

Trucker - Highway Community Health Project Southern India

GUNA



Project Goals

- **Purpose**

The purpose of the project is to improve sexual health, contraceptive access and reduce the incidence of STIs and HIV among long distance lorry drivers and their sexual partners in the two southern states.

- **Goal**

The project has the goal of improving the sexual and reproductive health of long distance truck drivers working along the major highways passing through Tamil Nadu and Kerala, and their sexual partners.

Methodology



- HIV/ STIs Prevention **education** along with skills training in condom use is conducted during nights by professionally trained social workers in the education points located at different highways points in Tamilnadu and Kerala.

Condom Promotion



- Breaking the tradition of free condom supplies, the trucker's project has from inception, promoted sales of quality lubricated condoms through networks of local highway based outlets and in villages.
- The initiative has dispelled popular belief that men in rural areas can't be influenced to buy condoms. It has demonstrated that the critical issue is not affordability, but the the acceptance of the commodity.
- The increasing sales of even the 'premium' brands shows that if convinced of the health benefits to self and the family, truckers are willing to spend on condoms.

STI Care

- Trucker's project offers STI diagnosis and treatment services from permanent STI night clinics and a mobile clinic staffed by trained doctors. The syndromic case management approach is followed and high priority is placed on providing confidential services.
- Quality drugs and contraceptives are dispensed at subsidised rates, and counselling aims at ensuring follow-up and completion of the prescribed course.
- General & Sexual health services are provided to women at the villages through the mobile clinic.



Overview - Major achievements of the Truckers Project



- The project activities were expanded from **3** to **9** outreach sites, including **2** static clinics and a mobile clinic
- The project reached more than **250 000** truckers through one-to-one night-time education at the sites.
- **18 000** truckers revisited the sites for additional information and services.
- **400 000** condoms have been directly made available at the highway outlets.
- **22 000** truckers and **90 000** village women have accessed the clinical services.



- Condoms were made available through **200** outlets along highways and **100** village outlets.
- Mobile clinics complemented and supplemented static clinics to ensure comprehensive coverage and continuous service provision to communities.
- Mobile clinics operated continuously from the start to the end of the project.
- Effective management information and monitoring systems were developed and applied.
- Linkages with the National Truckers project and other similar outreach projects were established and lessons learnt have been shared.

Major Challenges

- ☞ The project experienced two different governance arrangements which led to operational difficulties. These were successfully overcome with the help of committed project staff.
- ☞ Lack of effective leadership and direction by board.

Future direction ?
