

MODERN AWARENESS SOCIETY



ABOUT US

Mass Awareness Society (MAS) is a non-governmental organization working to protect the rights of the transgender, gay, hijra and shivshakti community in the Warangal district of Telangana. Established in the year 2004 and registered under The Societies Registration Act 2001, MAS is Andhra Pradesh's **first sexual minorities' organization dedicated towards the socio-economic and cultural development of the community**. Driven by our own experiences of being discriminated against and having faced violence, our journey began with the **aim to provide a better, safer and more possible life for our community members, free from stigma and violence**.

Over the past two decades, our persistent efforts have succeeded in empowering our community members by building their capacities to collectivize and advocate for their varied health and socio-economic rights, through a comprehensive and integrated approach of establishing linkages with relevant government and non-government stakeholders.

Currently, MAS is governed by 11 members from the community and is providing various services to its registered population of 2400+ members in 6 recently divided districts of Warangal - Warangal, Hanamkonda, Jangaon, Mahabubabad, Mulugu and Bhupalpally.

MAS is affiliated to Integrated Network for Sexual Minorities (INFOSEM), Hyderabad.

VISION

A society in which members of the Transgender, Gay, Hijra and Shivshakti community lead a dignified and respectable life, free from stigma and violence.

MISSION

To work towards the mainstreaming of the community members by reducing stigma and discrimination and enabling access to opportunities for socio-economic and cultural development.

(For reading convenience, the term 'transgender' would be used henceforth to refer to MAS's target population consisting of transgender, hijra, gay and shivshakti community.)



OUR WORK



Advocacy & Sensitization

Since its inception, MAS has been persistently advocating for the rights of the transgender community at various district and state forums. We have conducted numerous workshops and organized rallies to generate awareness and sensitize the key stakeholders – district authorities, municipal corporations, govt. departments, political parties, media, other NGOs, public, etc., concerning the issues faced by the transgender community.

Till date, **50+** sensitization programs have been conducted till date, with support from the Solidarity Foundation and Azim Premji Foundation.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 10 Transgender SHG groups formed after consistent advocacy efforts with the District MEPMA (Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Urban Areas) officials; 6 SHG groups have received a loan amount.
- More than an acre of land allocated for housing of the community members and separate space with funds granted for a community hall in Ursu Kareemabad, Warangal.



Health - Prevention, Treatment & Support Services

VIHAAN Care and Support Centre (CSC):

MAS has been implementing the Vihaan - Care and Support Center (CSC) in 6 districts of Telangana since 2018. Supported by the Global Fund through Alliance India and National Coalition of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NCPI+), Vihaan CSC is a comprehensive program targeted at improving the survival rate and quality of life of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV).



We work with the transgender community affected by HIV/AIDS by focusing on:

- Facilitating timely detection of HIV
- Establishing early linkages with Anti-retroviral therapy (ART)
- Improving ART treatment adherence
- Enabling positive prevention practices to avoid passing on the infection
- Aiding in the management of opportunistic infections, especially tuberculosis

Additionally, XX PLHIV under Vihaan have been linked to social welfare and protection schemes of the government.

MAS also implemented with the Pehchaan project, with support from Alliance India from 2011-2015. The project focused on HIV and STI prevention amongst transgender community in the Warangal District.



Crisis Management

The transgender community is often vulnerable to abuse and violence from diverse stakeholders such as family, police, partners, goons, public, etc. The Crisis Committees formed by MAS promptly deal with the instances of violence faced by the transgender community. The crisis resolution interventions, partly supported by Solidarity Foundation have benefitted **430+** community members till date.



Covid-19 Relief

During COVID-19, MAS collaborated with district authorities and other NGOs (Solidary Foundation, Azim Premji Foundation, Bal Vikas) to ensure regular supply of ration and hygiene kits to the marginalized transgender community.

We mobilized the transgender community for COVID-19 vaccination by addressing their apprehensions and misconceptions about the vaccine. Our team also ensured the home delivery of ART medicines during the Covid-19 lockdown.



PARTNERSHIPS

- Alliance India
- National Coalition of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NCPI+)
- Solidarity Foundation
- Azim Premji Foundation
- Bal Vikas

Azim Premji Foundation provided trainings on core areas of organizational strengthening and program management to MAS. Our staff was also trained on effectively addressing mental health issues amongst the community members.

Mass Awareness Society (MAS) is being mentored and provided with technical assistance by Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) project of Family Health International 360 (FHI 360) since 2024 through LEPRa Society on organizational development and on sustaining services to PLHIV community.



IMPACT

2400+

PLHIV and their families received timely HIV care, support and referral services, enabling them to lead a healthy and positive life.

900+

PLHIV and their families availed social welfare and protection schemes, leading to their social and economic empowerment.



AWARDS

- Best Social Work Award by the District AIDS Prevention Control Unit (DAPCU) and the District Collectorate Office in 2023
- Best Organization in the District by the District Collectorate Office in 2023
- Best Outreach Services to the PLHIV Community by the District AIDS Prevention Control Unit and the District Collectorate Office in 2023
- Felicitated by Alliance India during National Transgender Summit 2023 for outstanding contribution to the community during COVID-19 pandemic
- Best Social Worker at the Telanagana Consumer Award in 2020
- Sakala Jana Swachh Seva award for contribution in the field of Transgender Rights in 2019



DONATION DETAILS

Account Name	Modern Awareness Society
Bank Name	Canara Bank
Account No.	2450101009793
Branch	Warangal Main
IFSC Code	CNRB0000621



CONTACT DETAILS

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