

## **Introduction**

<b>Project Title:</b>	Female Sex Workers
<b>Lead NGO:</b>	AIDS Prevention Association of Pakistan
<b>Partner NGO:</b>	Human_Development Organization of Pakistan Roshan Rasta
<b>Target Group:</b>	Female Sex Workers
<b>Location:</b>	Okara

According to National and International statistics, it is noted that the positive cases of HIV & AIDS have been increasing many fold in this part of the world and sex workers are one of major high risk population which are vulnerable to HIV & AIDS. There are some programs initiated at government and NGO level for sex workers in big cities of the country but it is an intense need to launch need based programs for the sex workers living in red light areas of small cities like Okara. The present study is conducted to fulfill the same objective of focusing on the red light areas of small cities.

### **Objectives:**

The main objectives of the project are:

- To promote HIV & AIDS and STIs information and prevention among female sex workers in light areas and its surroundings.
- To provide counseling & support services to Female sex workers.
- To identify the key risk behaviors
- To improve the safer sex negotiations skills.

### **Methodology**

Multiple methodologies were adopted to make the study more effective, including

- Survey research technique
- Detail interviewing
- Convenient Sampling
- Pre testing

### **Achievements**

- Knowledge regarding HIV & AIDS and STIs Prevention enhanced.
- Safer sex negotiation skills improved
- Condom use rate improved
- Access to the services regarding prevention of HIV&AIDS and STIs increased.
- Capacity strengthened

## **Challenges Faced**

### ***Non Participative Approach***

Due to social stigma attached to the female sex workers they feel uncomfortable disclosing their experiences, this proved to be a great hurdle in the way of project implementation.

### ***Fear of Law enforcement agencies***

Female sex workers feel hesitation in sharing their views because they had a fear that the details might be disclosed in front of Law enforcement agencies.

## **Lesson Learnt**

- Keeping in view the literacy level of Female Sex Workers interpersonal communication should be strategically used to promote information regarding HIV & AIDS and STIs.
- Female Sex Workers should be encouraged to work as peer educators.
- A continuous supply of condoms should be ensured to create a culture for the use of condoms among Female Sex Workers as well as clients
- Facilitate to provide client friendly and non judgmental health facilities especially about STIs for Female Sex Workers
- AIDS awareness programs should be started specifically for all the stakeholders at local level