



HIV / AIDS Awareness Survey
and Community Outreach Event

conducted in Medhiganj, Uttar Pradesh
on Saturday May 10, 2008

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Event Summary

On Saturday May 10, 2008, three social workers from Sanjeevani Booti staffed an HIV information table during an outdoor public mass wedding celebration in the village of Medhiganj in Uttar Pradesh, India. In a location just outside the festival which was both private and easily accessible these workers also conducted an HIV-awareness survey.

Purpose

Sanjeevani Booti, a sexually-transmitted disease education center in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, needed data about the awareness of issues related to HIV in the village of Medhiganj. Medhiganj is about an hour's drive outside the organization's office in the city and within the range of Sanjeevani Booti's education programs. For environmental and political reasons this rural community is the topic of worldwide study, and there is demand for health surveying in this area.

Social workers at Sanjeevani Booti created this study as a preliminary assessment to gauge local knowledge about HIV and AIDS. As an equally important second objective, Sanjeevani Booti's educational programs would be advertised and offered to the local people.

Objectives

1. to make Sanjeevani Booti's HIV education programs to known the community
2. to engage the locals in informal awareness conversation at a public event
3. to invite local people to write, call, or visit the main office for more information
4. to conduct an HIV-awareness survey to approximately 50 men in a rural area
5. to distribute at least 750 flyers directly into people's hands
6. to convert specific, charity-designated, donor-directed funds into simple gifts for the newlyweds
7. to establish rapport in social work with Lok Samiti, a local NGO which also surveys health issues

Results Summary

The social workers met the stated objectives.

The survey showed that 60-70% of the 87 people who responded to the questions had some knowledge of HIV or AIDS. The extent of this knowledge was not tested, but this survey paves the way for further assessments in the area.

The major conclusion that can be drawn from this work is that the villagers have heard of HIV and AIDS and they are responsive and even welcoming to talking about these things and other health topics with social workers. Based on the results of this survey, Sanjeevani Booti workers recommend a more thorough survey project to be done in the same area. This new project should cover more people, have stricter controls, and ask more questions.

Background

Marriage ceremony as an institution is more important in Hindu society than it is in traditional Western culture. Some defining characteristics of a Hindu wedding are the following: utilization of priests to conduct extensive rituals in Sanskrit, a language outside the common tongue; a large attendance composed of everyone in the neighborhood plus anyone who could be imagined to be related to either bride or groom, plus business contacts and friends of any member of either bride or groom's immediate family; a high cost, typically 1-2 years total immediate family wages from both bride and groom's family; arrangement, meaning bride and groom marry because of family direction and not because of their own finding of a partner; and extreme social value, because society puts huge pressure on bride and groom to build a successful union.



Figure 1: bride and groom at this event wear traditional clothing

There are two aspects of marriage which are particularly relevant to the work of Sanjeevani Booti, and these are the high financial cost of marriage and the permissibility of public attendance at wedding ceremonies. Because of the high cost of weddings, sometimes people in the lower economic strata pool their resources into mass weddings for multiple

couples, creating a truly massive wedding event with thousands of people. Because so many people attend wedding parties due to those being a more community-oriented affair than in Western culture, it is a social event where it is easy for Sanjeevani Booti's social workers to greet community members and present them with flyers describing issues related to HIV and AIDS.

In the village of Medhiganj outside the city of Varanasi in the state of Uttar Pradesh in North India, there is a non-governmental organization (NGO) called Lok Samiti which provides support to local people whose water supplies have been damaged by the 1999 advent of a Coca-Cola bottling facility built in the village. By demand and because of the uniquely important status of Hindu marriage, villagers have called for public aid partly in the form of the organizing of yearly mass weddings; these celebrations insure that locals can continue their traditions despite their loss of farming livelihood due to dropping water levels from soda production.

On Saturday May 10, 2008, twenty-eight couples and more than 7,000 guests congregated at the festival grounds prepared by Nandlal Master, director of Lok Samiti. With encouragement from Mr. Master, Sanjeevani Booti representatives were present at this joyous occasion to distribute flyers, engage in casual health conversation at a designated table, and conduct awareness surveys related to recognizability of the concept of HIV.

Measurement of Scope

Three Sanjeevani Booti social workers spent 8 hours at the wedding party and took turns sharing the three main responsibilities of staffing an information table, conducting surveys in a private area, and wandering the event to distribute flyers and invite people to both the information table and the survey area. On that day Sanjeevani Booti distributed 1000 flyers and conducted 87 surveys. In addition to this Sanjeevani Booti gifted to each married couple a clock with the Sanjeevani Booti logo printed on it along with written information about HIV and AIDS.

Sanjeevani Booti officers decided the scope of this event based on the amount of money available to organize it (approximately Rs 12000, or \$300 US), the number of trained social workers available (3), the time available to prepare for this project (1 month), and estimations of how much work could reasonably be done based on past experience doing this sort of project.

Additionally, Sanjeevani Booti officers decided that it would be beneficial to establish good contact with Lok Samiti, a well-established Medhiganj NGO directed by Nandlal Master. This NGO was founded in 1999 to track issues related to problems caused by the operation of a nearby Coca-Cola bottling plant, and it collects statistical data of all sorts on people in its community. Because both Lok Samiti and Sanjeevani Booti are doing social and health surveying in the same area, Sanjeevani Booti officers decided that allying and sharing research with this NGO would be the best and fastest way to integrate researchers into Medhiganj. This alliance will expand the scope of Sanjeevani Booti's work into a rural area just outside of the urban center where the main office is located.

Methodology

One social worker approached festival attendees and engaged them to visit the survey area to participate in a two-minute survey in private with a health worker. If the attendee was unwilling to do this, the social worker offered him an informative flyer, a copy of which is in the appendix in both English and Hindi.

If the attendee went to participate in the survey then he would be greeted by a second social worker. This person, the survey conductor, would inform the participant of the name of our NGO (Sanjeevani Booti) and the length of time the survey would take. The surveyor would promise the participant that his responses would be confidential and anonymously recorded with the only personally identifying questions



Figure 2: social workers distribute flyers and recruit volunteers at the wedding party

being age and which of the nine city neighborhoods the respondent lived in. The surveyor told the participant that some of the questions may be personal or there might be some reason that some participants would not want to answer a question; in those cases a participant should say "pass" to skip that question. Finally the surveyor instructed that if the participant does not know an answer to a question, it is all right to say "do not know." If the participant agreed to take the survey again at this point then the surveyor would read the questions verbatim to the participant. The participants' responses were recorded as short answers. If the participant found wording of a question was confusing then the surveyor would not explain or restate the question during the survey; however, after the survey was

over the participant would be directed to the information table to have all his questions answered.



Figure 3: social worker chatting about HIV with locals attending the festival

Another social worker staffed a table and talked about whatever health topic visitors wanted to talk about, but directed conversation to issues related to HIV. This table was within sight of the survey area but definitely not within conversational hearing range. In the event that one participant was with the surveyor and another potential participant approached, the worker at the information table would call that person to the table to talk about HIV and disqualify him from the survey.

Survey Results

The following questions were translated into Hindi and read verbatim. The 87 participants' responses were recorded as single-word answers.

What diseases can you name which young adults are more likely to get than older people?

	respondents	percentage
AIDS	30	35
TB	10	11
do not know	42	48
other	5	6
total	87	100

What diseases can you name which are common today but which were not common forty years ago?

	respondents	percentage
AIDS	40	46
TB	5	6
cancer	15	17
do not know	7	8
other*	20	23
total	87	100

*“Other” here includes malaria, jaundice, kidney and bladder stones, dengue (malaria fever)

What diseases can you name which doctors cannot treat or cure, and which always kill a person?

	respondents	percentage
AIDS	47	54
TB	5	6
cancer	25	29
do not know	10	11
total	87	100

What diseases can you name which can only be spread from another person, and which you cannot get from anywhere else except from a person who already has that disease?

	respondents	percentage
AIDS	63	72
TB	14	16
do not know	10	12
total	87	100

What do you know about a disease called HIV?

	respondents	percentage
results from sex without condom	30	35
related to AIDS	10	11
mother gives to baby	7	8
do not know	40	46
total	87	100

What do you know about a disease called AIDS?

	respondents	percentage
results from sex without condom	29	33
results from multiple sex partners	25	29
mother gives to baby	9	10
do not know	24	28
total	87	100

Have you ever known anyone who had either HIV or AIDS?

	respondents	percentage
yes	4	5
no	83	95
total	87	100

Do you think that either HIV or AIDS exists in your community?

	respondents	percentage
yes	24	28
no	49	56
do not know	14	16
total	87	100

What is the name of your neighborhood?

	respondents	percentage
Rajatalab block	87	100
total	87	100

Would you be comfortable telling me your age? Are you -- under age 18, age 18-25, 26-35, 36-45, 46-55, 56-65, over age 66?

	respondents	percentage
under age 18	0	0
18-25	37	42
26-35	24	28
36-45	14	16
46-55	12	14
56-65	0	0
over age 66	0	0
total	87	100

Has any government hospital's employee or any NGO ever come to you to talk about AIDS?

	respondents	percentage
yes	3	3
no	84	97
total	87	100

Survey Integrity

Ideally, the information gathered about HIV awareness in this survey would be a representation of the whole of Medhiganj's population. However, the following describes some problems with the integrity of the collected data insofar as it is reflective of the citizenry.

Because all three social workers were male, and because the societal values of the survey area do not permit males to engage females for conversation about personal health topics, Sanjeevani Booti did not collect data from the female population of the village area during this study.

Because of the novelty of surveying in the village area, sometimes participants who had just taken the survey would tell their friends about the nature of the survey then encourage them to participate. Because of this the survey sample's randomness became compromised.



Figure 4: the crowd in this photo is female; genders are socially segregated

Because of the novelty of surveying in the village area, sometimes participants who had just taken the survey would tell other people that the survey was about HIV and AIDS. Since the purpose of the study was to measure awareness, when former participants



Figure 5: a social worker conducts a survey with a local man who is attending the wedding

advertised our purpose it increased likelihood of future participants answering awareness questions positively when they might not have had they not known the survey's objectives.

Because of the public setting of the survey and despite it being conducted away from the festivities around it sometimes wandering people interrupted the survey by approaching the social worker and the person responding to the questions. When extra people arrived the social worker would ask them for privacy until the survey was over, then that person was welcome to talk to either

interviewer or respondent. These breaks in interviewing could have had an influence on how the participants responded to questions.

Because the festival was attended especially by guests from the Rajatalab Block of the village of Medhiganj, the random sample who took the survey all happened to be from that particular neighborhood. Because of this, Sanjeevani Booti must say that the people of other nearby neighborhoods who were in attendance at this event are not represented in this survey.

Costs

The following table shows the payable hours which applied to producing this event, conducting this survey, and compiling this report.

work description	hours	staff	total
event staffing	8	3	24
staff travel time	2	3	6
report statistics	3	1	3
Hindi to English translation	2	1	2
report writing	11	1	11
formatting / photoshopping	2	1	2
proofreading	1	3	3
total hours	-	-	51

As of May 2008, Rs 40 = \$1 US.

expense	price in rupees	units	total (Rs)	total (US)
labor per hour	200*	51	10200	\$255.00
meals during event	35	3	105	2.62
1000 printed flyers	940	1	940	23.50
xeroxed survey	1.5	100	150	3.75
pens and stationary	100	1	100	2.50
transportation (taxi)	400	1	400	10.00
clock gift**	41	28	1148	28.70
packaging for gifts**	200	1	200	5.00
	-	-	Rs 13243	\$331.07

*Sanjeevani Booti is currently working without salaried employees, so all workers are temporary and have to be trained *ad hoc*. The cost of labor shown here is an average per hour rate of many different costs and incorporates expenses related to training temporary employees for work and renting computer time for demonstrations. In actuality a salaried employee would probably get pay equivalent to around Rs 150 per hour, which is enough for correct pay and computer time for properly-trained, educated, well-written workers.

**Sanjeevani Booti purchased the gifts for the newlyweds with special funding designated by a donor for this sort of purpose.

Conclusion

The social workers met the stated objectives.

Social workers distributed more than 1000 flyers directly into the hands of individuals. Because of this, Sanjeevani Booti's existence as an NGO with educational programs related to HIV should be better known to the people in Medhiganj's Rajatalab neighborhood.

Definitely there was more demand for conversation than the staff at the information booth could reasonably handle given the venue. While the information table was an appropriate choice for reaching people at this event, there is sufficient cause to actually host a group meeting in Medhiganj where one educator can lead a discussion with many interested persons, instead of trying to talk to them almost singly and in succession such as has to be done in the setting of this project.

Contact information for Sanjeevani Booti was printed on the flyers but at this time we do not know how many people will actually contact the organization for more information. Some people already have and hopefully after establishing presence in the village through continued educational involvement the numbers of people who contact the office will increase.

The three social workers exceeded the goal of getting 50 complete surveys by getting 87 total. Sanjeevani Booti currently has no standards in place for judging what kinds of responses necessitate which kinds of NGO intervention efforts, but social work of this sort is completely new to the area so this study has been conducted without a hypothesis on what the results would be or what course of action should be taken in response to the results. The target of this survey was to create data to use as a starting point for conversation on HIV-related issues in nearby rural areas of Varanasi. To this end, this survey is sufficient and complete.

Social workers went to Medhiganj with 1000 flyers and hopes to distribute 750 of them directly into the hands of individuals, while leaving 250 of them at tea shops, stores, and in other community areas. Everyone involved considered it a success to have exhausted the supplies by personal distribution without leaving any behind to be found outside the presence of Sanjeevani Booti workers.

A particular person donated funding to Sanjeevani Booti for the purpose of charitable, non-research, comfort-bringing causes to Medhiganj villagers. Social workers and organization officers decided to use this money to purchase simple gifts for the newlyweds. At the cost of Rs 39 per clock the workers purchased 28 clocks, tagged them with the organization logo on the face and contact information on the back, packaged them appropriately with an educational flyer about HIV, and presented them to the wedding group.

Nandlal Master, director of the NGO Lok Samiti, publicly acknowledged Sanjeevani

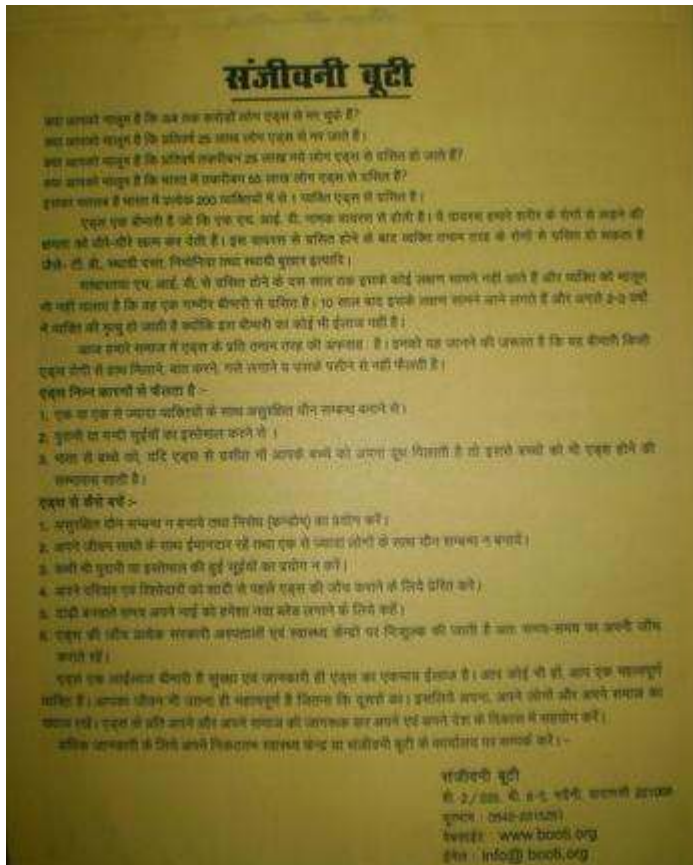
Booti's work in the village verbally during the wedding event and also in the written press release which went to local news sources. As a result of this event it is likely that this NGO will continue to assist Sanjeevani Booti in future health surveys in Medhiganj because this sort of work is mutually relevant and helpful.

The survey showed that 60-70% of the 87 people who responded to the questions had some knowledge of HIV or AIDS. The extent of this knowledge was not tested, but this survey paves the way for further assessments in the area.

The major conclusion that can be drawn from this work is that the villagers have heard of HIV and AIDS and they are responsive and even welcoming to talking about these things and other health topics with social workers.

Based on the results of this survey, Sanjeevani Booti workers recommend a more thorough survey project to be done in the same area. This new project should cover more people, have stricter controls, and ask more questions.

Scan of Hindi HIV Information flyer



This is a scan of the flyer* which was distributed at the event. 1000 of these were printed.

*This paper was never produced electronically. Printing in many places in India is often done more cheaply with movable-type printing, rather than digital formatting. Overwhelmingly the people who learn to type in India learn to do so in English, so Hindi typing work is relatively expensive to commission compared to English work. As a cost-saving measure for this situation, there is no Hindi-language digital-text master copy for reproduction in this report. The master copy is on paper and as a pdf scan only. - editor

English translation of Hindu HIV Information flyer

SANJEEVANI BOOTI

Do you know tens of crores of people have died from AIDS since it was first recognized in 1981?

Do you know almost 25,00,000 people die every year because of AIDS?

Do you know more than 25,00,000 new people get infected with HIV every year?

Do you know that we have almost 55,00,000 people living with AIDS in India and it means that 1 in every 200 people has HIV?

AIDS is a disease caused by a virus called HIV. There are lots of rumors about AIDS in our society. You must know that HIV doesn't spread by shaking hand, sweat, talking, hugging or sharing toilet with any HIV positive person. It can take up to six months after being infected with HIV for ordinary tests to show that you are HIV positive. After a person has contracted HIV, even before they test positive, it's possible for them to pass on the infection to others.

Since HIV makes our body unable to fight with any disease, you can get lots of diseases like TB, pneumonia, permanent diarrhea, permanent fever because of it. Usually it takes about 10 years after getting infected when you start feeling sickness but then you cant do anything to fight with this disease because there is no medicine that can cure you from AIDS.

How AIDS and HIV spread:-

- 1) The first way is sexual contact. This is by far the most common way that HIV spreads. The more sexual partners you have, the greater your risk of contracting HIV.
- 2) The second way is sharing of needles by injection. If a person with HIV uses a needle to inject a drug, some of their blood gets in and on the needle. If another person uses that same dirty needle, the other person may contract HIV as a result.
- 3) The third way is mother to child transmission. If a pregnant woman has HIV, she places the unborn child at risk for infection. After birth, if the child breastfeeds, they may become HIV positive through infected breast milk.

What do you need to do to be away from this disease :-

- 1) Use condoms and be safe.
- 2) Be honest to your husband or wife.
- 3) Never share or use old syringes.
- 4) Get yourself and your partner tested before getting married.
- 5) Get tested for HIV time to time.

There is no medicine for AIDS and HIV. Awareness is the only way to prevent it, make yourself and others aware about it.

No matter who you are, you are a valuable individual, and your life matters as do the lives of those in your community. Take care of yourself and those around you. Make healthy choices that eliminate or reduce your risk of contracting HIV.

For more details contact your nearest health care center or **Sanjeevani Booti** office at:

B2/225, B-6-A, Bhadaini, Varanasi- 221005

Uttar Pradesh

Telephone – 0542- 2315251

Website- booti.org

Email- info@booti.org

SANJEEVNI BOOTI
(an AIDS education and prevention centre)



क्या आप कोई ऐसी बीमारी के बारे में जानते हैं जो वृद्धों से ज्यादा जवान लोगों को होने का खतरा रहता है ?

क्या आप कोई ऐसी बीमारी के बारे में जानते हैं जो कि आज से चालीस साल पहले नहीं थी लेकिन आज बहुत आम बीमारी है ?

क्या आप कोई ऐसी बीमारी के बारे में जानते हैं जिसको डॉक्टर भी ठीक नहीं कर सकते हैं और जिससे हमेशा व्यक्ति की मृत्यु हो जाती है ?

क्या आप कोई ऐसी बीमारी के बारे में जानते हैं जो हमेशा एक व्यक्ति से दूसरे व्यक्ति में फैलती है ?

एच०आई०वी० नामक बीमारी के बारे में आप क्या जानते हैं ?

एड्स नामक बीमारी के बारे में आप क्या जानते हैं ?

क्या आप किसी को जानते हैं जिसे एच०आई०वी० या एड्स की बीमारी हो?

क्या आपको लगता है कि आपके समाज में एच०आई०वी० या एड्स है ?

आप कहाँ रहते हैं ?

क्या आप मुझे अपनी उम्र बताना चाहेंगे ?

क्या आप किसी ऐसे डॉक्टर, नर्स या स्वास्थ्य सलाहकार को जानते हैं जिससे आप एच०आई०वी० या एड्स के बारे में बात कर सकें ?

क्या आपके पास कभी कोई सरकारी स्वास्थ्य सलाहकार या समाजसेवी संस्था के कार्यकर्ता एच०आई०वी० या एड्स जैसी गंभीर बीमारी के बारे में जानकारी देने के लिए आये ?

Lok Samiti press release

Nandlal Master of Lok Samiti, the NGO which organized the group wedding, issued a press release after the event. Below is the text of this article first in English then in Romanized Hindi.

Without dowry 28 couples got married

28 families got satisfaction by giving their daughters as bride to bridegrooms (Kanyadaan) without dowry. Near Rajatalab at Shree Ambika Prasad Inter College, Bhairav Talab 28 couples became of each other without dowry. This was a new experience in their life. God knows that their long dreams of being married were fulfilled after long gap of time.

28 couples were married without dowry in Shree Ambika Prasad Singh Inter College. To live with each other for endless period (Saat Janm) they started their period with simplicity and gentleness, there was no worry of dowry and completely aloof from the modern pomp and show. The marriage was completed according to Hindu culture and mythology. Round about 7000 people were present on this occasion and participated in all the programs with high pleasure. Many participants offered gifts to the new couples with their blessings also. Lok Samiti gave bicycles, sewing machines, clocks and garments to all the couples. 30 pairs were to be married but because of some obstacles only 28 pairs were married but we have mind to help rest 2 pairs to get married.

Members of Lok Samiti were busy in preparation for the marriage for last one month. For this pious work Rs. 2,50,000 cash, grains, bicycles, sewing machines, watch and clothes were collected from others as help. We collected all donations from local people. We will send the list of all the donators and the list of those also who helped us in the program.

During the program Sanjeevni Booti (A Varanasi based NGO) got acquainted the mass present there in detail regarding AIDS and distributed the pamphlets amongst the people present there.

On this occasion Surendra Singh Patel, MLA, Varanasi, Dilip Singh, President Gangapur Nagar Panchayat, Suchita Patel, President, District Panchayat, Mahendra Singh, Block President, Anand Kumar Pandey, Editor, Purwanchal Vishesh Magazine, Srawan Kumar Roy, B.D.O., Head of village committee of 40 villages and many other VIPs were also present.

Many many thanks and congratulations to all who supported, cooperated and helped us in this program.

The previous report is a translation of the following Hindi one.

Bina Dahej ke 28 jogo ne kiya samuhik shadi

Bina Dahej ke Kanyadan karane ka sakun Saturday ko 28 family ko dekhane ko mila. Rajatalab ke pass Shree Ambika Prasad Singh Inter Collage Bhairav Talab me 28 jode bina dahej ke ek dusre ke ho gaye. Unke jiwani me ye naya anubhav tha. Na jane kitane dino se ankho me saj rahe khwab aaj hakikat me badal gaya. Shree Ambika Prasad Singh Inter Collage me Saturday ko bina dahej ke 28 jodo ki shadi kiya gaya. Sat janmo tak sang sang rahne ke unke safar ki shuruat sadgi aur shalinta ke sath hua. Na dahej ka jhanjhat aur na hi adhunikta ka chamak dhamak. Agar kuchh tha... to logo ka pyar aur aashirwad. Dhahej rahat shadi ki sabhi logo ne bahut swagat kiya. Hindu Riti Riway se shadi ki rasme achchha se karaya gaya. Kareeb 7000 logo ne programme me bhag liya. Logo ne apne apne tarah sabhi ko gift bhi diya. Lok Samiti ki taraf se ek bicycle, ek sewing machine, ek clock, aur kapade diya gaye aur sabhi sathiyon ko nasta karaya gaya. Shadi me total 30 logo ki shadi hona thi, lekin kuchh problem ke karan 2 logo ki shadi nahi ho paya, lekin bad me dono logo ko shadi me humlog madad kar rahe hai. Shadi ki taiyari last one month se Lok Samiti ke sabhi Sathi kar rahe the. Aur Shadi ke liye kareeb 2,50,000=00 (two lakh Fifty Thousand Rupees) Cash, Anaj, Bicycle, Sewing Machine, Watch, Aur Cloth sahyod ke rup me logo se madad liya gaya. programme me Jiwan Buti Trust ki Taraf se AIDS ke bare me jankari diya gaya aur logo ko pamphlets bhi bata gaya. humlog total chanda lokel logo se liye. hum jald hi programme me madad देने वाले सभी साथियों की list aur shadi ke kharcho ki report bhejenge. programme me MLA Surendra Singh Patel, Varanasi Gangapur Nagar Panchayat President Dilip Seth. District Panchayat President Smt Suchita Patel, Block President Mehendra Singh, Purwanchal Vishesh Magazine ke Samadak Anan Kumar Pandey, B.D.O Srawan Kumar Roy, Kareeb 40 Village ke Sarpanch (pradhan) Aur Bahut Se VIP logo ne bhag liya. Programme me sahyog देने वाले सभी साथियों को बहुत बहुत danywad aur badai.

Talak nahi, Dahej nahi, Shadi koi byapar nahi, Kharida hua Jiwan Sathi, Nari ko swikar nahi.....

Newspaper Article

There was a description of this event in three local newspapers. The following are scans of those articles.



बिना दहेज तीस जोड़ों ने लिये सात फेरे



वाराणसी/बेनीपुर/गंगापुर। लोक समिति की ओर से शनिवार को आरानीलाइन ब्लॉक के पेरवनाथ ह्पटर कालेज के प्रांगण में आयोजित सामूहिक विवाह समारोह में 30 जोड़े युवक-युवतियाँ परिणय सूत्र में बंधे। इस समारोह में बिना दहेज के कन्यादान हुआ। 30 परिवारों के चेहरे पर खुशी साफ झलक रही थी।

समारोह में अखि संतोष व भित्तल बिन्द ने कहा कि लड़की के शादी के लिए काफी परेशान थे। दहेज के कारण शादी छूट जाती थी। सामूहिक विवाह की तैयारी में समिति के कार्यकर्ता, करीब एक माह से लगे रहे। क्षेत्र के जनप्रतिनिधियों, ग्रामप्रधान,

मजदूर, किसान, बुढ़जीवी से दो लाख पचास हजार रुपये के सामान, नगद, अनाज, कपड़े आदि चंदे के रूप में इकट्ठा किये गये थे। प्रत्येक को एक साइकिल, एक सिलाई मशीन, कपड़े अर्पित दिये गये।

ब्लॉक प्रमुख मोहन सिंह पटेल ने प्रत्येक जोड़े को कलई धड़ी, नगर पंचायत गंगापुर के अध्यक्ष दिलीप सेठ व विधायक की पत्नी प्रमा पटेल ने साड़ी भेंट किया। इस मौके पर विधायक सुरेश सिंह पटेल, लोक समिति के संयोजक नन्दलाल, जिला पंचायत अध्यक्ष सुचिता पटेल, बीडीओ ब्रजण कुमार राय, सुरेश अर्पित थे। (संवाददाता)

वाराणसी जागरण

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भैरवताल्लव में आयोजित सामूहिक विवाह में फेरे लेते जोड़े।

जागरण

विवाहिता रिश्तेदार युवक के साथ भागी

वाराणसी : दीयानगी जब हद से पार हो जाती है तो सारी बंदिशें टूट जाती हैं। मंडुवाडीह इलाके में शनिवार को तीन बच्चों की मां पर प्यार का भूत कुछ इस कदर चढ़ा कि वह रिश्तेदार युवक के साथ भाग गई। घटना के बाबत विवाहिता के पति ने मुकदमा दर्ज करवाया है।

परिणय सूत्र में बंधे 30 जोड़े

वाराणसी: समाज में सामूहिक विवाह का आयोजन व्याप्त दहेजरूपी

कृतियों व आधुनिकता की चकाचीध से दूर रहते हुए 28 जोड़ों ने शनिवार को बाबा परवनाथ को साक्षी मानकर सात फेरे लिए और अपने दाम्पत्य जीवन की शुरुआत की। लोक समिति (नारंगपुर) के तत्वावधान में भैरव तालाब (राजावालाब) स्थित अंबिका प्रसाद सिंह इंटर कालेज में शनिवार को दोपहर में दहेजरहित सामूहिक विवाह का आयोजन किया गया। इस आयोजन में विभिन्न गांवों से आए प्रवीण-सुशीला, पारस-निशा, एसएम-रंजन, सत्यभाम-चांदनी, रविशंकर-शीला, शीतला-जमुनी, मुकेश-पूजा, गोपाल-सावित्री, तुभाष-सीमा, महेश-संगीता, भोला-रेखा, कमला-सोनी, सरस्वती-अर्जुन, अनिल-जानकी समेत कुल 28 जोड़ों का परंपरागत ढंग से विवाह करवाया गया। समारोह के मुख्य अतिथि सभा विधायक व पूर्व मंत्री सुरेंद्र सिंह पटेल थे। नवदंपति को विधायक की ओर से साइकिल, बनारसी साड़ी, ब्लॉक प्रमुख महेंद्र पटेल की ओर से कलाई घड़ी, गंगापुर नगर पंचायत अध्यक्ष दिलीप सेठ की ओर से एक-एक साड़ी व लोक समिति के नंदलाल मास्टर की ओर से एक-एक सिलाई मशीन दी गई। संपूर्ण कार्यक्रम जनसहयोग से किया गया। संवाहन लोक समिति के नंदलाल मास्टर ने किया।

Pictures of Clocks

An anonymous donor gave Sanjeevani Booti special funding to purchase gifts for the couples getting married at the Lok Samiti group wedding. Spending Rs 1350 (\$34 US) the social workers were able to buy 28 clocks printed with the Sanjeevani Booti logo on the face and contact information on the back. Also this money was enough for packaging, decorative wrapping, labels, and printings of educational materials related to HIV. At the wedding celebration social workers presented a package to each of the couples. The following pictures document this purchase. Thanks to the donor who made this possible!



Figure 6: the face has a Sanjeevani Booti logo; the back has contact info



Figure 7: the clocks measure 12x12" and came in various colors



Figure 9: Sonu presents a groom with a clock



Figure 8: packages wrapped in reflective red paper, which is traditional for weddings

Credits

The workers at Sanjeevani Booti thank everyone who made this project possible!

Nandlal Master - director of Lok Samiti

“Sonu” Anand Pandey- social worker

Raju Kumar Gaud - social worker

Raju - taxi driver

Raghvendra Upadhyay - project organizer, social worker

Lane Rasberry - American editor

anonymous donors