

# YOUNG CONSUMER

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**“Use condom for protection The cool choice!”**

*Salman Khan, Actor*


**“Life Camera! Action! All with your life partner only”**


*Shilpa Setty, Actor*


**“Delay Sexual debut for a great innings ahead”**


*Rahul Dravid, Indian Cricket Team*

## FACTS

 Globally India is second only to South Africa in terms of the overall number of people leaving with the disease.

 NACO estimated that there the numbers of Indians living with HIV increased by 500,000 in 2003 to 5.1 million. Around 38 percent of these people were women.

 By the end of May 2005, the total number of AIDS cases reported in India was 109,34 of whom 31,982 were women. This data also indicated that 37% of reported AIDS cases were diagnosed among people under 30. Many more AIDS cases go unreported.

 The UN population Division projects that India’s adult HIV prevalence will peak at 1.9% in 2019. The UN estimates there were 2.7 million AIDS deaths in India between 1980 and 2000-15, the UN has projected 12.3 million AIDS deaths




With World A I D S Awareness Day on Dec 1, the Delhi government released grim statistics on HIV/AIDS cases in the delhi

- 42,000 Number of HIV+cases in Delhi
- 1,977 Number of full blown AIDS cases
- 1 in 10 affected people aware of condition
- 340 of every 3 lakh kids born each year test positive for HIV

*Source: HT*

and 49.5 million deaths during 2015-50.

 A 2002 reported by the CIA’s National Intelligence Council predicted 20 million to 25 million AIDS cases in India by 2010.

### The Red Ribbon

Red Ribbon is the international symbol of HIV and AIDS awareness. It is being worn by increasing number of people around the world to demonstrate their care and concern about HIV and AIDS, for those who are ill, for those who have died, and for those who care for and support the affected. This year World AIDS Day, December 1, is about wearing the Red Ribbon, as a sign of support for people living with HIV and a symbol of hope for the future. Wearing a Red Ribbon is the first step in the fight.

The Red Ribbon offers a symbol of hope and support for those living with HIV, for the continuing education of those not infected, for maximum efforts to find effective treatments, cures or vaccines and for those who have lost friends, family members or loved ones. So please make sure you show off your Red Ribbon this year!





## EDITORIAL

Did you know 1st of December was World AIDS Awareness Day? If you do - how are you observing it? We suggest you try to look out for information which will empower you to deal with one of the most complex problems facing today's youth. What kind of information do you need? First: get your facts right. There is plenty of help from all quarters. Print and visual media are full of information. There are websites, helplines, NACO is working specifically with the youngest people to empower them. Government has launched a massive initiative called 'Yuva' in its schools to spread AIDS awareness. There is a whole lineup of celebrities queuing up to associate themselves with the AIDS Awareness programme. So there is absolutely no room for ignorance on this front. You are all growing young people. You need information to protect yourself now and in the future. The market with its constant focus on youth and its needs will steer you into dangerous pathways if you don't wake up Now!

**So Rise and Shine!  
All the best.**

Roopa Vajpeyi

### Who said what: about that Sania or Khusboo said:

**Aamir Khan, Actor**

"We don't have the right to bully someone and curb their freedom of speech"

Do you agree? Yes No

**Shobhaa De, Author and Columnist**

Khushboo is just a soft target for a highly politicised issue."

Do you agree? Yes No

**Mahesh Bhatt, Filmmaker**

"The message this is going to send out is 'stay quiet; and 'don't mess around'."

Do you agree? Yes No

**Arundhati Nag, Actor**

"Sex is something we need to talk to youngsters about for their own good"

Do you agree? Yes No

### Make your voice heard!

Feel strongly about this debate?

We would like to hear from you.

If you have anything to say about the contents of this newsletter

If you would like to make your views public to the media - write a letter to the Editor of leading news dailies/magazines.

If you have suggestions for, or an opinion on, the sex education programme in your school.

Contact us at

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Mail us at [editorial@consumer-voice.org](mailto:editorial@consumer-voice.org)

**Join the  
queue of  
people working  
for AIDS  
Awareness..**

**Shabana Aazmi**

**Javed Akhtar**

**Shah Rukh Khan**

**Amitabh Bachchan**

**Rahul Bose**

**Lara Dutta**

**Salman Khan**

**Shilpa Shetty**

**Rahul Dravid**

**Kapil Dev**

**Bono**

**Elton John**

**Will Smith**

**Elizabeth Taylor**

**Richard Gere**

**Bill Clinton**

**Beyonce Knowles**

**Charize Theron**

**Nicole Kidman**

**Madonna**

**Julia Ormond**



## Sania Mirza: A soft target?

The 19-year tennis sensation is in news more for her statements than for her game. Her assertive support of safe sex led people to criticise her for ‘supporting’ actress Khusbhoo’s statements. Vinod Mehta, in his column in the *Outlook* (5 Dec 2005),



“**S**ex education is a must in our schools. When the schools fail to teach sex, parents should educate their children about sex. In my opinion sex is not only related to body; it’s got a lot to do with our minds... When indulging in pre-marital sex, the girl should guard herself against pregnancy and sexually-transmitted diseases...”

***Khushbo, actress, in a Guest Column appearing in India Today’s Tamil Edition September 2005***

lamented the way the media has put her under stress. He said of Sania Mirza, “This sublime 19-year-old is a national treasure, a living symbol of Indian Muslim womanhood who even at a tender age has managed to combine the best elements of modernity and tradition . Yet, day in and day out we subject her to humiliation, punishment and stress...”

DO you agree?  
Yes No

## HIV/AIDS and consumer rights: are they related?

Do you think consumer issues are just about products and services, or do issues of sexual health and education also fall in its ambit?

Well, two of the eight consumer rights are:

- Right to information
- Right to education
- Right to safety

In that context, ensuring that everybody is adequately guarded against diseases that may happen because of a rash choice, lack of information, access to education and that one has access to quality health care and safe products if one acquires any disease, is indeed a consumer right.

## Do you agree?

See which of the following opinions you agree with:

- ✓ I want our school and teachers to discuss safe sex, sexually transmitted diseases, and emotional health more openly. I think its important.
- ✓ Sex education in our schools is adequate. We are happy with it.
- ✓ I feel we still do not discuss sex and relationships as openly as we should.
- ✓ All schools should have a counsellor with whom we should be openly able to talk about our health problems/issues, including sex.
- ✓ In a physical relationship, it should be the girl's choice.
- ✓ It is OK to promote use of condoms – they are safe.
- ✓ Sex education will start for students of govt. schools from 11 years onwards called 'Yuva'. It is a good move.



## Agony Aunts and Uncles of School Campus

All of 16 they are the newest agony aunts and uncles on the school campus – training and counseling peers and juniors about irresponsible sexual behaviour, aggression and substance abuse.

These “peer trainers”, are no geeks but among the most popular kids in school, who also happen to be good students. Take Modern School, Barakhamba's Pia, who besides being a school topper is a gifted



speaker, dancer and swimmer. Or her batchmate Nilashish, who is a dancer, a badminton player and theatre artiste. The duo, along with other selected batchmates, will soon don their new role; they will talk to middle schoolers and clear their misconceptions about sex.

“Eleven and 12-year-olds are not kids anymore”, says peer trainer Virkein. Pia adds : “We will give them facts early on so that they don't behave irresponsibly later”. The trainers, who have already held a talk on anger management, will also put up a play on drug abuse.

At least four peer trainers from Class XI are being trained to impart “life skills” education to their peers and juniors in 20 schools in the Capital, including Modern School, DPS, Dwarka and Naval Public. Dr. Jitendra Nagpal, consultant psychiatrist and project director, Expressions, under which the peer trainers are trained, says: “Adolescents world-wide are being seen as an important human resource group in promoting a psycho-social friendly environment in school.”

Naval Public School counselor Rupa Murgai says, “teens may not always be able to communicate with their parents or teachers, but can surely open up with their peers. Not surprisingly, peer trainers sometimes ask their teachers to step out during sessions with their juniors and peers, so that the students can open up more.” The sessions continue long after the peer trainers are done with their presentations, “Juniors often come up to us during lunch breaks and in the bus for guidance, “ says Richa, a DPS Dwarka peer trainer.

Source: Hindustan Times