



## **Ishwar Gilada**

### ***India***

The first person to raise the alarm against AIDS in India (1985) and to start India's first AIDS Clinic (1986) at the government-run JJ Hospital, Mumbai, Dr Ishwar Gilada is a globally acclaimed HIV expert, credited with bringing India on the AIDS control map of the world. He is the President, AIDS Society of India (ASI) and Secretary General, Peoples Health Organisation-India (PHO) and Governing Council member of International AIDS Society.

After medical school at Government Medical College, Aurangabad, he sub-specialized in Skin and STDs with an acclaimed dissertation: "Pattern of STDs among Hijras (transgenders)", that also fetched him Diplomate of American Board of Sexology. He then became the first Indian to receive HIV training at San Francisco General Hospital and University of Medicine and Dentistry, New Jersey (1987).

To tackle medico-social problems of the downtrodden, he established PHO, (formerly Indian Health Organization); the premier NGO that spearheaded India's HIV awareness campaign and sensitized governments and people about the impending epidemic. PHO is acclaimed for its HIV intervention and projects for sex-workers (Saheli Project) and for PMTCT (PHO-Wadia model) were replicated at several places globally and been part of the UNAIDS Best Practices. The US-India Business Council named PHO the most outstanding Indian NGO (1997). OY Millennium Films, Finland featured his work in 'Saheli-a friend in need' that received Prix Italia 2001 Award. He has toiled hard for abolition of Devadasi system (cult-based prostitution) and controlling child prostitution in India.

He had initiated, supervised and evaluated 38 AIDS projects in 7 Indian states; worked as consultant for American Foundation for AIDS Research, World Vision International, USAID; evaluated Zambia's National STD/AIDS Control programme. Till date, he addressed over 3700 meetings and training programmes in India and in several high HIV burden African nations. He has 78 awards to his credit. The Junior Chamber International, USA conferred on him "The Outstanding Young Person of the World" award at Glasgow (1995). He was awarded the coveted Annemarie Madison International Award in Munich and was termed 'the Indian Machinegun against AIDS' (1999). Among several firsts, he started India's first comprehensive HIV clinic, Unison Medicare and Research Centre, Mumbai(1995), that manages 6750 patients. It was declared HIV care model for resource-poor settings at the 12th IAC, Geneva, and was replicated in India and Africa.

He served as National AIDS Committee Joint Secretary (1995-1997), on AIDS Society in Asia and Pacific (ASAP) Governing Board (1992-1994), was AIDS Advisor for Goa and Uttar Pradesh states (1995-1999), and was on Global AIDS Policy Coalition and AIDS and Reproductive Health Network boards under Dr Jonathan Mann (1992-2000).

He founded Asian Solidarity against AIDS-ASAA (1991), was its Secretary till 2004. From 1993-2008, he was Editor-Publisher of AIDS ASIA for ASAA, Asia's first AIDS newsletter; which received the Best NGO Magazine award (1999, 2000, 2003) by the Association of Business Communicators of India. He is one of the founders and is Secretary General of Organised Medicine Academic Guild – a federation of professional medical organization in India, established in 2018.

One of his seminal contributions, in strengthening India's AIDS response, in 38 years of professional career, is training thousands of students, doctors, nurses, social workers and counselors in HIV-care. He is one of the founders of AIDS Society of India; which is a professional body of HIV physicians and researchers in India, established on lines of IAS, under guidance of former IAS presidents Late Dr. Mark Wainberg and Dr. Stefano Vella (2000) and was its Secretary General (2005-2011).

He has published/presented 270 scientific papers globally including IACs from 1989 and IAS Science from 2001, Plenary at IAC-Amsterdam, authored chapters on AIDS/STDs and sex-workers. He had organized and chaired World Congress on AIDS, Mumbai (1990), 10 satellite seminars at IACs and 11 national AIDS conferences in different cities of India. He has been IAS member since 1989 and his bids were shortlisted for IAS Conferences twice (2013, 2019).