

Taaras : Amplifying Voices, Envisioning Change





With the Avahan III project nearing its conclusion, a collective vision to ensure ongoing support for women in sex work prompted the collaboration of Swasti and its partner community organisations.

This effort led to forming a coalition in October 2016, with Swasti serving as the national secretariat.

This coalition, named Taaras, encapsulates the essence of 'rapid progress'.



Taaras is a **coalition of women in sex work (WSW) and their organisations**, that provides a platform for their voices, aspirations and joint actions.

Taaras rises above ideologies, geography federations, cultural and language divisions.

Taaras aims to **empower marginalized communities** and enable them to enjoy their rights as citizens, accessing services and support with dignity, and substantially reduce their vulnerability to health and other socio-economic risks .



Taaras is currently anchored in **5 states**, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Telangana, 21 regions,

Over **1000** plus active leaders and **62** community-based organizations

Working with over **1,20,000 community members**, on uplifting, mainstreaming and including marginalized communities.

Taaras Works Towards



Building a **community connected vibrant partnership** which evolves with time (and issues)

Inculcating a **community centric and community-engaged approach** in all interventions

Making community interventions **self-sustaining**

Systematically **addressing & mitigating** coercive and exploitative factors



Enhanced community leadership



Capacitated community organisations



Enhanced community wellbeing



Key highlights of what has been done so far



- Contributed towards - forming **India's HIV/AIDS Key Population** Network (Collaboration of 7 Networks)
- Succeeded in mobilizing an additional **10 million USD for COVID** Relief to KPs Relief from Global Fund.
- Played an important role in providing evidence to the Supreme Court for passing **historic judgment in India**-Distribution of free ration to all our community members without any document proof.
- During 1st & 2nd Covid wave, Taaras **facilitated Rs 112 crores** worth of Covid relief materials into the hands of communities
- Taaras made its mission to persuade and educate eligible communities about vaccination which resulted in **100% uptake of vaccination services** in the areas where Taaras is active

Voices of Resilience-Impact During Covid





Key highlights of 2023



In 2023, Taaras leaders participated in various national/international forums such as **NACO, UNAIDS, GFATM & actively engaged with different stakeholders**, amplifying community's voice & advancing the Taaras agenda.

Taaras-SMS secured a **11.5 crores** from Global Fund C19RM grants, focussing on social protection & CBO strengthening; a testament to effective and impactful initiatives.





The secretariat team marks **Taaras' 7 year journey** with a heartwarming celebration, honoring women leaders, advisors, and well-wishers. A booklet highlighting the achievements of Taaras was also released during the gathering.



Taaras
CELEBRATING SUCCESS
AND
HONORING HEROES



A JOURNEY OF
RESILIENCE
AND IMPACT



Climate Change & Health Initiatives

Taaras's holistic commitment shone through its proactive approach to climate change & health challenges. From mapping **climate risks to promoting awareness**, Taaras & secretariat team built resilient communities.

Health camps by Taaras COs addressed **high-burden conditions**, adding healthier days to Taaras members.

The secretariat team implemented a pilot program for **APL-AK health** insurance in Tamil Nadu, marking a significant step toward enhancing health outcomes.



In 2023, Taaras added **2,56,272 healthy days**, **1,63,646** members were risk assessed & treated for high burden conditions, **18,038** IDs, SP schemes & bank accounts were facilitated, **6,178** members benefitted through legal literacy sessions, **565** members started supplementary livelihoods and **1,034 families** in TN were enrolled for APL-AK health insurance covering a cover of 52 crores.



In the next 3 years, Taaras looks forward to further enhancing community well-being by focusing on resilience, leadership building, financial inclusion, and advancing health and livelihood with the support of partners and stakeholders.

Thank You!

