

Empowering Women and Children against HIV/AIDS

(EWCAH)

Project No 323-900-1160

Shakti Milan Samaj

Baseline Survey Report

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Acknowledgement

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We have to express our appreciation to the Natisara Rai (Executive Director) for sharing her pearls of wisdom with us during the process of the Baseline survey. We are also immensely grateful to the whole team of that Organization in whose close coordination baseline was conducted in 5 different districts: Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, Sindhupalchowk and Nuwakot. Also we want to thank Board Members of SMS.

Abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ARV	Anti-retro Viral
CD4	Cluster of Differentiation 4
EWCAH	Empowering Women and Children against HIV/AIDS
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IG	Income Generation
SMS	Shakti Milan Samaj
WLHA	Women Living with HIV

Executive Summary

The empowering women and children against HIV/AIDS Program is a three years - MISEREOR funded initiative which is implemented by Shakti Milan Samaj. The program began in January 2017 and as the part of project activity, base line survey was conducted in the month of June and covered targeted areas in Kathmandu, Bhaktapur Lalitpur, Sindhupalchowk and Nuwakot districts. Baseline was done by project staff in close collaboration with some local partners working in the different districts of intervention. The survey reached a final total sample of 82 women living with HIV/AIDS.

Both the quantitative and qualitative analysis of the data is done on the basis of the nature of questionnaire. The responses of close ended Questions are tabulated and analyzed accordingly using the quantitative methods of analysis. Whereas the response of open ended questions are analyzed through interpretive method. Some of the analysis are based on Literacy Status of Respondents, Status in Decision making, Number of family members, ARV taking status of the respondents, Medium of HIV infection, Sector of interest, Field of Interest of IG support. Similarly the area of qualitative analysis include the respondents understanding on HIV/AIDS, Stigma and discrimination faced by them, Associated challenges to run the Business and the coping mechanisms they apply and finally their understanding on Empowerment. After the deeper analysis of respondents views and opinions on all major questions, finally this report has outlines the major findings of the survey.

To sum up, this report covers and focuses basically in specific analysis of how we can empower women through seed money and vocational training for job placements and Income generation activities. Also, it focuses on empowering women and transforming their

lives through their own self livelihood program and economic earning while focusing on the issue of sustainability. It has also tried to figure out the potential sectors for investment with the small amount of seed money available while giving special focus on their field of interest, since we believe that empowerment means right to have self free choice.

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Introduction

Empowering Women Children against HIV/AIDS is a project which focuses on broader socio – economic approaches and it aims to reduce social discrimination against HIV/AIDS, as well as economically empower the women and children affected with HIV/AIDS. The project has two objectives output areas.

Empower: Economically empower the HIV/AIDS effected women through vocational training and income generation activities.

Aware: Raise awareness of stakeholders through behavior change communication (BCC).

For the economic support, the project provides seed money so that they can do some business on their own. So, for this purpose the baseline survey was conducted in 5 districts i.e. Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, Sindhupalchowk and Nuwakot district.

Objective of Baseline Survey:

The main purpose behind baseline survey is to collect information against which the project activities progress and effectiveness during implementation and after the activity is completed can be assessed and monitored. So, some of the objective of Baseline includes:

- To find out the present status of women in accordance to Social, Demographic, Economic and health related issues.
- To trace the area of interest of respondents for IG support and Job placement opportunities.
- To verify whether the interest of respondents matches with the present demand-supply status of the market or not.

- To know their understanding on HIV/AIDS, Empowerment and so on.
- To outline the challenges, stigma and discrimination faced by WLHA.

Survey Design and method:

Development of questionnaire:

For the data collection of Baseline survey a set of Questionnaire was prepared consisting of both open ended and close ended questions.

Data collection method:

The way in which the data was collected was through one-to-one interview and observation method. For this, Survey was conducted with close coordination with the like minded Organization working in the targeted districts. The responses of the participants were treated with strict confidentiality.

Sample size:

Good and appropriate sampling helps to improve the reliability and quality of data, and can save time and resources for this sampling should be 'representative'. So, Purposive Sampling was done. Responses of 82 respondents are HIV infected women who are willing to do something on their own, if they get financial support.

Data Analysis:

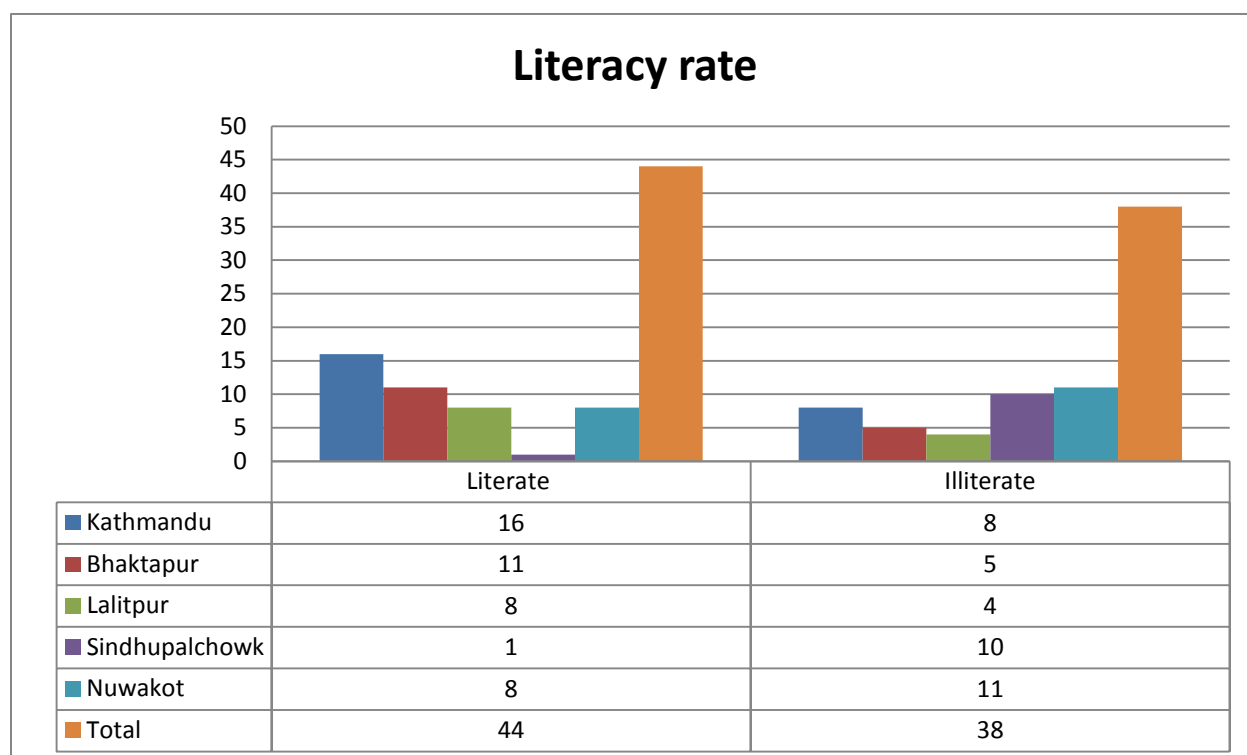
Result part shows the description of the questions asked in the baseline survey which includes the status about health, socio economic condition, the work which they want to start by the seed money given, the challenges associated and so on. The response has been collected from 82

WLHA from 5 districts namely Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Sindhupalchowk and Nuwakot.

The data obtained are presented below in the table and description is followed by the table.

Quantitative analysis of data:

Table 1: Literacy Status of Respondents



Source: Baseline Survey 2017, SMS

The baseline survey data reveals that out of 82 respondents, 44 are Literate which accounts for around 54%. On the other side 38 are illiterate which accounts for 46%. Through the deeper analysis it can be seen that out of 5 districts, the most illiterate are from Sindhupalchowk district where only 1 was literate as she was educated through Adult Literacy Program as a part of non formal education. On the other end, most of the literate are from Bhaktapur district followed by

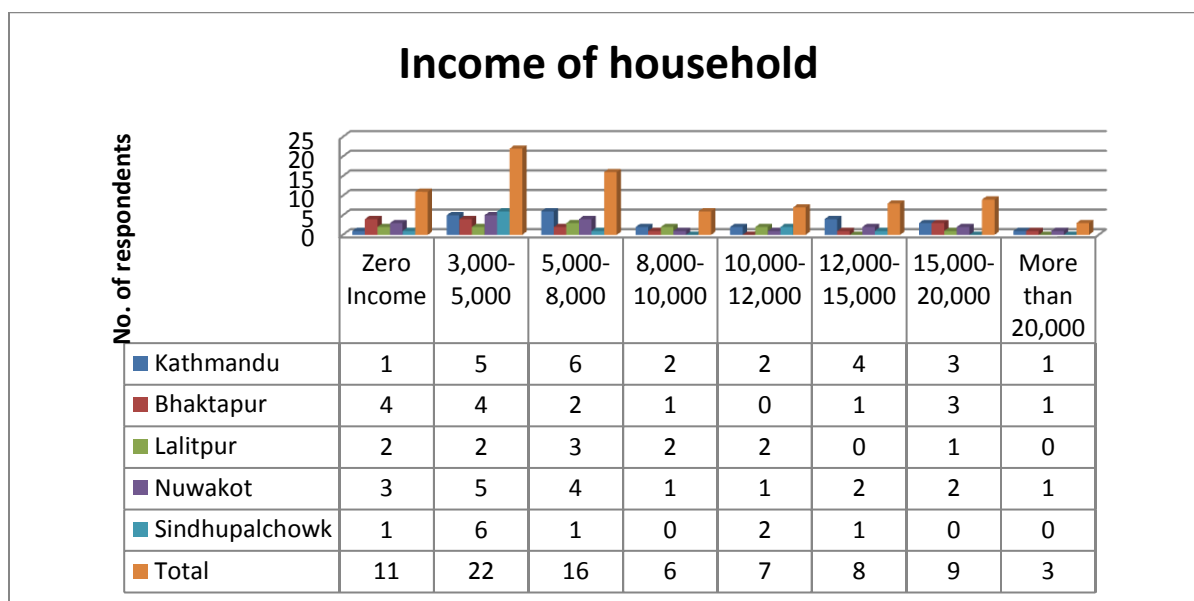
Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Nuwakot district respectively. So, this data shows the level of education in 5 different districts.

Table 2: Marital Status

Marital Status	No. of respondents
Married	44
Unmarried	4
Widowed	28
Divorced	1
Separated	5
Total	82

Source: Baseline Survey 2017, SMS

The above presented data reveals that most of the respondents are married. Out of them most are married for first time whereas few were married for the second time. Similarly, 28 respondents out of 82 were widowed as their husband died of some kind of disease because of low immunity power. So, it was found that most of them were diagnosed with HIV after their partner's death. Similarly, 4 respondents were unmarried and 5 were separated with their husband and 1 was divorced. Most of the reason of their separation and divorce was because of the second marriage of their Spouse. Also some cases of domestic violence were also found.

Table 3: Income of household

Source: Baseline Survey 2017, SMS

The incomes of the respondents are presented in monthly basis and this accounts for the whole income of family including the income of other members of the family. From the above chart it can be seen and analyzed that most of the respondent's income lies in the 3000-5000 categories, followed by 5000-8000 income groups. Meanwhile, the least number of respondents is from more than 20,000 income category. Those who have more than 20,000 incomes per month are from Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Nuwakot district and from Sindhupalchowk and Lalitpur district not a single respondent was found to have more than 20,000 incomes per month. This shows that there are variations in income level as per the geographical. Also those who have lesser income range have more number of Children. This shows the poor economic condition of the family and the challenges of them to meet the basic necessities of living.

Table 4: Status in Decision making

Status in Decision Making	No. of respondents
Self	35
Husband	17
Joint	21
Others	9
Total	82

Source: Baseline Survey 2017, SMS

The analysis from the status of women in decision making shows that out of 82 respondents 35 were found to have major role in decision making process .But, major point which should be focused here is that those women who are the major decision makers are widowed, separated or divorced. But those who are living with their husband have minimal decision making power which is because of the prevailing structure of power dynamic in the society which says that men are more superior in terms of all aspects of decision making in comparison to their female counterparts , Nepal being a patriarchal society. 21 women were found to have joint role in decision making. Beside husband, other members like in-laws have major role in decision making.

Table 5: No. of Family members

Respondents	82
Family members infected by HIV	161
Family members affected by HIV	159

Total no. of family members of 82 respondents	320
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Source: Baseline Survey 2017, SMS

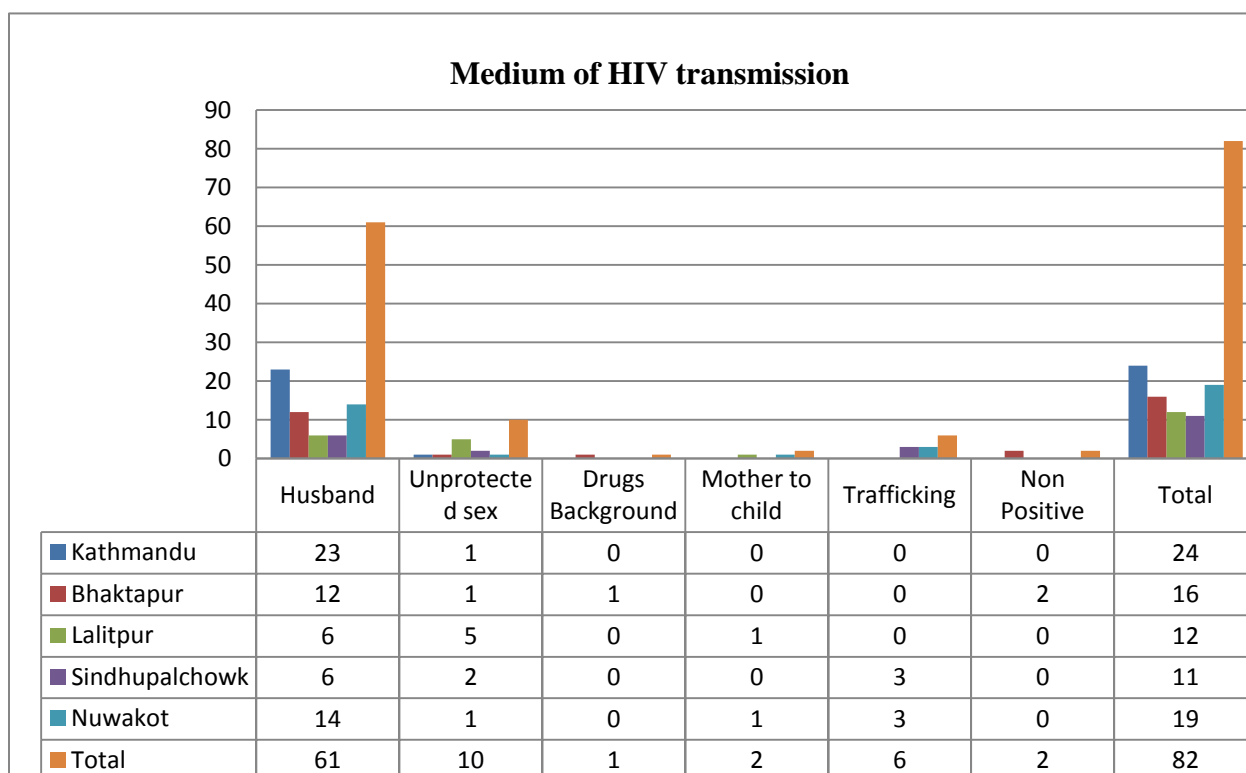
The total number of respondents in the survey was 82. Out of which 80 were HIV positive and 2 of them were non-positive. The total number of family members account for 320 out of which 161 are infected and 159 are affected. This information depicts that though the number of respondents is merely 82, but by the support provided by the project could help in the socio-economic condition of their immediate family members which includes both infected and affected members of family.

Table 6: ARV taking status

ARV taking Status	No. of respondents
ARV taking	79
ARV not taking	1
Non Infected Respondents	2
Total	82

Source: Baseline Survey 2017, SMS

The most interesting data revealed during the survey was their status of ARV taking. More than 98% of respondents out of infected respondents did have access to medical treatment and support. Out of 82 respondents, 2 were non-positive and 1 respondent out of 80 is not taking ARV because of high level of CD4 and she is from Lalitpur district. The respondents from 5 different district which ranges from urban to rural settings, all of them have access to medicine, which is the positive side. They also showed their happiness saying that after starting ARV their health condition has become more stable as they feel sick less often.

Table 7: Medium of HIV transmission

Source: Baseline Survey 2017, SMS

From the above presented information it can be seen that most of the respondents i.e. 61 out of 82 have been infected by HIV through their husband. Through the survey it was revealed that some of the respondent's husband was migrated to India for seasonal Labor work whereas some of them have never been to other countries. Out of 82 respondents only 1 got infection through drug use which shows the lesser indulgence of Women in drug use. But, those who got infection from their husband have connection with drug abuse as their husband was involved in it. Information shows that 6 of them are the trafficking survivors, which can be said that they get

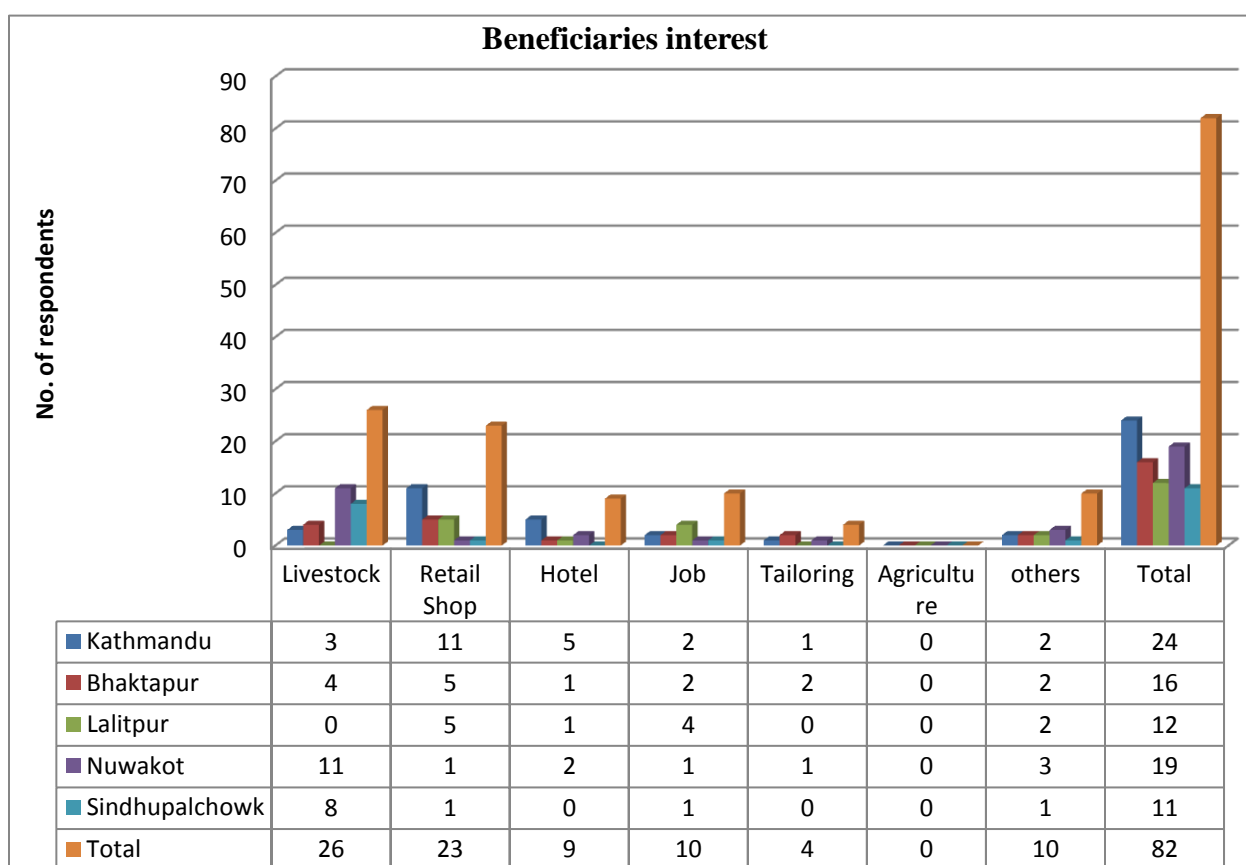
infection from unsafe sex. District wise data shows that Sindhupalchowk and Nuwakot are the districts which have more number of trafficking cases which shows the vulnerability of women living there. So, the total infection from unsafe sex accounts for 16 as 10 of them were infected from unsafe sex but not from trafficking case. 2 of them were from their mothers and 2 were uninfected but were affected because of their husband being infected.

Table 8: Sector of interest

Sector of interest	No. of respondents
Income Generation Support	73
Job placement	9
Total	82

Source: Baseline Survey 2017, SMS

The project target is to support 20 WLHA through IG support and 5 for Job placement support by providing skill development and vocational training. Most of the respondents showed their interest in IG support sector. The main reason behind this was found out to be their willingness to do something on their own. Those who showed their interest in Job placement opportunities has some kind of connection and experience in the same field. They said that they can put their competencies from past experience to excel in the upcoming job opportunity.

Table 9: Field of Interest

From the above information, it can be analyzed that most of the respondents are interested in livestock rearing. Out of 73 respondents who showed their interest in IG support, 26 have planned to do livestock rearing. Here livestock refers to poultry farming, cow rearing, goat farming and Buffalo rearing. Since Nuwakot and Sindhupalchowk are geographically rural area in comparison to other 3 districts, most of the respondents from these 2 districts showed their interest in this sector. Also, most of them have got experience in the same field so they were found to have interest in this sector.

Another important area of interest is grocery store. All the respondents from 5 districts showed their interest in it. As per their response this is the most convenient type of Business and it can be located in any area where people live. Most of the sectors are conventional form of Business.

Though the Market assessment shows the labor shift in market in post earthquake situation, but because of the health and other related issues, most of them are still interested in traditional business areas.

Qualitative analysis of data:

Since the closed ended questions cannot help to obtain the desired information about the respondents, some of the open ended questions were also included in the baseline survey to gain in depth information about them. For this, additional guiding and probing questions were used in the survey to dig out the real information. In qualitative research, researcher constructs the meaning of a situation through interaction among several aspects such as the context of a study area, personal and historical experiences. Similarly, we generated the knowledge by analyzing multiple factors which directly or indirectly influenced respondent's livelihood. Some of the Questions involved were:

Understanding on HIV/AIDS

From the baseline survey, we collected the information about the respondents understanding on HIV/AIDS. Most of them said that, initially when they were diagnosed about HIV infection, they were worried and felt that everything has finished in their life. But, after taking ARV and having access to other treatment support, their outlook towards the life has been positive .Now; they feel like HIV is normal phenomenon. While some of them said that, it is a virus and when we get infected by it our immune system weakens and we become ill and have to take medicine for life time. On the other hand some of them were unable to express their feelings about their understanding on HIV/AIDS. This shows that there was variation in the response which was attributed to their literacy level, understanding on HIV/AIDS.

Stigma and discrimination faced by WLHA

As per the Baseline survey data it was noticed that the respondents has faced huge discrimination in many spheres of life ranging from home, community, Governance level to Private and Government hospitals. The impact of discrimination was larger in the early years of their infection in comparison to present days. Because of the Stigma and discrimination, most of respondents have changed their location and were shifted in central locations. Now, they have not been open up much with the fear of being discriminated again. For WLHA the discrimination rate is higher in comparison to their male counterparts as most of them are still cursed for being HIV infected which is till date attributed to sinful act. But the reason behind their infection is mostly through their husband. This shows the marginalization and vulnerability of women in the Patriarchal society like Nepal.

Associated challenges and coping mechanisms to implement their ideas into actions

During the information collection it was interesting to see that most of them did have clear information about which business or job they are going to take. This was because of their previous experience and also the challenges they faced during that. For instance, those who were planning to do goat farming had clear idea about the challenges they could face in the coming days. Most of them shared that there are huge chances of goat getting ill from different kind of diseases. This shows their clarity in the operation of their activities. On the other hand there were some novices who are just planning to kick start their work if they get support from SMS, so they seemed to have less knowledge in comparison to those who are already doing some kind of Business.

How does the support provided by SMS could help them in their empowerment?

To response to this question it was a tough job for most of them. So, additional probing questions were used to make them understand about the term '*Empowerment*'. Since this project in about Empowerment of women and children, so this question was included to make them aware of the term. Out of 82 respondents no one was aware of this term. But after the survey team probe them by the explanation of the term. They were clear and answered it. This shows that more effort should be put on sensitizing them on empowerment issues.

Major Findings of the Survey:

- More than 98% of the respondents have access to ARV medicine.
- Women have minimal decision making power in comparison to their male counterparts.
- Out of total number of respondent from Sindhupalchowk district, only a single woman was educated through non-formal education program.
- Though the respondent were merely 82 but the total family members account for 320, which shows that benefit they can get from the support.
- Most of the women are interested in operating a vegetable shop.
- 75% of the respondents are being infected by HIV through their husband.

Annex

Shakti Milan Samaj
Empowering Women and children against HIV/AIDS
(EWACH)
Supported by: MISEREOR Germany
BASELINE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE 2017

For office use:

Note for interviewer/supervisors:

Rapport Building – 10 minutes

Briefing about the SMS, EWACH PROGRAM AAND ABOUT THIS SURVEY –10 minutes

Please introduce yourself and the objective of the survey properly and openly to your respondent before you start questioning. Establish a good rapport with your respondent. This survey is expected to contribute to the improvement of the planning, monitoring and evaluation of employment status and health measures based on the analysis of knowledge, attitude and practices of vulnerable women.

- When answering the questions, one need not disclose his/her name.
- All answers to the questions in the questionnaire should be true and sincere.
- All answers to each question will be analyzed totally.
- All information provided by the respondent will be treated with strict confidentiality.

Interviewer: _____

Name of Supervisor: _____

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Date :

Name of Respondent:

Permanent Address:

Temporary Address:

S.N	Description	Response
	How old are you?
	What is your literacy level?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literate • Illiterate
	Do you have citizenship card?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No
	What is your marital status?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unmarried • Married • Divorced/Separated • Widowed
	How many members are there in your family / Among them how many members are infected by HIV?/.....
	Are you facing any kind of discrimination/Stigmatization from family/Community?	
	What is your occupation?
	Income of your household?	Rs
	What is your level of decision making in the household/Community?	
	What is your understanding on HIV/AIDS?	
	At personal level how do you treat PLHIV	
	What are the behavioral problems PLHIV are facing in the society?	

	Do you want to mention any specific issues faced by WLHA?	
	How did you get infected from HIV?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unprotected sex • From infected mother to child • From Husband • Trafficking • Sharing needles during drug abuse • Using improper sterilized hospital tools
	Are you taking ARV, If yes from how long have you been taking?	
	How is your health condition? Are there any complications?	
	Do you know of any organisations programmes/centres in your community that help PLHIV HIV Survivors Communities	
	Are you a member in any of those Organizations?	
	SMS is implementing EWCAH project, do you like to involve in this program?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. No
	In which categories do you like to involve?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income generation • Job Placement
	Business related	
	What is your Business plan? What innovative concept do you have?	
	Who could be your target customers?	
	In which area do you want to settle your Business?	

	How many household are there in your community where you planning to expand your business?	
	Do you need Vocational training for this?	
	Do you have previous Business experience?	
	What was the reason for the success/failure of the Business?	
	Why do you decide to change/start a new Business?	
	In your idea what could be the easiest method of returning the seed money in installments?	
	What can you do to make your Business sustain?	
	What could be the challenges during the operation of Business?	
	What are your coping mechanisms to overcome the challenges?	
	Will it help in your empowerment? If yes, how?	
	After 1 year where you want to see your business, are there any special indicators?	
	If we support you to conduct what you	1 Yes

	want to do, how will this project improve your life?	2 No
	Job related	
	In which area you have interest?	
	Why you choose this specific area?	
	What type of training do you require?	
	What is your area of competency?	
	Do you have any past experiences?	
	What skills from the past experience could you put in the new Job?	
	What might be the associated challenges?	
	How would you cope up with those challenges?	
	For how long are you planning to take this job?	
	Are there any comments/Suggestions that you want to include?	