

## Consultation meeting 2 summary – CHETNA, India

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting (12 members were in attendance) and we recapped on the key points that we discussed during the last meeting, especially around the areas of length of programme, keeping those undergoing rehab active and offering vocational training and education. Each person summarised what they had learnt at the last meeting which was based on the learning report from San Patrignano in Italy.

### Some of the key learning from the discussions in the last meeting:

In order to reduce the risk of the young people returning to the streets after their rehabilitation, they should also learn a skill that would help them to earn an income, either through finding a job or starting their own business. For those young enough, they should also be given lessons so that they can continue with their education when they have been resettled. The older ones should be given support to find work by S.A.L.V.E. after being resettled to their families.

We need to reduce negative peer pressure from the older youth and drug dealers on the street that encourages new children to start using.

A lot of work needs to be done with the authorities to ensure laws are being implemented so that the drug dealers can be arrested and imprisoned. Laws against child labour should also been enforced as many children come to the streets knowing they can make a lot of money. If they were not able to work, they would have to go home and would be less able to buy drugs.

Parents should be included in counselling and also offered counselling and education around the dangers of drugs so that they understand the damage the child is doing to themselves.

Structure and routine is essential to keep the child busy and reduce the risk of them returning to the street. This will also help them to fit back into a normal family life when they return home.

**Following this discussion, we presented the learning report from CHETNA, India. We then split into 3 groups to discuss the following questions in rotation.**

### Staffing:

#### **Where and how could we recruit people to work on a drug rehab programme with a kind and caring heart for the children?**

Recruitment should be done across the country, not just locally in and around Jinja. This will increase the talent pool.

S.A.L.V.E. should increase volunteering opportunities so that when we come to open up our centre, we have a number of volunteers who already know and understand the children we are working with and the challenges we face.

We could recruit from within the organisation or advertise on the radio/TV or in public places.

#### **CHETNA suggested the organisation could train people and that qualifications were less important – what do you think about this?**

Some of the group felt that yes, this could work and as long as the staff had the passion for helping children with drug addictions, they could learn the other relevant skills. They suggested that in this instance, S.A.L.V.E. would need to design a different structure of training to ensure that the staff were given additional training to help develop their knowledge and understanding around drug abuse.

However, some members of the group felt that this could not work and that a person needs at least some knowledge of social work, counselling or any other qualification in the social field.

**What are the key skills we would want to recruit in our staff for this programme?**

Someone who can implement strict rules and regulations, an authoritative figure who is strict yet approachable.

Someone who is motivated and can motivate others even when they are facing lots of challenges.

Someone with good communications skills.

**Are there any training programmes in Jinja it would be useful for the staff of this programme to attend?**

The group members could not think of any particular training programmes within Jinja that would be relevant for staff to attend. However, this would need more research as it is not something they have ever looked into.

Staff may need to go to Kampala for additional training or we could invite staff from other global and national Rehabilitation centres to come to us and run in house training.

**Peer mentoring and leadership:**

**How could we help a child who was shy or finds teamwork difficult to engage in peer led activities?**

Counselling

Involving them in groups

Teaching them the importance of team work

Accept the child the way they are and do routine counselling.

**Which areas of the rehab programme could the young people take the lead on?**

Designing and improving the timetable of activities.

General cleaning

Education programme

Sports programme

**Which areas of the rehab programme could the staff lead on?**

Centre management and staff supervision.

Food provision

Treatment of medical conditions

Education

Children's welfare, such as counselling and deciding on when a child is ready to move on to a new level.

**How could peer leadership, mentoring and support be built into a new drug rehab programme?**

By sharing responsibilities at the centre

By identifying leadership skills in certain young people and trying to grow them.

They should be given at least one week each to be mentors and leaders in the house.

Building a committee where the young people help implement the rules.

### Activities and education:

#### Which activities and education do you think would benefit the children under rehab the most when they start their rehab?

Playing football and other sports to help develop their talents.

Those of a young age should receive schooling to help them catch up so that when they begin school after rehab, they are at a more age appropriate level at school.

Older children should take part in vocational training so that they have a skill they can use to earn a living.

Counselling – individual, group and family.

Farming as many families grow their own crops and so if they learn good farming methods, they will be able to help their families.

#### Which activities and education do you think would benefit the children under rehab the most when they are settled in their rehab?

Schooling to prepare them for re-entering education.

Vocational training

Literacy and numeracy and computer lessons

Brass Band training – this could be used to generate an income for S.A.L.V.E.

Joint counselling with children and families

Routine visits to the family home to prepare them for life back with their families and help rebuild broken relationships.

### Following on from these group activities we came back in as a big group to discuss any particular points of interest.

One of the group explained that farming is a very important skill for the young people to learn for when they are resettled, as well as other skills that they may need to use when they are at home. If not and they are made to do these things when they go home, they may run away believing that they are being made to work in a wrong way.

Education and communication skills are also very important to be given as well as personal management skills so that the young people know how to look after themselves. Such skills include things like knowing how to work hard, how to greet people etc. The normal things that are part of daily life.

The group were encouraged to not take anything for granted. Be understanding for those undergoing rehab and realise how challenging it is for them. If they don't know how to wash etc. then teach them. They need to learn how to live in a world without drugs; this will help the family and community to accept them back. Even before other training such as vocational training, this hygiene training should be done.

Leadership skills are very important, especially peer leadership. Teach them the qualities of a good leader.

It was suggested that creating a network with local authorities is very important. Stakeholders from the community as well as government stakeholders are both important. The police should be included too. The more they understand and know about the programme, the more they can advocate for it and refer the right members.