

Introduction:

Project Title:	Vulnerability among Injecting Drug Users
Lead NGO:	Pakistan Youth Organization (PYO)
Partner NGO:	Jinnah Welfare Organization
Target Group:	Injecting Drug Users
Project Area:	Gujranwala.

IDUs are among the most vulnerable groups regarding HIV/AIDS .The HIV/AIDS infection ratio is continuously increasing among the IDUs.This alarming situation demands the full attention of HIV/AIDS preventing organizations towards IDUs.

In order to assess the HIV/AIDS vulnerability among the injecting drug users in Gujranwala as well as to establish a baseline regarding the current situation of injecting drug use a small scale study was planned to be carried in order to gauge the impact of the services provided to the IDUs.

Objectives:

Main objectives of the project are:

- To educate about the drastic effects of injecting use to injecting drug users
- To establish baseline information prior to initiate HIV prevention services for IDUs in the city.
- To collect demographic profiles, information, data related to injecting drug users.
- To document drug history and patterns.

- To assess their HIV&AIDS vulnerability through injecting drug use and sexual practices

Methodology

Sampling

A convenient sample of respondents were selected keeping in view of the objectives of the study as the primary purpose was to see the current trends among injecting drug use, and study risk behaviors prevalent among them so that informed decisions can be taken for remedial measures

Achievements:

- Level of Health and Drug treatment related I information increased.

- Knowledge regarding condom use enhanced
- Knowledge regarding HIV&AIDS and STIs improved.
- Provision of new disposable syringe
- Behavioral change is being observed regarding sharing of syringes

Challenges Faced:

Rumors

- IDUs were reluctant to involve them in the program

New concept

- It was the first time a drop in centre was established, so the IDU hesitate to come forward

Stakeholders support

- Stakeholders were not well aware about this type of facility and they were not supportive in the project activities

Lesson Learnt

- As the roots of injecting drug use are not very deep in Gujranwala, so it can be vanished by making better planning and strategies
- By informing about the dangers of injecting drug use can reduce the increasing ratio of Injecting Drug Use