
Programme Report

Programme Title: Access to quality services and care for kidney patients (with specific attention to individuals and group living in rural areas, non literate and young people)

Event : World Kidney Day

Date : 10th March 2016

Venue : Kanglung Primary School, Trashigang Dzongkhag

1. Background

As the only Civil Society Organization in the country advocating for services and care for people with chronic kidney disease, the Bhutan Kidney Foundation (BKF) has relentlessly focused on advocacy, awareness and early detection programs for kidney patients and their families since its inception.

The Foundation's involvement in facilitating access to treatment services, guiding and counseling patients and their families has been vital as 90% of the patients come from rural parts of the country with little or no knowledge on services available. In parallel, the Foundation partners with the Ministry of Health to improve these access and strengthen the quality of care.

Nonetheless, public awareness pertaining to kidney health and disease on regular interval is perceived as an important activity in fostering the Foundation services. The recent trend of young adults being affected by the kidney disease (*In 2014 alone, 9 students had to compromise their education to receive treatment*) drew the Foundation's attention to immediately conduct an awareness programme targeting the children and young adults.

With the fund support from **Helvetas Bhutan**, the Foundation used the 10th of March 2016 (World Kidney Day) as an opportunity to reach decision makers and people in the largest district in the country from where the largest number of people seems to be affected.

2. Objective

- Raise awareness through sharing the experiences of affected students and families, and through presenting statistics;
- Building a network of youth, health workers and other supporters to ensure access and quality care, and preventive actions;
- Inform policy makers from the district and at the national level about available access and quality (e.g. policy decisions affect procurement and quality of dialysis services)

3. Targeted Audience

Remaining with the event's theme "*Kidney Disease and Children: Act Early to Prevent It*", the programme covered an approximate 320 audiences comprising of 250 school children representing four different schools, 15 school teachers, 50 young adults from Sherubtse College and village Tshogpas representing the local government in Trashigang Dzongkhag.

4. Strategies & Activities

4.1. Awareness:

Awareness tools such as a documentary films, posters, and statistics were used to inform the participants and educate on kidney health, disease and its issues in Bhutan.

4.2. Networking and strengthening partnerships:

The Foundation's network group 'BKF-Sherubtse' coordinated the entire programme and entertained participants through cultural performances with the awareness messages embedded in it. This network and its representatives will remain as the Foundation's efforts in the east, and as point of contacts for future collaboration.

4.3. Rights to services:

An important part of the entire program, the awareness highlighted the rights of citizens to basic health services. Personal stories of people who were not aware of their basic rights in accessing services from hospitals, government and other institutions played a powerful modality of raising awareness.

5. Outcome:

5.1. Participants Sensitized:

As a primary objective of the programme, the participants were well informed on kidney health, its diseases, health facilities and services through;

- ✓ Documentary Film Screening;
- ✓ Display of educational materials such as banner and posters;
- ✓ Experience and sharing of personal stories.

5.2. Strengthened Network and Partnership:

- ✓ Members of the BKF-Sherubtse reassured their commitment to support the Organization having learnt the in-depth mandates and services rendered by the BKF.
- ✓ Kanglung Primary School and Jampeling Higher Secondary School offered their support and cooperation for similar programmes in the future.

Recommendation from Participants

The host school, Kanglung Primary School highly commended the programme content and recommended that such programmes should be conducted in every school above primary level in the country.

6. Conclusion:

Comprehending the potential benefit that the children and other participants can garner from this conduct, the programme has been appropriately planned and scheduled on the World Kidney Day.

Through collaborative effort with funding from Helvetas Bhutan and strong coordination by the BKF-Sherubtse, the Foundation is optimistic to have created colossal impact on the Bhutanese mindsets for the joint effort and combat in preventing kidney diseases thereby making this country a better place to live in, hence, enabling the citizens to contribute equally towards Gross National Happiness.

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Glimpses of the Event



Figure 1: The Event's main banner



Figure 2: The BKF's Executive Director Highlighting on access to health services.



Figure 3: Making sure that the awareness spread among one's family



Figure 4: Participants from Jampeling Hr. Sec. School catches a moment with the ED after the programme



Figure 5: BKF-Sherubtse extends their support & coordination



Figure 5: The program's participants