
COMMUNITY CONVENTIONS : SHARING EXPERIENCES, CELEBRATING LIFE

March has been a busy month, and there were different events across the month, celebrating community togetherness, their achievements and reaffirming their commitments to their people and their cause.

The Volunteer Convention in Kushtagi on March 10 and 11 saw care volunteers from four districts and eight talukas come together to share their stories, their experiences in supporting people with HIV, the way they had used their understanding about HIV and their experiences in addressing misconceptions and stigma from others in the community, small attempts to save money to generate resources. Over the two days, each taluka wise group got an opportunity to tell the stories of what they had done. They presented the stories effectively through different programme media, and the volunteers from the other areas listened, learnt from the experiences and went away inspired to do more. The final session of the event was presided over by religious leaders who shared about the importance of voluntarism in society.



On March 12, in Raichur, there was a CBO convention where CBOs of women in sex work from five districts participated. It was a day when the CBOs shared their achievements, their dreams and aspirations. A cultural programme capped off the evening, as the CBOs got an opportunity to review their work and celebrate their achievements, before preparing for the challenges in the coming years, as they forge their strong and independent identity through their work.

On March 13, in Karwar, it was the turn of the CBOs of sexual minorities from four districts to celebrate. These are young organizations who have registered themselves over the last year. On this day, there was mutual appreciation for their work and a renewed commitment to continue the work.