

Report on District Dialogue Meeting

Date : 22 October 2020

Place : MKP training center

Participants : Staff of Department of Narcotics Control office, Thakurgaon, CSO members

No. of Participants: Female-11 (Minority-03), Male- 18 (Minority-01), Total- 29 (Minority-04)

Introduction:

Manab Kallyan Prished has relentlessly been implementing “Promotion of social partnership for empowerment of marginalised communities in 6 districts and at national level in Bangladesh - PROSPECT” project with the financial assistance of BMZ and technical collaboration of NETZ-Bangladesh in Thakurgaon and Panchagarh district. As part of its efforts, a dialogue meeting between members of the Civil Society Organization (CSO) and officials/representatives of Thakurgaon District Drug control office was held at the MKP training center hall room on October 22, 2020. The dialogue session was prominently focused on accessibility and availability of services from various entities towards targeted people through fostering a good and synergic relation.

Description:

Md. Safiqul Alam, Deputy Director of Department of Narcotics Control office, Thakurgaon was present as chief guest in the event while Md. Abdul Latif, president of District Civil Society Organization (CSO) presided it over. Others officer of Department of Narcotics Control were present in the meeting. At the beginning of the meeting, Md. Rashedul Alam presented goal, objectives of the project along with different objectives of the dialogue meeting. Also he hoped that relationship between service provider and receiver would expedite more through this dialogue meeting. Later, **Md. Safiqul Alam** narrates various ongoing services of his department. He said that, Drugs are a terrible disorder. Everyone's cooperation is needed to protect the society from this disease. He said his department was conducting activities in various educational institutions to create awareness against drugs. They have distributing various anti-drug publications among the students. The Drug Control Department, with the help of the administration, is punishing



drug addicts and traders through mobile courts. He requested everyone present to share any such information. Then, during the open discussion First of all, Mr. Nazmul Islam wants to know if there are any statistics of drug addicts in Thakurgaon district. In reply, Deputy Director Mr. Shafiqul Alam said that they do not have any statistics of drug addicts, but they have a list of drug dealers. Ms. Umme Shamima asked if there is any government drug rehabilitation center in Thakurgaon district. In reply, the official said that there is no government drug rehabilitation center in the district, it is in Dhaka. In the reference here there are opportunities for low cost treatment. Mr. Masood Ahmed Subarn wants to know whether the Department of Narcotics Control has any surveillance on all the drug dealers in the district and whether any legal action is being taken against them. In response, the official said, "We are always monitoring them and taking necessary legal action." Many a times both the drug user and the trader are caught in the act but the trader is released, Mr. SM Jasim wants to know the reason. Officials said they were not aware of any such incident. Ms. Nazmin Begum said, "Does the Department of Narcotics Control have the opportunity to work to raise awareness in our proposed school? In reply, the officials said that they have the opportunity to work in any school and they sought the cooperation of all in this regard. The open discussion ended with the active participation of all and more questions and answers. In concluding the dialogue, Mr. Abdul Latif thanked all the participants and all the officials of the Department of Narcotics Control for participating in the dialogue and said that the drug problem cannot be controlled by anyone alone. This requires the joint efforts of all. The biggest role should be played by the family, parents should look after their children, build a friendly relationship with the children. If we want to build a healthy society in the future, we have to eradicate drugs from this society through the united efforts of all.



Achievement:

- Active participation of Government officials
- Distribution of various anti-drug publications by the department among the participants.
- Developed mutual relation

Challenge:

- The workload of the officers.