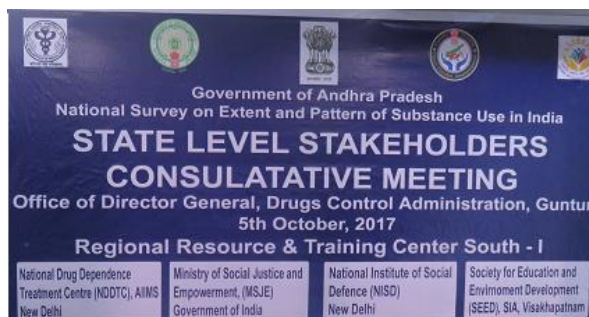


## Report of the State Level Stakeholders Consultation, Andhra Pradesh

The State Level Stakeholders Consultation was organised in Office of the Director General, Drugs Control Administration, Chuttugunta, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The consultation was attended by 32 stakeholders representing different line departments of the state (list enclosed). There was also representation from the study districts – Anantapur, Guntur, Prakasam and Visakhapatnam.



The consultation was chaired by Dr. A. Ravishakar, IPS, Director General and Dr. Ravishankar in his opening remarks, briefed about the relevance of Survey in the present day context of increasing drug use among different categories of sub-population including school and college going students. He briefly narrated the process of the survey and the role to be played by each department. He also remarked that all levels of stakeholders support is required to ensure successful implementation of the Survey and the current consultation aimed towards seeking the support at State level and subsequently the district and sub-district officials will be part of the consultations.



After extending warm welcome, Mr. P. Vinay Kumar, Nodal officer, Andhra Pradesh explained the Survey process in the state and the background for the Survey. He remarked that, the participation from different 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 by the departments. He also remarked that, though there were some time lapses, the representation from the departments infuses the confidence of supporting the national mission of understanding the magnitude of the drug use in the country.

Soon after the opening remarks and welcome address, Mr. P.C.Kasinath, the Regional Coordinator for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana from Regional Resource and Training Centre, South provided a detailed overview about 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. Later, the operational arrangements in-terms of Districts, Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) and the field arrangement for survey were also shared with the stakeholders. 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. Surya Prakash Rao, Ms. Ch. Chinnamma, Supervisor for Guntur and Visakhapatnam, Dr. Chandra Sekhar, Supervisor for Anantapur and Prakasham would approach them before initiating the National Survey activities in the district for necessary support and cooperation.



Mr. M.B.R. Prasad, Director Drugs Control Administration initiating the open discussion remarked that the Department has 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:

- It was felt that this kind of nation-wide survey could also make use of social media as one of the source for information collection
- 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