



THE IMPACT OF NEEDLE AND SYRINGE EXCHANGE PROGRAM ON INJECTING DRUG USERS IN ALLAHABAD DISTRICT, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Traditional drugs like cannabis and opium has been used in India from long time. Injecting drug use entered into Indian sub-continent in 1980s. The Injecting of drugs started in Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland and then spread to metropolitan cities of India. Injecting drug is one of the important factors responsible for the spread of Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV) in India. As per the estimates, about one in every ten injecting drug users (IDUs) in India is HIV positive. New needle/syringe is provided and old ones are collected from IDUs under Needle Syringe Exchange Program (NSEP) Program. The Benefit of NSEP goes beyond this primary objective of providing new needle and syringes to IDUs.

Objective: To assess demand and supply and adequacy of needle and syringes being provided in an IDU TI. **Material and Methods:** The study was a descriptive study and respondents were taken from Allahabad TI by random table sampling method. Sample size was 170 (20% of the total active IDUs population registered (850) in the TI). In depth interviews were conducted. The study was conducted between January to February 2017. **Result:** In terms of needle and syringe adequacy, the study reported that the needle and syringes distributed by the TI is not sufficient to full fill the demand of the IDUs. It was reported that 72 percent needle and syringes were distributed by TI to IDUs.

Keyword1-Needle Syringe Exchange Program; **Keyword2-**Injecting Drug Users; **Keyword3-**Human Immuno-deficiency Virus; **Keyword4-** Target Intervention.