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Apply 'each one teach one' in spreading AIDS awareness

KPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Feb 20: "The Parliament should be more open to the HIV/AIDS issue. The Parliament enactment along with the public support is needed to spread awareness among people. The motto of 'each one teach one' has to be applied here", said Maharashtra Governor S M Krishna.

Addressing the gathering after inaugurating the state-level conference on HIV/AIDS and drug abuse at Town Hall on Sunday, Krishna said that Maharashtra is one of the states which has high

number of HIV/AIDS-afflicted people.

"The link between Maharashtra and coastal Karnataka is that most of the people from this region have settled in Maharashtra. But people who have been to Mumbai have also been afflicted by AIDS.", opined Krishna.

He said that AIDS should not be considered as a sexual disease. Several other factors can also be responsible for AIDS. It can also be hereditary, he added.

Veenadhari from VALORED, Mangalore, lamented that even today



Maharashtra Governor S M Krishna inaugurates the state-level conference on 'HIV/AIDS and drug abuse' held at Mangalore Town Hall on Sunday, while Bhandary Foundation president Manjunath Bhandary, MLC Blasius D'Souza, UNDP, HIV and Development advisor Dr S Sundarraman and others look on.

the social stigma prevails in the minds of the people about AIDS. "People still do not know the difference between HIV and AIDS. They feel HIV is AIDS and AIDS means death", said Veenadhari.

She called upon all the HIV/AIDS afflicted to lead a normal life, as the society can be changed only if they start living their lives normally, she said.

UNDP, HIV and Development advisor Dr S Sundarraman said, "HIV/AIDS is all about denial. Many people think whether HIV can be

real. We have to get out of this denial. Most people think that they have nothing to do with AIDS and this has resulted in the slow dissemination of the awareness among the people," he said.

Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) registrar Dr Srinivas Gowda said: "Though there is no cure for AIDS, there is a treatment for it. Retroviral is the medicine, which can prevent the foetus from HIV/AIDS from an afflicted mother."

He also lamented that HIV among the married

women has been increasing. "Societal norms have made women dependent lambs. I made to accept things without question. This has made pay for something they have not seen."

Parliamentary member on HIV/AIDS co-membror J D MLC Blasius Omega Hospitaling director Verghese, R I Karnataka Ne people Living Bhandary Foundation chairman N Bhandary were the programme