

**REPORT ON**

**WORLD AID'S DAY**

**THEME- END INEQUALITIES, END AIDS**

DATE: 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021

**INTRODUCTION:** December 1<sup>st</sup> is observed as World Aids Day across the world. The day as the name suggests, is to show support for people living with HIV and the ones who have lost their lives because of AIDS. The theme of the World Aids Day 2021 is 'End Inequalities, End Aids'. With a special focus on reaching people left behind, WHO and its partners are highlighting the growing inequalities in access to essential HIV services.

**OBJECTIVE:**

- To spread information in order to improve the quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS
- To remove stigmatization and discrimination
- To make others aware about the importance of support towards those living with HIV.

**WORLD AID'S DAY:** 37.7 million people globally were living with HIV in 2020 and 6, 80, 000 people died from AID's related illness, the same years according to WHO. 5000+ people were detected HIV/AIDS in Meghalaya according to Meghalaya Aids Control Society MACS 2021 report. There is an organization in Meghalaya that was formed by the positive people known as MSNP+ that was established on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2007. It was formed so because, in Meghalaya self - stigmatization and self - discrimination seems to be a great barrier towards reaching the infected person. The vision of the organization is to improve the quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS in our society where all people infected and affected by the condition enjoy equal rights and dignity.

**ACTIVITIES:**



Figure 1 Rehearsal

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, the Department of Social Work held an awareness program at the College Cafeteria through a Role Play. The aim of conducting the role play was to provide the knowledge and awareness about the World Aid's day. All the students took part on this program, half had been divided for poster making and half had volunteered on the role play. There were two stories that had been given by the student social workers.



Figure 2 Poster pasting

**GEORGE:** The first one was a story of George who was a person who had multiple sex partners and has avoided using condoms while having sex for the sake of pleasure, George had been called for counseling where the latter later informs him that he had been tested positive for HIV. When his friends and family heard about it, they started rejecting him and stick labels on him calling him prostitute, plague and other such derogatory names. Being rejected and stigmatized leads him to isolate himself further. His physical health crumbles and eventually his HIV progresses to AIDS and at the end, he succumbs to his condition.

**SARA:** The second story was about Sara who was influence by her friends to do drugs. Sara also had gone for counseling where she was informed that she is positive with HIV. When Sara knew about that, she decided to tell her mother about what had happened. Her mother was mad at her at the first place but at the sight of her daughter's face Sara's mother hugs her and reassures her that everything will be alright. When her friends knew about it, some of the good friends stayed while the others had left her. With the support of her family and friends she goes for treatment and counseling and is able to fight HIV for a long time.



Figure 3 Sara and her Mother

**CONCLUSION:** With these two role play, the student social workers want to convey that our reaction as a society or as an individual affects the treatment of people living with HIV and by ending discrimination and stigmatization we can all live equally. The story of George and Sara were almost the same, the only difference was that George did not receive the support of his friends and family, this had made his condition worse, whereas Sara got her full support from her mother and few of her friends. The positive environment has a positive impact on those living with HIV. The negativity brought only destruction.