

Introduction:

Project Title: COAL MINES WORKER
Lead NGO: SAJJAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (LEAD)
Partner NGO: AL – NOOR WELFARE SOCIETY (PARTNER)
Target Group: Coal Mine Workers
Location: Choa Saiden Shah Chakwal

Coal miners are the illiterate and unaware group of society. The vulnerabilities become stronger when coalminers not recognized as high-risk group. As coal miners live away from their families, so they are always willing to listen to and follow advice from their peers, colleagues those similar to them selves in age, back ground, social norms and interests More efforts are required to upgrade the level of awareness regarding health issues specially HIV & AIDS and STIs.

In this connection, the project is aimed to assess the current socioeconomic condition, health needs, and high risk activates, checks and upgrades the level of awareness among coal miner.

Objectives

The main objectives of project are

- To identify coal mines workers health related issues.
- To identify workers of coal mines at Chakwal involved in risk behavior and their knowledge related to HIV&AIDs and STI's.
- To identify the sexual health needs of coalmines workers at Chakwal.
- To identify need of raising awareness in health particularly reproductive health issues of coal mines.
- To collect baseline information on level of knowledge, and risk perceptions of youth with regard of SRH, HIV &AIDS.
- To identify reproductive health service providers.
- To identify the recreational activities of coal mine workers and facilities

Methodology

Following research methods were used to carry out the rapid situation analysis.

Socio Baseline Survey: -

A detailed questionnaire was developed keeping in view the knowledge, Attitude and Practices of the coal mine workers of Chakwal.

Observation:-

Direct observation in the area and coal mines was identify in district Chakwal to get a better understanding of the situation.

In depth Interview

Semi structured individual interviews were done with the coal mines workers, to explore the situation and problems of workers in the project area, their level of information, health and recreational facilities, reproductive and sexual health needs.

Achievements

- Better understanding regarding current situation of SRH issues has been developed
- Coal miners are educated about their sexual and reproductive health rights
- Level of prejudice regarding HIV&AIDS reduced among coal miners

Challenges Faced

Shortage of Time: Data collection processes required a strict time schedule to meet the deadline of the assignment.

Shortage of Resources: The resources like funds needed for activity and transport were not given, as it was required.

Work force: Skilled and devoted work force required for the collection and compilation of data was limited.

Availability of Respondents: Fieldwork was possible only in second half of the day as during first half it was difficult to talk to the coal mine workers.

Lack of Cooperation / Hesitation of Respondents: Respondents did not cooperate initially in giving true picture of the situation. There was a psychological pressure / fear on workers and they were probed about STI's and RH issues. Coalmines workers hesitate to answer most of the question related to the health like STD, HIV/AIDS etc

Lesson Learnt

- There is a dire need of raising awareness regarding HIV&AIDS, STIs risk behavior and on prevention of epidemic in general public. While designing an appropriate and effective awareness raising campaign, the cultural content of the largest area must be kept in mind.
- Information dissemination and awareness rising among coal mine workers through lectures or corner meeting should prove an effective technique for RH & SRH & HIV&AIDS programs. In present situation, this technique may also be used for effective intervention.
- IEC material regarding HIV&AIDS and RH issues should be printed. May be it will help in building confidence of workers to share their RH related issues.
- Coal mine workers deadly needs provision of healthy recreation opportunities and better environment lining up the awareness program with other activities.
- It is the right of coal mine workers to gain information about their own and to know how they can protect themselves from STI/STDs and HIV&AIDS