



High Risk Behaviour: Sharing of needles among intravenous drug users exposes them to easy transmission of the virus.

schools, social meetings and public gatherings are shy about talking about the risks of unprotected sex.

Mohammad Ali, a school teacher in a village of Cox's Bazar district says, "I did not want to believe HIV infection could reach our community but since it is hidden and can spread through anyone who is positive we have to be cautious. I think it is time for religious leaders to come forward in preventing the spread of HIV it."

A local NGO recently trained Ali on

awareness of HIV/AIDS and he has been holding small gatherings in his courtyard to talk about HIV/AIDS. Likewise, many other religious leaders in the community have started similar courtyard talks to make people aware about HIV/AIDS.

"People used to feel shy about talking about things like using condom. But as elderly people have started talking about it no one seems to feel shy about it anymore," says Ali's fellow teacher Mazed Khorram.

