

Successful Extension: Thanks to Partnership & Coordination

Believing coordination and networking as one of the key skeleton of Youth Vision, it has been working through partnership, coordination and collaboration with government partners, civil societies and national/community based local stakeholders for successful and effective implementation of different programs to achieve national goals related to prevention, care and harm reduction in different areas including HIV/AIDS and drug abuse. Further, it implements different programs to undertake advocacy campaigns to promote health rights and improve the quality of lives of people living with HIV and People Using Drugs (PUD).

Youth Vision has implemented effective partnership with various regions for its components like harm reduction, treatment, care and support, referrals, advocacy, capacity development and publication through transparent legal documents like MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) and contracts and because of this, making the services available through one door has become possible.

Youth Vision has successfully maintained a strong coordination with district level local government including Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health

and Population, District Public Health Office, District Development Committee, District AIDS Coordination Committee, Reproductive Health Coordination Committee, Social Welfare Council, District Administration Office, National Center for AIDS and STD Control in order to create an enabling and supportive environment required for the effective implementation of its programs.

Youth Vision has further created an enabling environment with donor agencies to address rights based issues for drug users, PLHIV and MARP (Most at Risk Population) networks. Further, Youth Vision has maintained a good coordination with likeminded organizations; community based stakeholders; health and right based service providers; Nepal Police and others across the nation that has helped a lot in effective implementation of its programs.

Many members of the target groups i.e. people who inject drugs, have been benefitted throughout eastern, central and mid central region of the country from different programs implemented by Youth Vision and its partnering organization that was possible only through such partnerships and collaborations.

The partner organizations of Youth Vision who are implementing different programs in this regard:



Since 2009 partnership with Youth Vision, objectively to promote harm reduction (OST) program to respond HIV epidemic in Jhapa district. The project supported by Mainline through YV, with no doubt an exemplary project is able to meet expected outcome with an easy excess to PWUD. A large number of the target group has benefit through its services in Jhapa. HNHR is extremely grateful to have YV as a partner for their overall support and would have never been a success without the technical assistance from YV.

• **Devendra Kumar Ranjitkar, Program Director, HAPPY Nepal**

CSG relies on in partnership with Youth Vision to sustain our rich tradition of care to female who use drugs with special needs, both those who live with us as well as the individuals we serve in our community. The partnership between YV and CSG shows the significant change such as accesses from restriction, option from a mode and dignity from harassment to female who use drugs and sell sex. "Getting drugs treatment is like being let out of hell". So keep support and being partnership.

• **Dilip Gurung, Executive Director, CSG**



Partnership with Youth Vision is a great opportunity to Suruwat. Recently Suruwat has started Farming program through technical support of YV "Bridging the Gaps: Health and Rights for the key Population" project, by this support suruwat has been able to provide modern tomato farming, quality life and positive change through such livelihood promotion activities for PUD & PLHA. So I would like to thank for Youth Vision on the behalf of Suruwat.

• **Bina Marikhu, Vice President, Suruwat**

Fundraising for Sustainability and Accountability

With an aim of expanding and ensuring sustainable services to its target groups, Youth Vision has mainstreamed a fundraising project in its programs.

Youth Vision perceives fundraising as an opportunity to build ownership among the target groups towards its programs and to establish a precedent of self-reliance among the target groups. The fundraising programs are also considered as a great opportunity to collaborate with local stakeholders and mobilize the local resources against drug abuse and HIV infection.

The report on 'Current Hard Drug Users in Nepal 2069', a survey conducted by Central Bureau of Statistics, reports the rate of drug use being increased by 98 percent in the period of six years (2007 to 2013). It is to pinpoint to the fact that the resources required to address those problems are being limited due to various reasons. Such situation of resources inadequacy is imminent in contributing HIV epidemic and other problems in Nepal.

Keeping these challenges in mind, Youth Vision has started to collaborate with different private sectors and individuals so as to create a pool of resources. In this course of action, Youth Vision wishes stakeholders associated with different sectors to realize the importance of this issue and support its initiative by carrying out fundraising programs as sympathizers, campaigners, supporters, advocates, sponsors or donors.

Youth Vision believes the proper utilization of corporate social responsibilities of private sectors as the most effective medium to address these problems. Additionally, Youth Vision believes the long standing practices of people's contribution towards religious, emotional and rational grounds to be another significant opportunity in mobilizing local resources for mitigating drug abuse and HIV infection.

Youth Vision, therefore, urges all potential patrons to make any scale of periodic, in-kind or legacy contributions to help it in continuing its campaign to mitigate drug abuse and HIV infection and problems associated with it.

Thus, Youth Vision, a highly trusted civil society organization by government and non-government agencies who houses highly experienced and competent human resources, not only requests private sectors and other individuals for their collaboration and contribution but also guarantees the delivery of quality services.

Whilst the campaign is ensured to be sustainable in nature, Youth Vision believes that the ownership, collaboration and mobilization of local resources within the fundraising programs promote it being more transparent and accountable towards all the stakeholders. Additionally, the fundraising program at the local level is believed to be valuable enough to contribute in promoting self-reliance and dignity that minimizes the problems like duplication, donor dependency and unhealthy competition.

Rewati Raman Dhakal
Youth Vision

Youth Vision: Move Towards SRH HIV Integration

Primarily focusing on drug abuse and HIV/AIDS, Youth Vision has implemented wide ranges of programs including prevention, care, harm reduction, treatment, rehabilitation care, support along with creating supporting environment and providing oral substitution therapy, making a special focus to people who use drugs, people living with HIV/AIDS and their family members. Under the strength of the extensive experience of Youth Vision in this regard, it strongly believes that at present, integration of services related to sexual and reproductive health and HIV is a must.

Today, there is an urgent demand of SRH services in the service center as majority of clients carry SRH related problems and concerns. At present, SRH and HIV integrated services are almost not available though addressing the components of SRH among people living with HIV is necessary.

With an active participation on various series of activities with journalist, government line agencies, representatives from civil society and organizations, service seekers and service providers, Youth Vision organized series of workshops, meetings and interactions to highlight the need and importance of SRH and HIV Integration. As a result, key recommendations regarding SRH and HIV Integration were developed and submitted to District Public Health Office, Lalitpur.

With an aim of increasing activities related to SRH and HIV Integration, Youth Vision is trying to generate evidences that would describe the need and importance of SRH and HIV Integration in the Nepali context. Youth Vision has successfully facilitated activities and delivered SRH HIV integration component to the concern personal and beneficiaries through interaction on area of SRH and HIV Integration with the support of Family Planning association of Nepal (FPAN).



Bidding Bye to Drugs and Waving 'Hi' to a Professional Life

Sarbesh Prajapati, a resident of Bhaktapur, quit doing drugs after continuously depending on it for more than 15 years. He used to wander from pillar to post in search of money to buy hard drugs and even stole family property for the same. Prajapati remembers, 'I have stolen a lot of family belongings to sell it and buy drugs that I was dependent on.' However, Prajapati is now a changed individual.

Prajapati, who was doing drugs from years and years, came into the contact of his neighborhood friend who convinced him about the disadvantages of doing drugs. Following his convincement, Prajapati agreed to stay under drug rehabilitation program and started to consume oral substitutions. Without following long routines of the medication, Prajapati finally became a drug non-user. 'Since 2 years, I am not doing drugs and will never use it again', shares Prajapati who quit his education in the 9th standard, adding that he is now planning to continue his education. The drug rehabilitation program not only helped him quitting his addiction towards drugs but also guided him for his professional pursuit. Prajapati who quit doing drugs after undergoing the rehabilitation program, started to get involved in tomato farming in a tomato farm at Jhaukhel VDC, Bhaktapur which he believed to be very helpful in paving his way towards his professional pursuit.

Prajapati agrees, 'After quitting my addiction, I started to work at the farm as an assistant farmer and my involvement since 2 years at the farm has now helped me to grow professionally', adding, 'I am loving my involvement in here and now, I don't feel like relapsing into doing drugs.' He further says, 'Unlike yester years, all the members of my family and the society are very supportive and encourages me what I am doing now.'

Prajapati is just a representative character among many former drug users involved in the farm who is now leading a life of a hopeful future. A total of 16 former drug users have worked in the farm assisting the chief farmer in watering the samplings as well as adding fertilizers in it. In return, they earn Rs 200 per day.

Besides making a decent earning, the former drug users are being able to create a better living environment as they have now earned support from the family and members of the society following their involvement in the farm. Additionally, they are learning new techniques of tomato farming that would be helpful for them to continue doing the same for their hopeful future.

When asked why such program was believed to be necessary, Rajendra Puri, In Charge at Jhaukhel Farm shared, 'At time of doing drugs, many drug users happen to overlook other important aspects of life such as education, social life, technological advancement and etc and when they find them into abstinence from drugs following drug rehabilitation treatment or

detoxification program or current PUD under the treatment, they find themselves dull and outdated', adding that they will now have no competency to pursue a profession. He adds, 'If this kind of job opportunity is provided to them then they will have a medium to earn money and lead a happy life ahead.'

Making the former drug users involved in such farming is considered to provide additional benefits for them as well. Puri explains, 'After making the former drug users involved in this kind of farming, they will be able to earn a trust from family and other members of the society along with their personal growth', adding that this kind of opportunity will give them an idea about a career choice.

Describing about the background of workers at the farm, Prajapati shares, 'We are also offering such job to co-dependants of people living with HIV in order to help them lead a smooth life', adding, '16 co-dependants of people living with HIV had already worked in the farm.'

Such treatment program is also considered to be beneficial for the family members as they now do not have to spend lavish amount of money for the rehabilitation and medication of their children who are doing hard drugs. Puri adds, 'Since other rehabilitation programs charge hefty amount, this 3-long treatment program not only provide oral substitution medicines for drug users to reduce their dependency and addiction of hard drugs but also create an opportunity to remain busy in order to avoid them relapsing into doing drugs.'

The polytunnel at Jhaukhel, Bhaktapur is spread up to 10 Ropanis of land for the tomato farming. The tomato farming is done with an advanced technique using drip irrigation system along with wise fertilizing and ventilating method. Puri adds, 'The roof side ventilating system helps in evaporation of excess humidity, odors and contaminants, thus giving favorable environment to the crops'. He adds, 'We have installed deep irrigation system and is effective to add water and fertilizers to the crops through its roots', adding that the production of crops is higher in compared with other farming techniques.

Earlier, the farm had grown cauliflowers from the same polytunnel. The farm at Jhaukhel is also concentrated towards educating the local community about the technological advancement for the production of crops. Experts at the farm are providing special training to the farmers of the community and creating social awareness about the benefits of the system to make them more professional.

Such process wise treatment of drug addiction has not just become a solution of drug abuse but also a way out for better production of crops. Similar kind of program is also available in Bhairahawa. The entire above mentioned activities is supported by "Bridging the Gaps: Health and Rights for the Key Population.



Birgunj PRC at a Glance

According to 'Current Hard Drug Users in Nepal 2069', a survey conducted by Central Bureau of Statistics, there are altogether 91,534 current drug users in Nepal which is nearly a double of 46,309 in 2063. With an annual growth rate of 11.36 percent, the use of drugs has been increased by about 98 percent over the course of 6 years.

Drug abuse or substance abuse has become a major problem in the Nepalese society. This has not only harmed the life of drug users but has also affected the life of different individuals living in the society. Many factors including peer pressure; increase in urbanization; westernization; unemployment; lack of education; easy accessibility to drugs etc are, directly or indirectly, becoming a catalyst in increasing the number of drug users.

Soon an individual starts doing drugs and s/he starts to neglect everything around them including education, many discontinuing it. Eventually, they are now excluded from the society and the family due to which they reel under financial weakness. Due to these conditions, they live with low spirits, being unable to determine their future endeavors. As a result, a higher chance of them relapsing into drugs is probable.

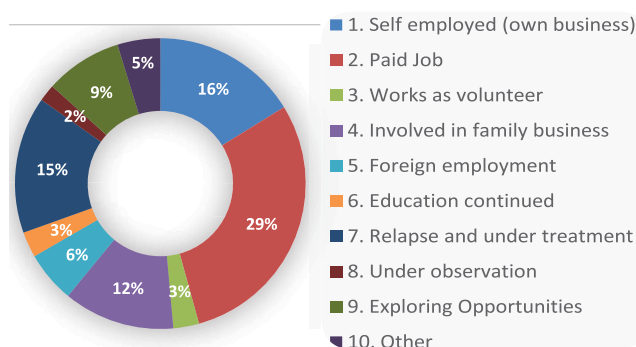
Being specific in the context of Parsa district, Bidhyarthi Jagaran Manch-BIJAM, a local NGO started a drug treatment program with an objective of reducing drug users in the district. The center conducted a detoxification program among many drug users in order to reduce their dependency and addiction towards a specific drug. Nevertheless, the program was ineffective; meaning abstinence among many beneficiaries could not be achieved. When asked why it was ineffective, few individuals who relapsed into drug use questioned, 'What after the treatment?'

In 2010, Youth Vision started PRC, a project funded by Save the Children, aiming at Family Integration, Personal Growth, Health Risk Management, Recovery Maintenance and Career Counseling. The project also aims in changing the community mindset to help them create a conducive

environment for drug users to prevent them from relapsing into drugs. Furthermore, the project provides vocational training to drug users in order to make them skilled enough to make a professional pursuit. As of 15th March 2014, Youth Vision has successfully brought a significant change in over 117 DRC graduates living in different cities including Parsa, Bara and Makwanpur.



Rajiv Rijal
Program Coordinator
Youth Vision, Birgunj



Source: PRC members Status: (March 2010 to March 2014)

The project has been regarded as a successful one. Out of 117 beneficiaries, 84 (80%) members have shown abstinence from drugs; 16 (15%) are relapsed into drugs; 2 (2%) are dead; 2 (2%) are doing their time in prison and 1(1%) is out of contact. Among 84 members, 70 (83%) members are engaged in some jobs; 9 (11%) are trying to explore opportunity for job placement; 3 (4%) have continued their education and 2 (2%) are under the project's observation. Further, among 70 members involving in various jobs; 31 are engaged in paid jobs; 17 are self-employed; 13 are involved in family business; 6 are in abroad; 3 are working as volunteers in different organizations and 12 members are currently involved in PRC.

Short term Treatment Program: A Boon to Drug Users

Drug abuse has greatly affected the physical, mental and social wellbeing of its users and many drug users have now realized it. Similarly, family members of the drug users have closely observed and experienced various problems associated with it. Thus, whilst many drug users are eager to quit their drug addiction, their family members are serious in helping them to fight against the addiction without leaving any stone unturned. But despite such willingness and determination, quitting doing drugs has not become an easy job-being unable to enroll in long treatment programs being its prime reason.

There are many long term treatment programs started by many rehabilitation centers but despite their continuous attempts, they sometimes become unsuccessful in the treatment of drug users. At the same time, drug users themselves cannot willingly get enrolled in such treatment programs due to various reasons including poor financial

condition of their family, inability to devote their time during the treatment programs and inability to fulfill the duties assigned by such programs.

Considering the diverse nature of drug users in terms of age, profession and financial status, Youth Vision has started a short term treatment program since 2011 at a nominal cost, especially for those who have poor family backgrounds. The program is also highly beneficial to those who have experienced multiple treatment failure and also to those who lack enough time to get involved in rehabilitation routines.

The short term program comprises of 30 days residential package that includes different services and sessions like medication, counselling, life skills based education and setting future plans. Along with referral facilities, the program also involves its beneficiaries in different income generating activities.