

Glimpse of Buprenorphine Impact Study

INTRODUCTION

Buprenorphine is a semi synthetic opioid derivative of the Bain, which is a derivative of opium used to treat opioid addiction. Buprenorphine, like methadone, can be used as a short-or long-term detoxification medication or indefinitely as a maintenance medication. Buprenorphine; when appropriately prescribed and taken; is an effective, safe medication for use in the treatment of opioid addiction. It is administered through the sublingual route in substitution therapy. The Buprenorphine in the OST program has meaningfully contributed to minimize injecting drug use along with HIV and blood borne diseases like Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C.

Youth Vision is the first non government organization in Nepal to introduce the Buprenorphine substitution and treatment program (OST). It was implemented from 15th March 2007 with the Approval of Nepal's Ministry of Home Affair (MoHA), in the financial support of mainline foundation and the Netherland government till date.

Information regarding the impact of opioid substitution and treatment (OST) with buprenorphine on the different aspect of life of opioid dependents is lacking in Nepal. To overcome this deficiency an impact study of OST with buprenorphine was conducted by the independent consultant. The study aims to enable Youth Vision and those working in harm reduction programs to plan a design for future intervention and expansion. The study and also help in making appropriate national policies and programs that address the issues and challenges concerning HIV hepatitis B and C, along with care, treatment and support for drug users in the country.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this study is to assess the impact of opioid substitution Therapy with buprenorphine on the various aspects of the life of an opioid dependent population. Further objectives are as follows:

1. To assess the socio-demographic characteristics of drug users who are receiving OST currently (Opioid dependent population)
2. To assess drug/injecting drug use patterns including risk perceptions
3. To assess the knowledge about HIV and AIDS
4. To assess the effectiveness of the buprenorphine in clients with habituated drug use and
5. To assess the change in various aspects of life of opioid dependent population

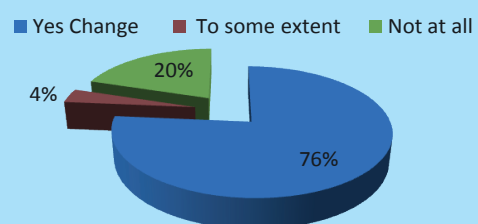
METHODOLOGY

The study design was a descriptive cross sectional study. In the study 50% respondents were selected randomly (i.e. 220 out of 440 Person involved in OST service of Youth Vision). Selected persons were interviewed by a trained enumerator from the 4 centers of Youth Vision in Kathmandu Valley.

MAJOR FINDINGS

The study revealed that out of the sample receiving OST, a large majority claimed that there has been significant change in their family's behavior and attitudes towards them (76%) and a smaller amount (20%) of sample stated that no change was observed. The remaining (4%) samples could not say for sure if indeed any change in behavior had occurred.

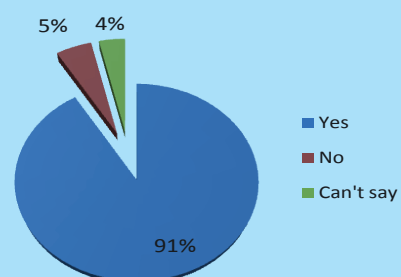
Change Family Behaviour after taking OST



The study also showed that the majority of the Drug users comprised of working class citizens that would directly or indirectly affect the country's economy.

The study focuses on the respondent's perception of overall Behavior change after taking OST service from the youth Vision.

Change in Behaviour



The study found that All the females (100%) and almost all males (91%) perceived that the OST can change their injecting behavior and lead to a normal life. Very few males were not sure about their behavior changes (5%) and a few respondents couldn't say for certain whether the behaviors had actually changed

The final impact study report will be disseminate on November 2014

Fundraising Initiative: a Cushion for Target Communities

SNEHA TOWARDS SELF RELIANCE

Sneha Lama 25 (name changed) has beautified herself internally and she is in the course of enriching others appearances as well. She also expresses happiness towards the significant improvements in her baby's health.

Today, Sneha has been successful in brushing off her drug addiction after benefiting from our Residential Program. She is also equipped with the free Beautician Skill Development Training provided by Youth Vision with cooperation and support from Fascinated Beauty Training School and the UNODC. Since July 2014, her six month old baby has also benefited from our nutritional support which has enhanced the development of the child.

Until six months ago, Sneha was a chronic injecting drug user. The drugs used during her pregnancy and even after the birth of her baby adversely affected the child. Consequently, the child was underweight and showed behaviors that were different than other kids.



PRACHI EN-ROUTE TO MAKE HER DREAM COME TRUE

Ms Prachi Sunwar 26 is heading towards her long awaited dream: to become a tempo driver and consequently ease her life. She was motivated to steer her life towards a sustainable source of income; adopting the driving profession.

Now, she has completed the one month long tempo driving training through the support of some generous people, explored and bridged by Youth Vision. She has already managed to acquire a certificate from the driving training institute and has shown that drug use can be overcome if sincere efforts are put into it. She has been an inspiration to many drug users of her time.

Prachi claims that her driving career will serve as a proper means to support her family. At the same time, it will help her provide quality education to her son.

Prachi used to be a drug user and suffered many drug induced pain and miseries. But as she quit the drug, Youth Vision employed Prachi as a Night Warden for its female unit and also supported her in pursuing the tempo driving profession.



In our recent conversation, Prachi extended big thanks to her sponsors and YV. She said "Before I did not have the confidence to even ride a bicycle on a crowded road, but today I can confidently take many people to their destination safely.

Youth vision has been able to provide Prachi the training with support from generous individuals and City Driving Center Lalitpur, where she took the training.

HERE ARE A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PATRONS



"I believe that knowledge grows only when shared. I enjoy giving people the knowledge and skills necessary to live an independent life. In the future I would like to continue providing vocational training."

Laxmi Mahat: (fashion Designer and beautician/Nail Artist)

"I feel a sense of responsibility for my society. This support initially benefits the needy, but as they develop; society itself grows and prospers in the long run. In the future, I want to continue supporting people in whatever ways possible."

Srijana Thapa: (Marketing Manager at New Look Cosmetics)



"I am an active social worker and I want to promote social change. I appreciate Youth vision's initiatives and am willing to continue providing support in its future endeavors."

Mina Neupane: (president at Lalit beauty corporative)

"My greatest joy is to see the children progress and develop. I am always willing to support these children, because they are the future of society and they have every right to a proper education and healthcare."

Khilanth Sapkota: (Campus chief at GP Koirala memorial college, Kathmandu)



Dutch Approach on Linking and Learning Activities of Client Management in Nepal

April 22-25, 2014, Mainline Foundation & AFEW Netherlands had conducted “Client Management of Key Populations” training at central office of Youth Vision, Nepal. The training was

given to 15 counsellors and coordinators of local NGOs like Youth Vision, Happy Nepal, Community Support Group, Dristi Nepal, Suruwat; who were directly working with PUDs.

The training was facilitated by Dilshod Pulatov (AFEW-Tajikistan Projects Manager) who presented the Client Management Program. He explained the program’s effectiveness on improving client’s access to services and extension assistance, which would strengthen PUDs motivation into becoming more composed and non deviant.

The main training objective was to build, among local specialists, an understanding about the efficiency and accessibility of services provided to target groups in the



course of Client Management program. The AFEW’s Client Management system was demonstrated through specific learning objectives. Its use from direct client contact to referral system and

the effective use of the data were also explained. Training participants learned how a client’s needs were to be fulfilled and how clients were referred from one service to another.

During training sessions local specialists familiarized with AFEW’s Client Management Program’s approaches, principles and cycles of client-centred work with HIV prevention and support programs. The training program consisted of various exercises which assisted participants in developing various practical skills. These skills included: the development of maps of existent services, assessing the needs of people who use drugs, defining barriers, finding opportunities for better planning and acceptable solutions in cooperation with different stakeholders and services providers.

Addressing the Comprehensive Health Care Facilities to PLHIV

The programmatic response to HIV and AIDS in Nepal is anchored mainly on the type of HIV epidemic that the country’s population is experiencing. As of 15th July 2013; there have been 22,994 HIV cases seen in the entire country among various targeted groups.

Many organizations have been enrolled in the field of prevention, treatment, care and support services for HIV infected people. Furthermore, the referral system is continuing to expand across the country through the government and its various donors.

The government has currently envisaged a strategy to focus on the following:

1. Addressing the complete continuum from prevention to treatment, care and support;
2. Strengthening the health system and community system;
3. Integrating HIV services into the public health system

in a balanced manner to meet the specific needs of the target population; and

4. Creating a strong and accountable framework with robust HIV surveillance, program monitoring and evaluation to reflect the results into the National Health Sector Program II (NHSP II) and national plan.

While many programs like these have been implemented in Nepal, they have not reached the targeted population across the country. In this situation, Youth Vision has been trying to initiate a comprehensive package for PLHIV and their families with the support of Main line Foundation Netherlands. This project is titled “Bridging the Gaps: health and rights for the key population”. “Health Care Facilities for PLHIV” is a residential care centre with 12 bed facilities located at Putalisadak Kathmandu. Youth Vision has provided outpatient services such as hospital based and home based care, along with care and support

to other needy PLHIV living across the country. Currently this service centre is providing clinical, pathological, social, nutritional, and counselling services. They aim to minimize the HIV and AIDS transmission rate through information and education; while adapting a client friendly method. The PLHAs are taught strategies for positive living and positive prevention. Youth Vision provides support to PLHAs and Drug Users in an enjoyable manner and at the same time protects their human rights. Youth Vision has ensured access to effective and comprehensive services for PLHA; with the high risk

population as its focal point. They are granted access to basic health care, OI management, ART preparedness and ART observation, home based care. They are also provided free training for income generating activities. Such trainings allow them to become independent and socially integrated.



Rajesh Didiya

Program Coordinator

Health care facilities for PLHIV,
Youth Vision, Putalisadak

Youth Vision Bhairahawa: Services Reached by the Western Site



Youth Vision Bhairahawa is currently providing comprehensive treatment packages to many drug users in the entire Rupandehi district and its surrounding regions. Since 2009, an OST program has been started in Bhairahawa with harm reduction activities being one of its main priorities. Between the years 2009-2014, YV Bhairahawa's OST program has treated approximately 450 new drug dependent people; many of whom are now living a peaceful and drug free life.

Most of the clients enroll in the OST program for its support in eliminating their drug dependency habits; which may include violent behavior, crime, and even suicide attempts. In this program, clients are given Buprenorphine as a drug substitute along with

counseling sessions that help clients retain composure. After receiving these OST services, clients are transferred to rehabilitation care.

YV has a 3 month residential rehabilitation package with medical facilities, doctor checkups, and educational sessions. The treatment is conducted using a holistic approach, alongside day care facilities after positive discharge.

The day care service helps clients to learn new skills and to avoid relapse. Here, many clients are referred for VCT and STI, which are programs that promote social reintegration and help in income generating activities. YV has provided five Rickshaws to five recovering clients in order to help them lead an independent life for income generating without any obstacles.

During residential treatment, all PWUD receive behavior change and communication sessions; which aid in their personality development and enhance decision making skills. These activities help clients build confidence; and encourage positive behaviors directed toward the client's self, their family and the community.



Prince Shirvastav

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