



THE COLOMBO PLAN

DAP

Drug Advisory Programme



THE COLOMBO PLAN NATIONAL SECRETARIATS MEETING 2024

DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION WORKING GROUP

SUB TITLE / PRESENTER'S NAME & DETAILS:



DAP

Drug Advisory Programme



The PEMA
The PEMA Secretariat

Co-organised by:

The Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme (CPDAP)
Office of the Prime Minister, the Kingdom of Bhutan
The PEMA, the Kingdom of Bhutan

— THIMPHU — | 6 TO 8 AUGUST
BHUTAN 2024

AGENDA

1. Identification of specific issues and challenges
2. Discussion on gaps/priority needs
3. Recommendations for future activities / identify top 5 priority activities
4. Discussion on the way forward / Future collaboration

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

PREVENTION	TREATMENT & RECOVERY
Strengthen public awareness on substance use for the youth through media and school	Social stigma is still persistent and impactful to accessing treatment
Media platforms have changed and there's a need to reach out to the youth through non-traditional methods and platforms (TikTok)	Economic factors leading to substance use
Lack of effective prevention programs that focus on family and parenting	Access to treatment in some countries is an issue
Adjust prevention messages according to target groups	Some country policies affect the delivery of treatment services
Lack of coordination of national and local governments	Lack of trained professionals and capacity building opportunities
Need to have impactful prevention programs for the youth	Recovery rate is low due to the stigma experienced in re-integrating to the community; affecting employment

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

PREVENTION	TREATMENT & RECOVERY
Lack of training for both prevention and treatment	
Working with parents and families to improve social support system	Lack of continuing care systems and services
Access to drugs through Telegram messaging app	Lack of coordination between and among providers and organizations
Children to be included in the target of prevention education	Lack of capacity in implementing a community-based treatment program
Homes exposed to substance use enable and encourage the behaviors	In some areas, residential treatment centers are viewed as “punishment” compared to providing interventions in the communities
Lack of opportunities to discuss best practices	
Learn more about the new generations to have more appropriate and relatable messaging on prevention	

GAPS AND PRIORITY NEEDS

PREVENTION	TREATMENT & RECOVERY
Advocacy not able to target the universal or general population for prevention	Access to treatment centers
Prevention programs are not impactful for the youth; evaluate prevention campaigns if effective	Gaps in continuing care and maintaining recovery
Difficulties in encouraging parents to collaborate on prevention	Tendency to address only the illicit drugs and lacks focus on the legal psychoactive substances
Youth to take the lead in prevention	Stigmatizing language affecting the recovery communities
Target general and at-risk populations	
Help increase overall quality of life by building healthy communities	
Start prevention from home ; parents and families to be involved in prevention	

RECOMMENDATIONS (TOP 5 PRIORITIES)

- 1.Higher focus on Preventive education (youth, media, family, community) - life skills, mindfulness
- 2.Start prevention from early - special focus to children and youth
- 3.Improve continuum of care / Recovery support groups
- 4.Capacity building on treatment (Community-based treatment programmes) - working with co-occurring mental health issues
- 5.Contextualize evidence-based/informed treatment programmes

WAY FORWARD / FUTURE COLLABORATION

- Continue the conversation of the DDR working group via available platforms.
- Conduct 'Youth' focused initiatives - such as trainings, and Forums.
- Share resources and best practices among Colombo Plan member countries.
- Recommend Colombo Plan to have a newsletter showcasing th DDR work of the member countries.
- Encourage spaces and dialogues in helping navigate cultural and geographic nuances affecting DDR work.
- Have an academic symposium for increased collaboration and technology transfers.
- Attend the ISSUP Regional Conference 2025 (focused on the Asia Pacific) and the ICUDDR regional conference.
- Facilitate the collaboration with international organizations on DDR work.
- Encourage cost-sharing initiatives between Colombo Plan and member countries.



Thank you



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