

A Report on the Inaugural Ceremony of Community Based Testing (CBT) in Rajasthan

In accordance with the global vision to end AIDS as public health threat by 2030, India has moved ahead towards achieving the global 90:90:90 target by 2020.

Scaling up of HIV Counselling and Testing Services (HCTS) is a crucial step towards achieving the first 90, wherein, it is desired that 90% of the estimated PLHIV in the country are aware of their HIV status. Achieving this is vital for the success of the subsequent 90:90 related to anti-retroviral treatment and viral suppression.

NACO and GOI is thus committed to further expand access to quality-assured HIV Counselling and Testing Services and has diligently updated and developed the “National HIV Counselling and Testing Services Guidelines, 2016”, under which Community Based Testing (CBT) is prime focus to cater the needs of HIV Counselling and Testing Services (HCTS) for hard to reach population i.e. the Core and Bridge population.

Moving ahead with the national strategy of achieving the 90-90-90 target by 2020, Rajasthan State AIDS Society (RSACS), inaugurated the first “Community Based Testing (CBT)”, facility in Indian Public Educational Society (IPES), TI Project, Bhilwara on 12th May’2017.

At the outset Mr. Sharma, PD-IPES, welcomed all the dignitaries from RSACS and district Medical Authorities. Briefing about the functioning of IPES- Core Composite-TI, he narrated that IPES-TI, is providing services to 350 MSM and 450 FSW, since 2009, under RSACS in the Bhilwara, district of Rajasthan.

Dr. S.S. Chauhan, PD-RSACS, Dr. Ghanshyam Chawla, Dy. CMHO, Dr. Abdul Ahmad (ART In-Charge), Mr. Sunil Kumar, JD-TI and Mr. Satveer Lamba, In-Charge BSD/DAPCU and Mr. Rupak Mohanty, PO-TI were among the dignitaries present during the inaugural ceremony of the CBT facility. Members of HCTS, ART, CSC, Piramal Foundation, Bhilwara, were also present in the function.

Welcoming Dr. S. S. Chauhan, PD-RSACS, to the ceremony Mr. Sharma, PD-IPES, tied a turban in his head with



Figure 1 Mr. Sharma honoring Dr. Chauhan-PD-RSACS

respect and the other dignitaries were welcomed with flower boockey.

In the inaugural speech, Dr. Chauhan insisted on testing each and every HRG, so that non are left behind. To achieve the target of 90-90-90 all facilities and TIs should motivate the HRGs who has not been tested for a single time. Dr. Chauhan, also insisted on identifying new HRGs who are in the field and test them, following all the protocols of HCTS.

Dr. Ghanshyam Chawla, Dy.CMHO, also thanked RSACS, for taking initiatives for reaching out to the HRGs and introducing innovative approaches for HIV Counselling and Testing Services. Appreciating the involvement of IPES-TI, Dr. Chawla, also encourage the IPES-TI team in reaching out to the hidden population and conducting HIV testing of the entire population present in Bhilwara.



Figure 2 Inauguration of CBT by Dr. S. S. Chauhan, PD-RSACS

Followed by the inauguration of the facility by Dr. S. S. Chauhan, PD-RSACS, the dignitaries moved around the TI and inspected each and every services delivered by the team.

Mr. Satveer Lamba, AD-BSD, also explained the data capturing tools to the dignitaries and the protocols to be followed at the TI level.

Mr. Sunil Kumar, JD-TI, thanked the dignitaries for gracing the occasion and providing valuable inputs for implementation of CBT at Bhilwara.

Photo Gallery:-



Figure 3 Dignitaries on dais



Figure 4 PD-RSACS inspecting the testing facility



Figure 6 PD-RSACS Addressing the Community Members



Figure 5 LT Describing the HIV Testing Procedures



Figure 7 AD-BSD, Explaining the Tools for data collection



Figure 8 Display of Bio-Waste Management