

**State Consultation Meeting on National Survey on extent & pattern of
Substance Use in India**

PROGRAMME

- Date & Time : 31st August, 2017 @ 11:00 AM
- Venue : Conference Hall, State Guest House
- Chairperson : Ms. Lalhlupuii Sailo, CEO, MSD&RB
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- Welcome Speech : Ms. Lalhlupuii Sailo, CEO
MSD&RB, Social Welfare Dept
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- Keynote address : Mr. P. Lalchhuanga, Secretary
Social Welfare Department
Govt. of Mizoram
-
- Presentation : Dr. Gojendra Singh, CO.PI
Regional Technical Agency, RIMS, Imphal
-
- Discussion : Chairperson

Minutes of the meeting:

Name of the meeting : **State Consultation meeting on the extent & pattern of substance use in India.**
Date : **31st August, 2017**
Venue : **State Guest House, Chaltlang**

Welcome address:

The meeting on the National Survey on the extent & pattern of substance use in India to be conducted in the state of Mizoram & Tripura was held at the State Guest House, Chaltlang on 31st August at 11:00 am. The meeting proceeded with the chairperson, who is also the Nodal Officer for the National Survey, welcomed the distinguished invitees and acknowledging the fact that the Social Welfare Department, Government of Mizoram under the able leadership of the Secretary and other officials of the Department, the drug demand reduction programme has taken a new turn and extensive improvement & progress could be seen in such a short span of time.

It was highlighted that the State Baseline Survey on extent & pattern of drug use in Mizoram had recently been conducted and the report was released by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Mizoram. The survey was funded by state Government and is the first of its kind in India. It was also pointed out that the Accreditation for drug treatment centres in Mizoram is also in progress and the Technical committee is being formed for developing the manual for the Accreditation of drug treatment centres in Mizoram.

The Chairperson also explained the difference between the national and state survey highlighting that only one methodology viz; Response Driven Sampling (RDS) was used during the State baseline survey whereas other methodological approaches viz; Response Driven Sampling (RDS), Household Sampling Survey (HSS) and Focussed Thematic Studies will be used for the National survey. The State survey was specific to drug use in the state of Mizoram only whereas the National survey would show a larger picture of where Mizoram stands on drug use

as compared to other states of India and what are the strategies to be undertaken not just as a state but as a nation as a whole.

Keynote address:

Shri P. Lalchhuanga Secretary, Social Welfare Department who was the Chief Guest of the function delivered the keynote address by welcoming and thanking all the delegates for attending the consultation meeting and also gave a special welcome to Mr. Gojendra Singh, Co- Principle Investigator, Regional Technical Agency, RIMS, Imphal and Mr Achintam Kilikdar, the Nodal Officer for the state of Tripura for being able to attend the consultation meeting. The Chief Guest also said that their presence and technical expertise at the meeting will enable the National survey to proceed further not just in Mizoram but in Tripura as well. He also reiterated that the vigilant monitoring and coordination would be prudent for the survey to be carried out within the two states i.e Mizoram and Tripura.

The Chief Guest also stressed on how the acknowledgement and cooperation of the Deputy Commissioners of Aizawl, Kolasib, Lunglei and Champhai will help in the data collection at the district level. It would be difficult for the survey team to proceed without the kind approval of the Deputy Commissioners. He also highlighted the role of all the stakeholders, both Government as well as NGOs in the survey and their assistance and support will enable the survey to be carried out with ease.

Presentation:

The overall scenario of drug use and its impact on the Indian population remains vague as no study had been conducted on a national level since 2004 and as a result of this, no sufficient national level data was available to substantiate the impact of substance abuse in the country which has made it extremely difficult to formulate policies and programmes. India's blank status at the world level on World Drug Report also left a vacuum in the fight against drugs. The objective of the survey was mentioned and questions that were likely to be expected were highlighted. The different methodology which are; Household Survey Sampling,

Respondent Driven Sampling like Multiplier and Focussed Thematic Studies was explained to the participants and the outcome of the expected outputs were raised.

Dr. Gojendra Singh, who is the Co- Principle Investigator, Regional Technical Agency, RIMS, Imphal greeted the participants and gave his presentation on the following:-

1. The overall scenario of drug use in India and the statistics that were available from the last study or survey conducted in 2004.
2. The extent of substance use in India?
3. Findings from the last national survey.
4. The problems faced and the difficulties faced in formulating evidence-based policies & programmes after the last survey.
5. The questions those were likely to be answered from conducting the survey.
6. The objectives of the survey.
7. The methodology that will be used for the survey.
8. The tools and techniques that will be applied for the survey.
9. The population that were to be included in the survey.
10. The process involved in conducting the interview and the types of questions that would be answered.
11. The outputs expected from the survey and how the data would be helpful in formulating future policies and programmes and bridging the gap to the country's response to the drug abuse.

Discussion:

Discussion was led by the Chairperson who invited the participants to share their views, ideas and give inputs on how the survey would help in bringing about changes in policies and also help to determine the level of substance use in India. Suggestions were also invited as to how the survey would be conducted with ease in different community.

Discussion points & questions raised were;

1. Duration of the National Survey.
2. Whether Drug Treatment Centres (DTCs) could be used as an add on package to strengthen the OSTs?

3. How will the Household sampling be selected?
4. How were the areas of study chosen?
5. It was suggested that the local residents who are to be interviewed should also properly sensitized before conducting household interviews.

The consultation meeting ended with the vote of thanks from the Chair and the Chairperson also reiterated to the stakeholders to kindly extend their support and cooperation so that the survey could be carried out successfully.

