



## SOUTH ASIAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MARKETPLACE Competitions

Finalist - Proposal Number - 223

### “Reduction In Social Stigma and Discrimination Through Mixed Women (WLHA/Non WLHA) Group IG Activities”(MWGIGA)

#### OBJECTIVES

##### 1. Stigma Reduction



How can progress be made in overcoming this stigma and discrimination? How can we change people's attitudes to AIDS? A certain amount can be achieved through the legal process. People who are living with HIV/AIDS lack knowledge of their rights in society. They need to be educated, so they are able to challenge the discrimination, stigma and denial that they meet in society. Institutional and other monitoring mechanisms can enforce the rights of people living with HIV or AIDS and provide powerful means of mitigating the worst effects of discrimination and stigma. A more enabling environment needs to be created to increase the visibility of people with HIV/AIDS as a 'normal' part of any society.

##### 2. Community Acceptance

*SAVITA, Non - HIV MWGIGA Member, working in 'Electronic Unit' expressed ... I had fear in my mind to join MWGIGA and had number of misconceptions about HIV/AIDS. After joining MWGIGA, I slowly came to know about HIV/AIDS and WLHAs. Now we all work together, share each others meals, organize get together etc.. MWGIGA provided a good plat form for HIV +ve as well as HIV -ve women to understand each other ultimately reducing stigma about HIV and increasing community acceptance.*



**SBI Manager** ...It's our privilege to open MWGIGA account in our bank. The amount doesn't matter, but we feel a sense of satisfaction of fulfilling our Corporate Social Responsibility. Our bank will extend possible support to your group to stand on its own feet.

##### 3. Livelihood Options



###### **Vasanti .....**

*MWGIGA made me to be more open and confident about my HIV status and is a great relief for me. I no longer wanted to hide my HIV status and convince others to do so. The disclosure helped me to overcome self-stigma and it was a psycho medicine to be confident and strong. Vasanti is the key person in establishing MWGIGAs and innovating new ideas in tackling HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination. PLHIV Network is added advantage of MWGIGAs.*

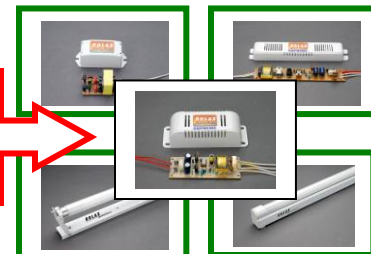


**MWGIGA Products**

**Vidya** ... Living with HIV, lost her husband 5 years back, was under heavy bank debt says, – Due to SAVE Foundation's intervention, bank considered my application for OTS & I came out of all debts. "Electronic Unit" by MWGIGA gave new life to me and my children. Now I am living with dignity.  
**Vidya's story was published on UNICEF web.**



SNP+ Sangli  
FAMILY  
WELFARE FUND



# SAVE Foundation

(An ISO 9001 : 2000 Certified NGO)



The World Bank  
Promoted

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#### A C T I V I T I E S



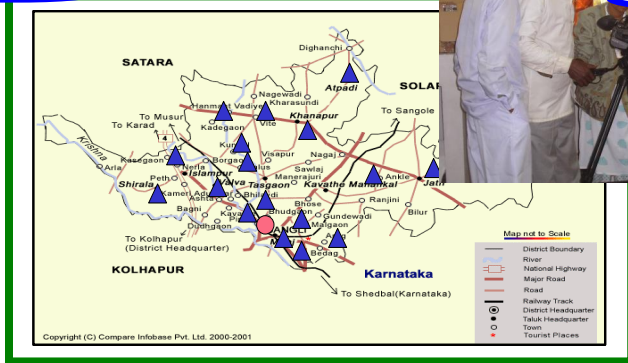
MWGIGA - Electronic Assembly Unit



UNDP – Video Doc. Trg. For PLHIV



Candle, Envelop Making



### HIV/AIDS Hard-Hit District – Sangli, Maharashtra MWGIGA – PLHIV Network



MWGIGA – Goat Rearing

Token of Appreciation



SHG Meetings



Dist. PLHIV Networking

