Annexure I

Project Nishchaya: Beyond Addictions – A Drug-Free Vision

Introduction

In response to the growing challenge of drug addiction among youths in Himachal Pradesh, the State Headquarters of 'The Bharat Scouts and Guides' Himachal Pradesh has launched a transformative initiative "Project Nishchaya: Beyond Addictions - A Drug-Free Vision" on 15th October 2023. The aim and objective of the project is to empower the youths through this project initiated for fostering a drug-free vision and cultivating a resilient generation committed to combating addiction, building strong communities, and creating a brighter future for Himachal Pradesh. It is a commitment to create a drug-free society where young minds will be inspired, educated, and engaged in fighting against drug addiction forever. Therefore, "Project Nishchaya" aims to address the urgent issue of drug addiction through a comprehensive approach that encompasses awareness, education, prevention, and advocacy. The project aligns with the core values of Scouting and Guiding and empowers the youth to become agents of positive change in their communities.

In scouting, collective efforts are believed to drive significant changes. So, all members and volunteers have been encouraged to actively participate in "Project Nishchaya" and contribute to the mission of creating a healthier and drug-free society. Hence, the dedication and commitment of all members and volunteers will play a crucial role in the success of this initiative.

The project has been structured around a competitive framework, wherein participating units are engaged in various activities and tasks, as mentioned in the Activity Pack. Upon successfully completing and submitting each designated activity, the participating unit is eligible to receive rewards in accordance with the instructions and guidelines established for this competition. Therefore, by following the guidelines directed by the State Headquarters of *'The Bharat Scouts and Guides'* Himachal Pradesh, to all educational institutions, the Rovers

and Rangers Unit of Vallabh Govt. College, Mandi actively took part in all the activities listed by the state headquarter. The details of various activities with their commencing date are given in the following table.

Table: The Details of Various Activities

Number of Activities	Types of Activities	Activity Commenced on
Activity 1	Seek Knowledge of Local	4 th November 2023
Activity 2	Expert Pledge Taking Ceremony	7 th November 2023
Activity 3	Artistic Expression	4 th December 2023
Activity 4	Community Walk	5 th December 2023
Activity 5	Peer Education Workshop	27 th April 2024
Activity 6	Community Visit	29 th December 2023
Activity 7	Community Drug	21 st March 2024
1	Awareness Campaign	

Activity 1: Seek Knowledge of Local Expert

Objective: To engage with the local professionals to learn about the effects of drug misuse and prevention strategies in your community.

To fulfil the objective of activity 1, the Rovers and Rangers unit of Vallabh

Govt. College Mandi initiated an interaction session on 4th November 2023 as part of the project "Nishchaya, a drug-free vision". Under the guidance of the Group Leader/Principal of the college, Prof. Surina Sharma, Rover Scout Leader Mr. Bhed R. Verma, and Ranger Leader Dr. Bandna Chauhan, the activity has been initiated by sharing knowledge on drug abuse by the local expert. Mr. Rajesh Yadav, a health educator from the office of the chief medical officer at NSCB Zonal Hospital Mandi, was invited to give a guest lecture to provide intensive knowledge about the impact of drug abuse in society. In this lecture session, the health educator emphasized the serious consequences, root causes, and processes of becoming addicted to a drug substance. The health educator also highlighted how to tackle such cases in the family, society, and educational institutions.



Further, it was suggested that drug addicts should be treated equally by giving them supportive space to rehabilitate from the catastrophe. Along with family members, the volunteers of Rovers and Rangers can play a leading role in controlling the addictions to multiple drugs among youths in the community. Students from various departments were present in the session and took an oath to stay away from the drugs for a better society.



Note: Photographs of the activity

Activity 2: Pledge Taking Ceremony

Objective: To organize a pledge-taking ceremony to publicly commit to a drugfree lifestyle and raise awareness about the dangers of drug misuse within the institution.

To fulfil the objective of activity 2, the Rovers and Rangers Group of Vallabh Govt. College Mandi organized a pledge-taking ceremony under the "Project Nishchaya" on 7th November 2023. This activity was organized under the guidance of the Group Leader/Principal Prof. Surina Sharma, Rover scout leader Mr. Bhed R. Verma, and Ranger leader Dr. Bandna Chauhan. In this activity, all volunteers of the Rovers and Rangers group, students and staff of the college assembled at the front yard of the college for the pledge-taking ceremony. Pledge cards were distributed to everyone, and a pledge against substance abuse was recited.



The pledge was as follows: "On my honour, I promise that I will work against the disease of drug addiction in society by working with Project Nishchaya and fulfil the duty of an aware citizen to promote a healthy lifestyle by creating awareness against the drug and encourage others to spread the same." Where everyone has sworn to stay away from any drug or substance abuse and will try to keep others from it. In this activity, 48 Rovers and Rangers were present, along with the college staff and other students.



Note: Photographs of the activity

Activity 3: Artistic Expression

Objective: Encourage participants to use artistic forms of expression to convey

messages about drug awareness, prevention, and the importance of a drug-free lifestyle.

On 4th December 2023, the Rovers and Rangers group of Vallabh Govt. College Mandi organized an event on Drug abuse in which a painting competition was organized and a slogan competition in college. This activity was organized under the guidance of Group Leader/Principal Prof. Surina Sharma and the college's Rover Scout leader and Ranger leader. Students made various eye-catching slogans and paintings. Drug abuse was strongly criticized through the paintings, bearing messages such as *"drugs take you to hell disguised as heaven."* Slogans displaying lines like – "नशे की आदत छोड़ो, सुखी जीवन से नाता जोड़ो " and "नशे में युवा सड़ रहा है कहां ये युवा बढ़ रहा है" were displayed in the college

campus by the students. Lastly, the scouts clicked photographs and displayed

banners, which left a significant impact on the hearts of youngsters against drug abuse. All members of the group, along with the college staff and other students, were present for this activity.







Note: Photographs of the activity

Activity 4: Community Walk

Objective: To observe and document drug-related concerns in your neighbourhood (nearby 01 KM of radius), promoting awareness about the local impact of drug misuse.

In continuation with the "Project Nishchaya", the Rovers and Rangers group of Vallabh Govt. College Mandi organized a 'Community Walk' on 5th December 2023 to spread awareness among the local inhabitants about drug addiction and drug abuse in society. The program was inaugurated by college Principal Prof. Surina Sharma, who flagged off the event. In this program, Rover scout leader Mr. Bhed R. Verma and Ranger leader Dr. Bandana Chauhan were also present. The rally was organized by the Rovers and Rangers, along with students from the college and other organizations such as the Siraj Student Welfare Association.





Note: Photographs of the activity

The rally, which aimed to raise awareness against substance abuse, commenced from the college campus, passing through PanchvaktraTemple in Paddal Colony, Tibetan Market, and ISBT Bus Stand Mandi, and concluded back at the college campus. At the end of the rally, the Ranger leader, Dr. Bandana Chauhan, administered an oath against substance abuse to all Rovers, Rangers, and other volunteers present.

Activity 5: Peer Education Workshop

Objective: Conduct a workshop at Gram Panchayat/Nagar Panchayat/ Nagar Nigam/ Mahila Mandal/ Yuvak Mandal Level, where participants educate their peers about the dangers of drug misuse and how to make informed decisions.

The Rovers and Rangers group of Vallabh Government College, Mandi, initiated the peer education workshop on drug abuse with the local community. The main aim of the workshop was to address the increasing cases of substance/drug abuse in the state and its socio-economic, cultural, and moral impacts and also to spread awareness among people against addiction in society. As part of the campaign against substance abuse, on April 27, 2024, the Rovers and Rangers of the college visited the nearby village to seek and share knowledge with the "Shivshakti Mahila Mandal" at Majhwar. They conducted discussions, skits, and presentations to raise awareness among women about the adverse effects of substance/drug abuse. About 30 women from the local village also participated in the program. The session began with a brief introduction presented by Ranger Kritika about drug addiction and abuse. Further, Ranger Isha shed light on the five burning cases related to substance abuse in Mandi district. They discussed how we can create a substance-free society, establish healthy and substance-free families, and how women can bring positive change in society. A short play was presented to the women through a projector. The chair of the "Shivshakti Mahila Mandal", Mrs. Gaganesh Devi, warmly welcomed the Rovers and Rangers of Vallabh Government College, Mandi, expressing gratitude and emphasizing the importance of providing information about the growing trend of substance abuse among youths through the internet. At the end of the program, Ranger's leader Dr. Bandana Chauhan, expressed gratitude to all the women, sharing her

thoughts. Rover Scout leader of the college, Mr. Bhed R. Verma, along with 24 Rovers and Rangers of the group, were present in the workshop.





Note: Photographs of the activity

Activity 6: Community Visit

Objective: Organize a community visit to nearby rehabilitation centres or nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that work on drug awareness and rehabilitation. This visit aims to provide participants with firsthand insights into the challenges of drug misuse and the efforts taken to address them.

Under the banner of the "Project Nishchaya", the Rovers and Rangers group of Vallabh Govt. College Mandi visited the nearby rehabilitation centre on 29th December 2023. The program was organised under the guidance of the group leader/Principal, Prof. Surina Sharma, the Rover scout leader, and the Rangers leader of the college. During the drug rehabilitation centre visit, Rovers and Rangers engaged in discussions with patients and staff members. They were briefed on the structured approach to patient care, including sessions such as "Just for Today" (Discipline), Sharing Sessions, Games Sessions, Reflection Sessions, and Counseling Sessions.



In addition, Rovers and Rangers had meaningful conversations with the patients, who shared their journeys and experiences and highlighted their progress towards better health since arriving at the centre. Notably, some staff members were former patients who had successfully completed their rehabilitation and were now contributing to the centre's services.

Overall, the Community visit provided valuable insights into the rehabilitation process and emphasized the importance of support in overcoming addiction. Such initiatives play a vital role in raising awareness and promoting a healthier, drug-free lifestyle.



Note: Photographs of the activity

Activity 7: Community Drug Awareness Campaign

Objective: Organize a comprehensive event combining a drug awareness campaign and a community discussion forum with the assistance and permission of the local/Distt. administration.

On 21st March 2024, the Rovers and Rangers group of Vallabh Govt. College Mandi initiated an awareness campaign among youth against substance/drug abuse through street play. It was the seventh activity of "Project Nishchaya" directed by Group leader/Principal Prof. Surina Sharma, Rover scout leader, and Rangers leader of the college. A street play was performed outside of the college campus. The play aimed to raise awareness among youth about the harmful effects of growing drug/substance abuse habits and its prevention.







Note: Photographs of the activity

Link: - https://www.facebook.com/share/v/u8EqhRtePeCdJ1C4/?mibextid=jmPrMh

At the end of this activity, other students of the college campus present during the play also shared their perspectives on the causes of increasing substance abuse among youth and their views on substance prevention. Everyone admired the efforts of the Rovers and Rangers group of the college to promote people for a healthy and drug addiction-free lifestyle.

News Highlights

News coverages of the activities commenced by the Rangers and Rovers Group of Vallabh Govt. College Mandi under the Project Nishchaya: Beyond

Addictions – A Drug-Free Vision







In the end, let us join hands to ignite a transformation, foster awareness, and empower the youth to combat drug addiction in Himachal Pradesh. Together, we can make a lasting impact and build a brighter future for our state.

"Remember, it is not what you have but what you give that gives happiness" -Lord Baden Powell

Savia

Principal Vallabh Govt. College Mandi H.P.