

Report of the State Level Stakeholders Meeting - “National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India”

Date : 18.09.2017, Monday

Venue : Health Conference Hall

Time : 5.05 to 5.45 p.m.

Introduction:

A State Level Stake holders meeting on National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India was organized by the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Tamilnadu, in collaboration with the Regional Resource & Training Centre, RRTC SOUTH – I, TTK Hospital, Chennai.

Meeting Objective:

1. To mobilize support from the State Government and involve the key stakeholders for the smooth roll-out of National Survey – Data Collection in 7 districts in Tamilnadu.
2. To evolve the consensus on the operational aspects of the survey.
3. To find out the feasibility of conducting the survey in 7 selected districts from law and order and logistics perspective.



The following participants had attended the meeting:

1. Mr. Kiran Gurella I.A.S. Deputy Secretary of Health and Family Welfare.
2. Mr. Lalvena I.A.S. Commissioner of Social Defence.
3. Dr. P. Banu , Director of Medical Services,
4. Dr. Shanthi Nambi Director , Institute of Mental Health , Chennai
5. Dr. Geetha Assistant Director of Medical Education,(in charge of DME)
6. Dr. Kolanghi Kannan representing Director of Public Health .
7. Mr. Karthiekeyan representing Director of Public Health .
8. Ms. M.Nanditha , Deputy Director (Child Welfare), Directorate of Social Welfare.
9. Dr. Venkatesh Mathankumar , Associate Professor ,IMH
10. Dr. Lakshmi ,District Mental Health Program , Psychiatrist , Chennai District.
11. K. Tamilarasan ,Social Worker –DMHP Chennai .
12. Dr. C.Ramasubramanian , State Nodal Officer, Mental Health Programme, Tamil Nadu and Nodal Officer, National Survey.

- 13 Ms. Sudha Mani, State Operational Manager – RRTC South 1(TTK Hospital).
14. Ms. Meera Shankar , State Project Coordinator-Tamilnadu ,RRTC South 1 (TTK Hospital).

Welcome Address – Dr.C.Ramasubramanin-State Nodal officer :

- Dr. C.Ramasubramanian , State Nodal Officer- National Survey welcomed the participants and briefly explaining about the importance of the National Survey.



- He stated that last year he had conducted the State Mental Health Study which had given him and his team a rich experience to support the implementation of this National Survey too.
- He also introduced the speakers Ms. Meera and Ms.Sudha to the audience and said that TTK -RRTC South -1 has great expertise in the addiction field which would translate in coordination of the Survey too.
- He called for support for all departments to successfully to carry out the national survey.

Presentation on Technical Aspects of the Survey Methodology by Ms.Meera Shankar – State Project Coordinator-Tamilnadu ,RRTC South 1 (TTK Hospital).



Salient Features of Survey methodology.

- The importance of the Nationwide survey was briefed for the stakeholders and told about the 2002-2003 study and its limitation in providing the state-level estimation brought out at this stage to develop the new strategy for this survey.
- Explained about the objectives of the survey
- Survey Components- Key data collection methods on House Hold Survey and Respondent Driven Sampling was elaborated to the stake holders
- Data Collection Process and Sample Size Selection Process were Oriented.
- Briefed about the Respondent Driven Sampling method and the sample selection of districts of Tamilnadu .
- Stated about the output from the Survey and how will be the data be helpful.
- The roles and responsibilities of National Technical Agency (NDDTC ,AIIMS).

The State Operational Manager – Ms.Sudha Mani– RRTC South 1, spoke on the following points:



- Role of the Regional implementing agency and the role of the stakeholders was expressed and invited them to participate and support in the operational and logistics aspects.
- Requested the Deputy Secretary of Health to send to letters to District Collectors of concerned 7 district to organize the district level stakeholders meeting .
- Requested the CMO to support to provide interviewing substance users at the hospital sites.
- Sharing the Districts / Village Maps and the details on the list of wards, and villages for the household survey will support and enhance quality data collection of the survey.
- Secure support for the survey from the district administration, health authorities and enforcement agencies were expressed.

Open Discussions and Expression of Support for the National Survey :

1. Following the presentation there were questions raised on the selection of the districts (*lack of adequate coastal districts and cities where the problem of drugs is huge and multi fold*) and many of the participants felt that was not adequately

representative of Tamilnadu . As the survey preparation is in an advance stage they also decided that nothing can be done to change the districts.



2. Many participants also questioned whether all drugs will be captured in the study which was clarified in affirmation.

3. Most of them expressed concern about the substance use among children and how they would be included which was addressed as by informed consent through parents.

4. The Director of Medical Services said that they would inform the JD and DD at the district level to get their support. The District Mental Health Programme Team, counsellors from Cemonoc, ICTC and the psychiatric department can be contacted for support and help. The district psychologist and district psychological social workers would be supportive to the program.

4. The Director of Institute of Mental Health said that she can direct the private de-addiction homes and hospitals to be used for the National survey as sites and to interview the drug users.

5. The Assistant Director of Medical Education also said that she direct the Dean of Medical colleges of Tirunelveli , Chengalput , Trichy and Tiruvarur to provide places in the hospital to interview the substance users .

6. The Deputy Secretary concluded that he would write to the District Collectors of these 7 districts to conduct the District Level Meeting for Stakeholders in which the Superintendent of Police can be directed to organise protection of the survey team and other supports through the District Officials.
