

Report of the State Level Stakeholders Consultation, Telangana 25th September 2017

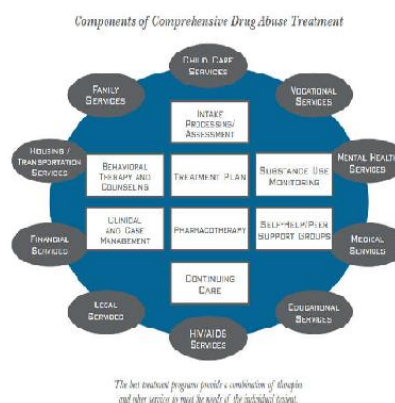
The State Level Stakeholders Consultation was organised in the Office of the Director, Drugs Control Administration, Vengalrao Nagar, Hyderabad, on 25th September 2017. The consultation was attended by 15 stakeholders representing different line departments of the State and the team of coordinating and implementing agencies. There was also representation from the study districts – Warangal, Karimnagar, and Hyderabad.



The consultation was chaired by Sri. Amruth Rao, Joint Director, Licensing & Controlling Authority, Drugs Control Administration, Hyderabad. In his opening remarks, he briefed about the importance of Survey in the present day context. He briefly narrated the process of the survey and the role to be played by each line department. He also briefly explained about the previous survey conducted during 2004.



After extending warm welcome, Dr.Bala Naganjan, Nodal officer, Telangana explained the Survey process in the state and the background for the Survey. He explained about components of comprehensive Drug abuse and treatment. He provided information related to the National Survey on drug abuse which was initially conducted in the year 2004 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, New Delhi, Government of India. He shared that the study had revealed the prevalence of use of various substances among the population in the country was – 21% Alcohol, - 3% Cannabis, - 0.7% opium derivation. He also indicated that after the year 2004, no study was conducted and which could provide estimate of the burden of drug use epidemic in the



country. Hence the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has commissioned as “National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance (Drugs) Use in India”. This survey would be led and co-ordinated nationally by the N.D.D.T.C, AIIMS, New Delhi. Dr.Bala Naganjan also briefed about the study strategies of Household Survey and Respondent Driven Sampling Survey.

Soon after the opening remarks and welcome address, Further, a presentation on the survey is proposed by the Technical Team of Dr.Uma Shankar, Dr.Shiv Kumar and Dr.Girish Kumar. Dr. Shiv Kumar gave a detailed presentation on the National Survey and processes associated in the Survey through power point presentation. The stakeholders were explained about the objectives, three strategies of Survey i.e, Household Survey, Respondent Driven Sampling Survey and Thematic Studies apart from the Service Providers online Survey, which would provide both State specific and National level data and information.



Mr. P.C.Kasinath, the Regional Coordinator for Telangana & Andhra Pradesh from Regional Resource and Training Centre, South detailed about the operational arrangements in-terms of Districts, Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) and the field arrangement for survey were also shared with the stakeholders. He expressed that, the participation from different line departments indicated the importance given to the Substance (Drugs) use and the need for understanding the issue both in-terms of extent and pattern of substance use.



Towards the end of the presentation, the expected support from each of the line department was also explained. The stakeholders were informed that the field team headed by the State Coordinator, Mr.Sanjeev Kumar, One of the Supervisors, Mr.Hanumanth Rao Patil, would approach them before initiating the National Survey activities in the district for necessary support and cooperation.

Sri. Amruth Rao, Joint Director, Drugs Control Administration initiating the open discussion remarked that each department can contribute to the successful implementation of the Survey in the State. experience of conducting Drugs related survey. Expressing his views on the Surveys like this, he indicated the importance of Survey tools, data coding and ensuring confidentiality for the successful accomplishment of the task. The stakeholders were briefed about the content of the tools, methods of real time information collection through data collection devises to ensure confidentiality.



The open discussion could generate good number of points, which included clarifications, suggestion and the support which each department can ensure for the successful completion of the study in the State. Some of the key points included:



- District Revenue Officer of Hyderabad has suggested to include GHMC personnel in the Survey
- Prohibition and Excise department has suggested involving Rangareddy District in the present survey as only three districts were selected/nominated for the 1st phase survey.
- Dr. Srinivas. SRRY, Professor and HOD, Psychiatry, Kakatiya Medical College, Warangal has informed certain concerns related to the survey like
 - Maintenance of confidentiality of the survey
 - Conduction of interview for household personnel and difficulties that arise during conduction of interviews.
 - Proposed incentive may not be so worthy in case of Respondent Driven Survey Sampling when considered to the amount spent by the persons who use drugs/substances etc.,
 - Suggested that the data obtained during the survey should be confidential.
 - Concern on the names in Aadhar cards with respect to the people interviewed.
 - Tech Mahendra as the Technical partner who supports the software for the survey.



- Training for four days is provided for the personnel of technical team who are involved in the survey.
 - It is informed that interviews will be conducted in three parts for each household and proposed time for interview of one household is around two (2) hours and proposed targets per team is four (4) households per day.
- Sri.K.Chandrasekhar, District Prohibition Officer, Karimnagar has suggested to hold a meeting with Officers of Municipal Corporation of Karimnagar as the 1st Phase survey is going to be conducted in Karimnagar district.
- Sri.Ch.Vijay, Assistant Prohibition and Excise Superintendent, Prohibition and Excise Department – has informed the many cases were reported on consumption of toddy mixed with certain drugs like Diazepam and alprazolam etc., and suggested to include toddy consumers also in the survey.
 - Certain Pharmaceutical products which are part of the survey are enlisted.
 - Informed about the users of the substances with respect to the class of the people like poor, middle, upper middle and rich class as different class people are drug abusers of different substances based on their availability to such class and also informed that it is difficult to identify the class of the personnel using such substances like LSD, Heroine, cocaine etc and users of these substances are to be focused.
- Sri.V.Sarveshwar Reddy, Additional Director (FAC), Tribal welfare department suggested that
 - Concerns on the difficulties that arise in positioning teams in tribal area.
 - Illicit manufacturing of the substances in the tribal areas are also to be taken into consideration
- Smt. Lakshmi Devi, Joint Director, Women & Child Welfare Department – suggested that orphan children are also taken into consideration for the survey and informed that major drug abuse is seen in juvenile child and they should be included in the Focused thematic Studies of the Survey.
- There was a concern about revealing of a particular substance use as the person may not know the actual scientific name, through which the investigator may not be able to identify and match the substances (drugs). It was felt that the training of investigators is very crucial. Responding to this the stakeholders was explained about the training provided and agency associated as Regional Technical Agency (Institute of Mental Health) and their involvement in the training of field investigators.
- Responding to a question related to the role and support expected from each department, the Nodal Officer and the Regional Coordinator indicated that:
 - District Administration: Can provide visibility to the study, issue letter of support, ensure Government facility for accommodation to field teams
 - Police Department: Can ensure safety of the field teams through sharing the information of Survey villages and information about the field teams including their contact details along with the photographs. The identity card, which is issued by the Nodal Officer would be counter signed by the concerned district police official
 - Health Department: Can ensure support when the field team has any health related issues and also make available the first aid kits. As the ICTC, STI counsellors are going to be part of RDS as interviewers, the concerned

DM&HO can issue instructions and permit the counsellors to attend training and associate with the Survey activity. The concerned District Project Managers may be permitted to support the team in planning the field route and link up necessary Government support

- Narcotic Control and Excise Department: Help the team in identifying SEEDS for the RDS Survey
- Social Welfare Department: Can provide accommodation support and also monitor the survey activities during their field visits
- Transport Department: Can facilitate local travel and support the field team
- Medical college: can provide space for RDS interviews
- Municipal corporations and Zilla Parishad Office: Can support the field team when the survey is operational in urban areas by providing accommodation support and monitoring

The consultation was concluded with the vote of thanks and reaffirming that the concerned Supervisor along with the State Coordinator would visit the district officials along with list of PSUs before initiating the work in the district and seek their support for successful completion of the Survey.

P.C.Kasinath
Regional Coordinator