, the problems persist.

Letter to Deputy Collector: Aarju Foundation has written a letter to the deputy collector in Raigad district, requesting gender sensitization programs to be conducted for the general population, government departments, government hospitals, and private companies. These programs aim to raise awareness and promote understanding of transgender people, thereby increasing their employment opportunities.

Skill Development Initiatives: Aarju Foundation has collaborated with local clubs and companies to provide job opportunities and run short-term skill development courses for transgender individuals over the past three years.

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-Khanda colony Police station.

2-Old Panvel 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.

2 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 14 students is taking course on Beauty and Wellness. They will be placed by this month and start earning on their own.

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.

➤ OTHER INITIATIVES TAKEN BY US

Along with all these works, Aarju Foundation is also working to provide homes to the trans genders, which includes a list of 56 trans genders so far, in which Sopanli madam and Jadhav sir are working with all this.

- With this, we have made total 80 transgender cards so far, 23 TG cards are pending with the collector and are on process.
- Initiative taken by Aarju to make their community literate towards computers.

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

- Basic Computer knowledge
- M.S Office (Word, Excel, Power point) etc
- Internet browsing.

PHOTO GALLERY

➤ WORLD AIDS DAY



➤ ADVOCACY





➤ VOTER ID , ADHAR CARD CAMP



➤ TATA INSTITUTE



➤ COOKING CLASS



— The Desire For Life —

➤ TAILORING CLASS



➤ YOGA CLASS



➤ ART CLASS — The Desire For Life —





Foundation

➤ MEHENDI AND BEAUTICIAN

