

Dear Comrade sudha,

HPV vaccination was started in Khammam District on 19th August, 2009. Its 2nd dose was given in October and the 3rd dose in January, 2010. 7000 people in Palair Division (Plane Area), 2500 people in Kothagudem Municipal Area, 4600 people in Bhadrachalam Tribal Area got HPV vaccination. All these people were girls in the age group of 10-14 years.

There was virtually no pre-information or campaign before the actual vaccination. The District Collector also did not bother to recognize the importance of educating the target group before they were vaccinated. In fact, a lady warden of a Government Gurukul School's hostel raised her objection when she was told that the HPV was being administered first time on a trial basis. She called a parents meeting and took their consent and then only let the girls vaccinated. At this place, two girls developed severe headache and had vomiting. Immediately these two girls were rushed to the hospital for treatment. In view of this, the authorities had to organize a health camp and provided doctors as a pre-cautionary measure.

In Bhadrachalam Rural Mandal (Tribal Area) Sode Sayamma, a 14 year old girl hailed from Erragattu village, was given the 1st dose of HPV on 17th August and she passed away on 29th of the same month, August. Feeling exhausted she often used to leave her hostel for home. She was at her home during the last week of her life. She complained that she had been suffering from stomachache and headache ever since she was given the vaccine. On 29th August, she developed a severe stomachache. Her uncle, Madhava Rao took her on his motor cycle to a local doctor, Narendra Kumar who advised him that she better be taken to a bigger hospital in Bhadrachalam. Upon the advise of the local doctor, her uncle immediately took her on his motorcycle to a bigger hospital in Bhadrachalam. Within 2 hours after reaching the hospital in Bhadrachalam Sode Sayamma passed away. There was neither foam in her mouth and nor any poison smell. Her face appeared so calm and peaceful. Her father's name is Muda Raju and her mother Maremma.

Kudumula Saritha, a 13 year old girl, hailing from a village called Anjipaka of Dummugudem Mandal was given 3rd dose in January 1st week. Soon after she got the vaccine she had fits and collapsed. Teachers sent her to a hospital. Her Parents – Nageswara Rao and Venkatamma – were informed about her health condition and requested them to take her home. This girl's parents were not informed about the HPV vaccination and its reaction. She was out of moods even after taking back home. Her parents didn't suspect anything serious. On January 22nd, as she developed a severe headache while her father was taking her to a hospital in Bhadrachalam she passed away midway.

Police were clueless about the death of these girls, Sode Sayamma and Kudumula Saritha they entered in the FIR that these girls committed suicide by taking pesticide! Basing on this they prepared postmortem reports. AIDWA met the families of the deceased girls and local leaders and found out the actual cause of these deaths. The facts related to these deaths were released to the media. AIDWA also met the District Collector, who acquired

a report that states altogether 4 girls were dead due to HPV vaccination. Swathi of Kamepally and Lakshmi of Kothagudem were also the victims of this vaccination programme.

In this background, the vested interests have started cooking up all sorts of false stories such as the said deaths are due to various reasons. However, the AIDWA has found that several girls are still suffering from headache and stomachache. There is no doubt that this is a clear case of making the poor and innocent people as guinea pigs and the government of AP and its bureaucracy is complacent in taking proper action. Concerned ministers are callous in their response.

We demand that

1. there should be national policy on this kind of medical experimentation
2. unless it is proved safe untried medicines should not be administered
3. there should be thorough enquiry into these deaths by eminent doctors
4. proper compensation to the aggrieved families should be paid
5. all the sufferers should be provided proper medical treatment

AIDWA AP COMMITTEE