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Bhutan Youth Development Fund

Drug Education and Rehabilitation Services Programme (DEARS)

Did You Know?

84 percent of drug users in Bhutan are adolescents and youth between 13 to 24 years old. More than 43 percent of them are students.

Background

YDF is working tirelessly to address the problems and needs of vulnerable young people afflicted with alcohol and substance addiction through the Drug Education and Rehabilitation Services Program (DEARS). The overall aim of DEARS is to reduce alcohol/ substance use among youth and its impact in Bhutan by enhancing knowledge and skills on substance use prevention and providing rehabilitation and reintegration services for those affected. Currently, DEARS is overseeing two Drop In Centres in Thimphu and Bumthang and two Rehabilitation Centres in Thimphu.



Activities

1. Substance use education and prevention
2. Substance use advocacy and awareness
3. Substance use treatment and rehabilitation
4. Reintegration and mainstreaming of recovering substance users
5. Enhancement of skills and knowledge of substance users
6. Strategic partnership with government, non-government, and private agencies

Impact

- Rehabilitated over 2000 young people from substance use since its inception in 2004
- Reaching out to over 1000 substance users yearly and over 700 drop in for counseling and other services in Thimphu
- Reaching out to over 800 substance users yearly and over 700 drop in for counseling and other services in Bumthang
- Secured employment for over 500 recovering substance users.
- Train and support education for over 100 substance users yearly.

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