

Radio Programme for Nepali Migrants in Delhi

Delhi is one of the major entrants of many Nepali migrants. It is estimated that more than 110,000 Nepalese live in Delhi for employment. Nepali migrants are very vulnerable to HIV. SARDI in collaboration with other organisations has been implementing a prevention, treatment, care and support programme for the Nepali Community.

The programme introduces HIV information through Radio broadcasting. Ideosync Media in collaboration with SARDI broadcasts this weekly programme in the Nepali language. The 30-minute programme aired a case study of HIV positive migrants in the form of a short drama. The drama examines prevailing myths and misconceptions about HIV and AIDS. It allows listeners to hear about the stigmatisation and discrimination that HIV positive migrants have to face.

Sequential episodes in the radio drama programme gives lessons on ways to provide care and support to HIV infected persons. The programme tries to promote safer sex practices.

To ensure more active migrant participation in the programme, SARDI worked with peer educators to organise listening groups in particular community places every week. After listening to the radio programme, migrants can interact with peer educators and share their problems during feedback sessions.

The programme has become popular amongst the Nepali community. People have come out with open discussions about HIV. It has been effective in promoting safer sex practices as condom usage has been increased. More people are sensitised to do voluntary testing through Rapid Test (HIV test) programme that takes place in SARDI with the support of Family Health International. Since the inception of this radio programme, 17 Nepali migrants were found HIV positive and had been provided with treatment and care. The programme is creating an enabling environment to reduce the HIV vulnerability of Nepali migrants.

Written by Shakirul Islam