

## **Handout-3**

**Bangladesh Manobadhikar Sangbadik Forum-BMSF**

**Program: Media Advocacy on HIV/AIDS & Human Rights**

# **HIV/AIDS related Stigma and Discrimination:**

**In Bangladesh HIV/AIDS related stigma & discrimination has already emerged as a serious threat to human rights issue. However, much more needs felt to remove the HIV related social stigma & discrimination beyond the preventive measures where infected people are increasing in an alarming rate.**

**The slogan of the last two years (2002-2003) world AIDS campaign were -“LIVE and LET LIVE”. The campaign focus theme on stigma and discrimination. The main objective of the campaign was to prevent, reduce and eliminating HIV/AIDS related stigma and discrimination, wherever it occurs and in all its forms.**

**The key messages include:**

- \* Stigma and discrimination are the major obstacles to effective HIV/AIDS prevention and care.**
- \* Stigma and discrimination violate basic human rights and thus should be prevented, eliminated or reduced.**
- \* Stigma and discrimination reinforce silence about the HIV/AIDS epidemic.**
- \* Stigmatizing and discriminating the high risk group will isolate these populations further and prevent them from accessing information and health care service.**
- \* Stigma hurts, it can have harmful effects on people's perceptions of themselves.**

- \* Involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS is central to eliminating stigma and discrimination & thereby reducing the impact of the epidemic.**
  
- \* Ostracizing people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWA) and restricting their daily life can inhibit their access to society and hamper their prospects for decent livelihood.**
  
- \* Stigma and discrimination affect the capacity of societies to respond constructively to the devastation caused by the epidemic.**

**Accordingly Ashar Alo Society & Mukta Akash (HIV positives self-help groups) above mention major problems faced by the positive peoples & vulnerable groups are as follows:**

- Lack of proper treatment facilities**
- Lack of social acceptances**
- Lack of job opportunity**
- Lack of Access to information**
- Lack of Rights to privacy**
- Lack of Rights to housing**
- Discrimination by family, society, health care professionals, workplace etc**
- Confidentiality- especially at health sector and by print & electronics media.**

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