

6. CHECKLIST FOR MENTOR/S

While following a monitoring system (based on checklists) helps in improving the quality of work, a mentor/ consultant for the Safer Practices programme should, in addition, pay attention to the following issues:

- Is the staff recruited for Safer Practices programme getting enough opportunity to raise their concerns, ask questions and clarify doubts during training workshops? What was done apart from the initial training to improve the capacity of the project staff?
- What has been done to address the suggestions coming up from community, following sharing of the situation and response assessment findings?
- Has the sequence of having community sensitisation before launching Safer Practices been followed?
- What have been the processes of engaging different range of community stakeholders?
- Has the participation of drug users in every stage of assessment as well as subsequent intervention been ensured?
- Are the outreach coordinators maintaining their own logbook on field coordination without emphasising only on outreach workers for such a requirement?
- Problems should be raised in staff meetings (e.g., every Saturday) and solutions suggested?
- Has the safety of the outreach workers in the field been adequately ensured?⁸
- What is finally happening to the used and returned syringes and needles?
- Are the rules of 'not buying articles or accepting gifts from respondents' and 'not raising false hopes in the community' being followed?
- How effective has been the effort of reaching out to the sex partners of the IDUs and measures taken to improve upon this reach and quality of services in this regard?
- Have linkages been forged with health care outlets and addiction treatment centres where respondents can be referred in case necessity arise?
- Which of the referral linkages did not work out well, the reasons for their not working well and steps taken to rectify this?

⁸ A mentor/consultant should check if used and returned syringes and needles are being collected by the outreach workers in a puncture proof container who should always carry it in the Outreach-Kit while going in the field for safer practice. Simple measures like this and vaccination of outreach workers against Hepatitis B go a long way in preventing accidental needle stick injury and infections resulting therefrom.