

ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

Himalayan Anti Aids & Anti Narcotic Drugs Society

The theme “Save Lives- Observe Anti Drug Day Every Day “, adopted by HANDS on International day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking was basically the ideology adopted by the organization this entire financial year. All over the world precious lives are lost falling prey to substance abuse and Kalimpong region is not spared of this modern day plague. Considering the value of every human life and the contribution that each restored individual can give back to the family and society, HANDS has been initiating all ways and means to tackle these problems. Out of the many initiatives taken by HANDS, the One Year Treatment module was carried out in a much larger scale this year. Several patients were treated for a full year giving a satisfactory 100 % success result. The rigorous endeavor of Bringing back chemically dependent people back into mainstream life was carried out in a sustainable manner in both preventative and curative fields as mentioned below.

Preventive

Kalimpong Regional Youth Fellowship of United Church of North India along with HANDS had organized a counseling seminar on education and life ethics on 15th April 2014, for the youth of the region to make them aware of social evils like Drug abuse, Live in relationships, and guidance lectures like Goal settings and Vocational courses. The participating youth were extremely grateful for all the obtained knowledge.

HANDS along with Fabulous Entertainment, an event management company based in Kolkata had organized a fund raiser program at Mela Ground, Kalimpong. Though there were few other artists, the main attraction of the event was Yama Buddha, a very prominent Rap singer from Nepal who has majorly contributed in fighting social evils in his nation through his music. The program despite being entertaining did not turn out to be a fundraiser as our organization did not receive any enumerations. This has been a learning experience for us in lending our good will and name in the future to any other group.

The primary motive of observing 26th June as International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is to reach out to the masses to educate them about the disease of chemical dependency and the available solutions. Though UNODC, still maintained the same slogan this year “Make Health your Fashion not Drugs” HANDS had a very practical message for the people, “Save Lives, Observe Anti Drugs Day Every Day.” This message was printed on stickers and posters .The

committee members, staff, volunteers and most importantly NSS Cadets of SUMI School gathered in the heart of Kalimpong Town and started pasting stickers in various private and commercial establishments and vehicles but before doing so five minutes of their time was taken in making them aware of the day and its importance. Very soon Kalimpong town was painted with our stickers which helped promote the message of this significant day.

Acknowledgment of substance abuse by the youth, be it at schools or at homes, is the key role authorities play in initiating preventive measures. This one aspect is responsibly met by the Scottish Union Missionary Institute School of Kalimpong, who makes great efforts in making their students aware of the horrors of chemically dependency and in the process safeguarding the students from this modern day plague.

On 8th November 2014, HANDS Awareness team comprising of Mr Bidhan Pradha, Mr Philip Lepcha and Mr Nereus Mukhia gave another very meaningful awareness program to students of Donbosco, Kalimpong. Mr B R Pradhan and Mr Nereus Mukhia gave power point presentations on substance abuse and HIV/AIDS respectively to the students. Mr Philip Lepcha gave a heart rendering self testimony which the students took very eagerly and at the end they were left with a lot of positive motivation and knowledge.

Like every year the regional administration, GTA , Gorkhaland Territorial Administration had organized a mela for the farmers of Kalimpong Subdivision. Substance abuse, especially Alcohol is an accepted vice in the society and is one of the major factors in producing downward growth among the masses. Hence GTA has rightfully identified this factor and involved HANDS in order to make the farmers aware of this social evil.

HISSOP Ministries, a missionary organization, based in Kalimpong, working especially with the youth of the region had organized a seminar. HANDS played a vital role in enlightening the huge gathering on making them aware on how a person may slowly but surely adapt to substance dependency.

Curative

The Patients, Staff, Board Members and families celebrated 5 yrs of successfully saving lives and bringing happiness in the society by the services rendered by HANDS Rehabilitation centre on Monday 14th April 2014 .Patients performed and entertained the guests with group songs and folk dance. The program ended with a love feast.

With the aim of teaching the patients mainstream fancies and enjoyment without the use of chemicals, a program was organized to watch the finals of FIFA World Cup. The entire match was projected on LCD projector. To liven up the event refreshments was served.

As in the past , HANDS celebrated Independence day with a lot of fun and games but not before parading in front of the National Flag to pay respect. Celebrating these national events teach the patients the importance of commitment and sacrifice the freedom fighters have made. This in turn helps the patients also to become productive citizens.

To change the notion of “Festivals to get high and only to make merry” the centre organized Christmas celebrations in order to educate the patients to respect the significance of the occasion and celebrate it in a sober manner.

The figures as pre the performance chart and registers are as follows:

Rehabilitation Centre

Patients treated in the rehabilitation centre: 77

Chemically dependent: 25

Alcoholics: 41

Poly (Both): 9

Total no of patients succeeded after discharge: 56

Out of which its categorized as (Alcoholics- 20, Chemically dependent – 33, Poly – 3)

The annual success rate of the rehabilitation centre in percentage is – 72.73%

Day Care / Drop in Centre

Patients treated in the Day Care Centre: 520 (out of which 77 individuals on a regular basis)

Chemically Dependent: 46

Alcoholics: 26

Poly (Both): 5

Family Classes in Day Care Centre

Total No of family classes conducted on a weekly basis (every Saturday): 50

Total No of family members attending classes: 735

In order to safe guard our community and strengthen the future citizens of our great nation, HANDS has worked tirelessly this year and successfully carried out numerous programs in the Rehabilitation centre as well as the day care centre. HANDS receives no financial assistance either form the government departments or private sectors and despite several constraints, it has managed to carry out its social commitments in a very effective manner. The year's labor has been blessed with a rich harvest of desired results and outcomes.