

NEWSLETTER

Blackout: Brought to Light



Some covered parts near the roadside offer refuge to the drug users from the sun and from the eyes of the general public and law enforcement. Drug users gather here occasionally, and at such times Youth Vision outreach workers might go there to meet their clients to offer services. YV team encountered a young drug user experiencing an overdose and his peers were assisting him. Matters seemed to be relatively OK, yet the 'patient' needed constant attention, which was extended to him by (possibly) a few too many people. It was clear that the client had quite a bit of substances on him. Later, At around 7 pm one of the outreach found a drug user from the morning scene lying under the bridge, he was about to drown. The

case was taken to the nearby hospital where the situation was underestimated by the emergency unit, or in a sense ignored. Time and again emergency unit in-charge was informed that this was a case of heroin overdose, but nothing much was done at the hospital, in fact the emergency unit recommended to admit him in an ICU. It seemed as if the doctors didn't have a clue what to do and therefore the outreach team end up proving him some conservative treatment. For almost like 2 hours of dialogs with the doctor which was worthless as they didn't response the case. The outreach team then tried stimulating the case, the case then started to give some response gradually and to our astonishment, he woke up.

Drug use history and Law

In Nepal, drug control initiatives were started from 1960. The then HMG of Nepal brought a Liquor control act- 1960 that made compulsory licensing to produce and sell cannabis. In 1976, the government made the "Narcotics Drug Control Act -1976" that banned the production, storage, sells, consumption and trade of all types of narcotics and psychotropic substances listed in the act. The act has been amended three times (1981, 1987 and 1992). In 1991, Nepal became the party to the UN Single Convention on nar-



cotic drugs 1961 as amended by the protocol of 1972. In the same year, Nepal became the party to UN Convention against illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances of 1988.

The use of ganja, bhang, hashish etc for specific purposes in special areas by particular people and their use by ordinary people following traditional customs seems to have given way to a new culture in a society.

Currently, there has been several cases of human right violation of the people who use drugs. Forced and mandatory treatment has been mushrooming from many corners around the country. Recently there has been numerous delegation to regulate and protect health and human rights of the drug users at both local and national level. The Government along with civil society and concern authorities must act immediately on this regard so that an enabling and safe environment for the community of people who use drugs can be created.



Editorial

Youth Vision(YV), a common name among the people who use drugs since 1985. The services are spread from 8 districts through 14 service stations along with the geographical extension of the services through camps at additional places.

YV believes in Rights based health and social services for people affected by drug use. The people affected by drug use should always be approached with the intervention that is acceptable for them.

We urge all the service providers, concern authorities and individual through this publication to respect the rights of people who use drugs and people infected with HIV. Do inform about the intervention programs, services, treatment facilities that are available but let the individual choose.

Youth: Travel to a Dirty Lane



Kathmandu; a promising land for most of the youth coming from the distance too far. With the phases of development the simple lifestyle then has now turned into the lifestyle with complex glitches. Drug use has been an unseen and rejected aspect of the society. The young drug users are not visible anywhere; even invisible in data, Ignoring their specific and developmental needs places them at enormous risk. The use, including injecting, usually initiated in adolescence/early adulthood exposes young

people to grave situation . Youth should be approached with more flexible intervention programs that are specifically targeted and designed for this specific group.

YV now has adopted youth friendly harm reduction strategies which provides services at even odd hours , provides an environment where there is less boundaries without any strings attached.

"Hence the journey through the dirty lane, might not remain as it."

Understanding Overdose

Most people who struggle with drug dependency face the issue of tolerance buildup. After continuous use, the body becomes less and less stimulated by the drug. This may cause a person to begin using higher dosages to obtain the same high. Although the person may not feel as high, the damaging properties of the drug cause the same amount of harm. If the body receives a level of drugs that it cannot tolerate, this leads to an overdose. While some overdoses occur after continuous use, they can also happen after one single use of a drug. Signs and symptoms of a drug overdose include:

- Losing consciousness
- Fever or sweating
- Breathing problems
- Abnormal pulse
- Change in skin color

Basic Information

If any of these signs are present, or if you believe a person might be having an overdose, seek life-saving medical attention immediately.

YOUTH VISION LCCS CAMP 2013

The Health Camp is designed to meet the needs of the people who use drugs. Individuals who need the highest degree of flexible treatment and detox services are best suited for this program. After gaining an initial period of sobriety, patients are able to transition into structured levels of care, including outpatient treatment, follow up and aftercare.

**Programs and Services at Youth Vision**

- **HARM REDUCTION SERVICES**
- **LEGAL CONSULTATION**
- **CONSULTATION FOR HEALTH CARE**
- **CONSULTATION FOR HIV RELATED HEALTH CARE**
- **SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**
- **HEALTH CARE FACILITY FOR PEOPLE INFECTED WITH HIV**
- **FARMING PROJECT**
- **INCOME GENERATION**

Harm Reduction Service Centre
Bhimsengola, Kathmandu
Ph. No- 01-4466339, 4484077
Email: hrsc@youthvision.org.np

Bridging the Gaps program
Sanepa, Lalitpur
Ph. No- 01-5536933, 5534253
Email: program@youthvision.org.np

Health Care Facility for People Living with HIV&AIDS
Putalisadak, Kathmandu
Ph. No- 01-4231684

Harm Reduction Program for Women Who Use Drugs
Sanepa, Lalitpur
Ph. No- 016226976
Email: female@youthvision.org.np

Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre
Gothatar, Kathmandu
Ph. No- 01-4990922
Email: rehabktm@youthvision.org.np

Farming Program
Jhaukhel, Bhaktapur
Ph. No- 9851012368



"Dedicated for People Living with HIV and People Who Use Drugs." Since 1985
Service Outlets

Harm Reduction Service Centre
Parasi, Nawalparasi
Ph. No- 078-520407

Post Rehabilitation Centre
Shantitole, Birgunj
Ph. No- 051-520035

Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre
Bank Colony, Bhairahawa
Ph. No- 071-527459

Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre
Siddharthapath, Hetauda
Ph. No- 053-522764

Bridging the Gaps Program
Bank Colony, Bhairahawa
071-527459