

The Right to Vaccination



Shobha Gaikwad
H.no. 38, Rajendra Nagar, Kolhapur

Shobha Jinder Gaikwad, a resident of Rajendra Nagar, Kolhapur is HIV positive and which is the main reason why she has been denied COVID-19 vaccination from different hospitals.

People with HIV face a tough life owing to constant discrimination that leads to stress. While the National Immunisation Programmes of COVID-19 does not exclude individuals from critical vulnerable groups such as the slum settlements, it is also true that such persons are not given priority. Such was the case of Shobha. A mother of 2 children, Shobha works as a garbage collector. She got infected with HIV through her husband who passed away a few years back. She visits the health centre every month to collect her generic medicines. She felt it was important to get vaccinated against COVID-19 but was denied by Health Officers at the camp as well by the hospital authorities. She faced rejections everywhere. This incident got the attention of Shelter Associates while registering people on the CoWin app at Rajendra Nagar as a part of its Vaccination Drive across the city of Kolhapur.

Shelter Associates took the initiative and got in touch with the Kolhapur Municipal Corporation Deputy Commissioner and the Health Officers to highlight this issue and help such people get vaccinated. This suggestion was taken seriously by the officials and Shobha got her first vaccine at the Vaccination camp organised by Shelter Associates at Rajendra Nagar. Through such interventions and interactions with medical authorities, Shelter Associates team made sure that people like Shobha are not denied their basic right towards medical safety.



During the vaccination camp