

SPOTLIGHT

Scheme Voucher

An Innovation to accelerate programmatic intervention



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An Initiative of Bandhu Social Welfare Society for Young MSM

Bangladesh belongs to a minority of states that not only refuse to recognize same-sex behaviors, but also punish men who share physical intimacy with other men. Therefore, male who have sex with males (MSM) regardless of their sexual identity and social status, face myriad of difficulties in education institutions, work and public places and even in accessing general health and sexual health care services. They even get no or little support from family.

It was revealed that a considerable number of target population especially youth and adolescent are out of access from health care services despite having need/demand which happened just because of not knowing or unavailability of service points/center at their surrounding areas. Further at the same time it was also noticed that a certain number of target populations were kept themselves away from the services due to fear of identity exposure.

This overall situation has resulted into fear of harassment, embarrassment and a sense of isolation among young MSM and TG/hijras. A study conducted by Professor Md. Kamruzzaman Mozumder et al., University of Dhaka found that 47% of MSM in Bangladesh have considered suicide at least once.

Considering their HIV vulnerability, self-esteem, access to relevant and appropriate services and information, education and human rights abuses of young MSM, BSWs has established a Youth Corner "HIM" in 2013 with a view to address their psychosocial, psychosexual and other health care needs.

To reach out the young MSM and TG, HIM introduced Scheme Voucher as an effective method to provide stipulated services to the targeted beneficiaries. There are 3 (three) Youth Link Associates who are dealing with Scheme Voucher. The associates introduce scheme voucher to

other (on the issues like what is scheme voucher, how it works, what issues related to it etc.). These associates act as SEED also.

The first seed takes 2 (two) vouchers and distribute to 2 (two) beneficiaries. When these beneficiaries come to HIM, they get comprehensive SRHR services with warm welcoming. Again, they each get 2 vouchers to distribute to two other peers. In this manner the networking is being carried out and expanded.

Day by day new beneficiaries are being identified, enlisted and provided with the services they essentially in need. And, this way this innovative approach of scheme voucher is helping HIM to find out this hidden cluster of young MSM and TG.

The young and adolescent MSM and Hijra took Voucher Scheme very positively and facilitating in the networking enthusiastically.

Scheme Voucher Communication Cycle

