

**Minutes of the State level Consultation Meeting on “National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance (Drug) in India 2017” held on dated 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 under the Chairpersonship of Worthy Principal Secretary (SJ&E) to the Govt. of H.P. Shimla-2 in the Conference Hall, Armsdale Building, H.P. Secretariat**

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The following officers were present in the meeting :-

1. Sh. Sandeep Bhatnagar (IAS) Director SCs, OBCs, Minorities & The Specially Abled, H.P. Shimla-9.
2. Sh. N.S. Jaryal, SP(L/O), PHQ, Shimla H.P.
3. Smt. Chhavi Nanta, Deputy Secretary, Social Justice and Empowerment, IPH to the Govt. of H.P. Shimla-02
4. Sh. Robin George, Jt. Director, Empowerment of SCs, OBCs, Minorities & The Specially Abled, H.P. Shimla-9
5. Sh. Shrawan Manta SDM, Dharamshala District Kangra H.P.
6. Dr. B.M. Gupta, Jt. Director, Health Services (H.P) Shimla-09
7. Dr. Uma Verma, Jt. Director Higher Education, H.P. Shimla-01
8. Sh. Onkar Chander Deputy Director, Empowerment of SCs, OBCs, Minorities & The Specially Abled, H.P. Shimla-9
9. Dr. Sushil Chandel, Chief Medical Officer Kullu, District Kullu H.P.
10. Dr. Anuradha District Programme Officer, O/O CMO Kangra at Dharamshala.
11. Sh. R. C. Bansal, District Welfare Officer, Kullu H.P.
12. Sh. Karam Chand Negi, Tehsil Welfare officer Kalpa, Representative District Welfare Officer, Kinnaur at Reckongpeo.
13. Sh. O.P. Sharma Secretary Red Cross Society Dharamshala, District, Kanga H.P.
14. Sh. Sandeep Parmar, Executive Director, Regional Resource and Training Centre North-II
15. Smt. Shailja Thakur, Regional Coordinator Regional Resource and Training Centre North-II
16. Sh. Ajay Kumar State Coordinator Regional Resource and Training Centre North-II

**At outset Dr. Sandeep Bhatnagar, IAS, Director, SCs, OBCs, Minorities & The Specially Abled, H.P.** welcomed all the representatives of line agencies / stakeholders and facilitated the process of proceedings of the meeting as per agenda. He introduced the National Implementing Agency (All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi(AIIMS)),Regional Technical Agency (Government Medical College and Hospital Sector – 32 Chandigarh (RTA - GMCH)), Regional Coordinating Agency (Regional Resource and Training Center North Zone – II Gunjan Organiation, Dharamshala (RCA - RRTC)) to various stakeholders and briefed them on National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance (Drugs) Use In India conducted by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India. At the same time he also disseminated information on various initiatives taken by the department in the area of substance abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation in the state. The role of State Government and expected Cooperation by the District Administration of selected districts (Kanga, Kullu and Kinnaur) for the successful implementation of the National Survey was also conveyed to the representatives. He passed the flow of dissemination of information on National Survey as per agenda to facilitators from RTA and RCA.

A detailed power point presentation was made by Dr. Subhash Das, Asstt. Professor, Department of Psychiatry, GMCH –Chandigarh (Master Trainer for Himachal under NSEPSU). He covered all technical and operational aspects of the NSEPSU. The presentation conveyed the objectives of the survey, methodology to conduct the survey, outcomes of the survey and how the findings of the survey will be helpful to the Government in future. In order to conceptualise, design and implement interventions in the domain of Drug Demand Reduction in the country. The presentation also disseminated the role and responsibility of State Government and the cooperation required at District Level for the selected districts for the successful implementation of the NSEPSU in the state of Himachal Pradesh.

Introduction of the NSEPSU implementation team of Regional Coordinating Agency for the state of Himachal Pradesh was facilitated by Mr. Sandeep, Executive Director of RRTC North – II. He discussed about the logistics and survey implementation mechanism/ structure in the three districts (Kangra, Kullu & Kinnaur) of the state of Himachal Pradesh. The discussion focused on feasibility of conducting survey in the selected districts from law and order and logistics perspective. A list of identified facilities, in the two districts (Kangra and Kullu) for conducting RDS (Respondent Driven Survey) was also shared with the representatives of Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Himachal Pradesh with the request to issue directions to the concerned Chief Medical Officers for extending cooperation & support to the survey team during the data collection with the support of existing data with these facilities. Keeping in view the sensitivity of the NSEPSU implementation, the subject of safety to the field teams was also discussed in the meeting. He requested the Pr. Secretary (SJ&E) to issue directions to the concerned agency of the Government in selected districts. A request was also made to the Pr. Secretary (SJ&E) for issue directions to the District Welfare Officer of Selected districts to provide requisite cooperation, to facilitate the district level survey activates on behalf of State Nodal Officers.

#### **(Discussion, Questions and Directions / Decisions)**

**Principal Secretary, Department of Social Justice & Empowerment**, to the Government of Himachal Pradesh, showed deep interest in the presentations and she asked the representatives of line departments to ensure active participation in the NSEPSU.

She also informed the initiatives in the domain of drug demand reduction by the department in the past and same nature of survey was in designing phase in coordination with Department of Health, Education, Statistics and Police which will covering all districts of the state. In this regard, a Question Bank has been developed by participating departments; which reflects some unique features concerning the drug situation and gravity of the problem in the state, which may be the strengthened with questionnaire developed by AIIMS or with thematic studied proposed in NSEPSU.

The matter of the selection of the districts was also discussed with the NSEPSU, where it was observed that Una may be more suitable district as per the experience of the State in place of Kinnaur. It may be considered as an additional district for RDS.

She also observed that there needs to be deep concern of sensitivity pertaining to the Collected Data by the Data Collection Teams, which may not be shared with any one except authorized authorities to avoid sensation among the communities.

The Pr. Secretary (SJ&E) agreed to issue directions to the Deputy Commissioners and Chief Medical Officers of selected districts for NSEPSU to extend necessary support to the Data Collection Team for the success of the National Survey. She also issued instructions to the District Welfare Officer of the selected districts to act as Point Persons on behalf of State Nodal Officer for coordination of all activities conducted under NSEPSU in their respective districts.

**Dr. B. M Gupta, Joint Director, Department of Health and Family Welfare,** Government of Himachal Pradesh strongly advocated the incorporation of district UNA (in NSEPSU) by conveying the gravity of drug abuse situation of the district specifically concerning to Injecting Drug Abuse. Dr. Gupta assured RCA for extending all necessary support & cooperation for sharing of primary data and facilitation of services for identified RDS sties in the selected districts for NSEPSU.

**Mr. Shrawan Manta, HAS, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Dharmasala** suggested including students from educational institutions as respondents of house hold places during house hold data collection. RCA gave assurance that the point will be discussed with NCA (AIIMS). The final decision will be conveyed accordingly.

**Mr. Sandeep Bhatnagar, IAS, Director, SCs, OBCs, Minorities & The Specially Abled, H.P.** proposed vote of thanks to Chair and participants of the representatives of line agencies of the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

(Dr. Sandeep Bhatnagar, IAS)

Director

Empowerment of the SCs, OBCs, Minorities and  
Specially abled Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-09

Endst. No.: 4-16(2)/12-SOM (Wel)-III

Dated :-

Shimla-09

Copy to following for information and necessary action :-

1. Sh. N.S. Jaryal, SP(L/O), PHQ, Shimla H.P.
2. Smt. Chhavi Nanta, Deputy Secretary, Social Justice and Empowerment, IPH to the Govt. of H.P. Shimla-02
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