SUMMARY

MAPPING OF HIV RISK BEHAVIOUR AMONG TRUCK DRIVERS IN PAKISTAN

Background:

- Greenstar Social Marketing was awarded the contract for the mapping of HIV risk behaviour among long distance truck drivers in Pakistan.
- The study comprised of; literature review, mapping of truckers and health facilities, qualitative and quantitative survey conducted in three cities of Pakistan i.e. Karachi, Khanewal and Gujranwala.

Methodology:

- In the qualitative component included 146 in-depth interviews with truckers and gatekeepers (truck agencies, en-route restaurant/hotel owners/staff, mechanics, truck association staff etc.)
- Quantitative component included a representative sample of the total population at the time of the intercity truck drivers and cleaners in the three cities.
- Truck drivers aged 21 or more, cleaners aged 15 or more were interviewed. Total sample was 821 comprising of 683 drivers and 138 cleaners.

Findings:

- Mean age was 33 yrs and majority of drivers were married, 44% of sample lives at the truck stop alone or with someone else. Monthly income of most averaged between Rs. 2,500-5,000.
- Awareness about HIV/AIDS is 81.2% while of STIs is 55.5%, while knowledge about two correct ways of HIV transmission is 40%.
- 65% have heard of condoms mainly for use in contraception, of which 44% believe in its efficacy in the prevention against HIV/STIs. Most believe they are priced at low or very low levels.
- 19% express the view that condom users are at high risk of HIV/AIDS.
- 72.4% of drivers and cleaners indulge on extramarital/premarital sex; while of those ever having had sex 42.3% had done so before the age of 21.
- Only 5.2% of those having heard about HIV/AIDS had heard of someone living with HIV/AIDS or having died from it.
- Personal risk perception of STIs and HIV/AIDS is 20% and 12.6%.
- Approximately 65.8% and 64.5% report ever having substance abuse and current abuse respectively.
- Substance most commonly used is marijuana or cannabis followed by alcohol.

Recommendations:

- Interventions aimed at providing information about HIV/AIDS should be more specific and less ambiguous regarding the modes of transmission and the methods of protections. The messages aired on the electronic media are the most widely heard and should be more open.
• The risk of acquiring HIV infection in truckers must be emphasized in order to improve the risk perception.
• The Programme should emphasize the dual benefit of the use of condoms, which would be best done through generic rather than branded advertising.
• Programme interventions may also include components regarding the substance abuse, which may, in the long run, lead to intravenous drug use.

For complete report contact to NACP