

**S1 Table. Exemplary analysis of the contrast between positive and negative responses towards NSP among participants from bureau of health and narcotics division.**

Positive attitudes	Negative attitudes	Analytical Comments
<p><b><i>Bureau of Health:</i></b> (responses=28)</p> <p>Examples: NSP was important for HIV/AIDS prevention and control ...</p> <p>NSP was an essential and integrated component of preventing and controlling HIV/AIDS ...</p> <p>The NSE program provides free blood test for HIV, syphilis and HCV [Hepatitis C Virus] ...</p> <p>It provides needle and syringe exchange service, health promotion and education ...</p> <p>NSP includes needle and syringe exchange service, promotion for using condoms, HIV/AIDs enquiry and blood test service, health education and promotion, supply of free Methadone, sexual transmitted disease referrals, antiviral treatment ...</p> <p>The good points of the programs were ... naturally includes needle and syringe exchange service; condom usage promotion; HIV/AIDS counselling and testing; health education and promotion and provision of free methadone [maintenance treatment] ...</p> <p>The programs were quite effective ...</p>	<p><b><i>Bureau of Health:</i></b> (responses=4)</p> <p>Examples: NSP is useful to a certain extent but the outcomes was not very ideal ...</p> <p>If you look at the cost and effect, the result was not very reasonable ...</p> <p>The program was not effective ... it can be related to cultural beliefs and public misconception of the program from the public</p>	<p>Positive comments focussed on the program services and outcomes</p> <p>Negative comments focussed on the external factors or pressure</p>

<p><b><i>The Narcotics Division:</i></b> (responses=19)</p> <p>NSP can reduce HIV transmission and enhance the self-awareness of HIV prevention among drug users.</p> <p>There are many benefits to implement NSPs including: “reducing HIV transmission”, “being beneficial improvement to the [HIV] education” and “greatly enhancing the self-awareness of disease [HIV] prevention among drug users.</p> <p>NSPs were important because HIV epidemic is far more fearsome and detrimental than a drug users ...</p> <p>At the current stage it is very difficult for drug users to completely abstain from their drug addiction. The implementation of NSPs could be considered as a protective measure [HIV/AIDS] for drug users ...</p> <p>NSPs may reduce the burden of HIV and the numbers of drug users ...</p> <p>When drug users can obtain clean and free [injecting] equipment, it prevents them from sharing [unclean] needles.</p>	<p><b><i>The Narcotics Division :</i></b> (responses=13)</p> <p>NSP was ineffective ... NSPs did not think about the ‘pros and cons’ ...</p> <p>We actually do not fully accept NSPs, but the government and leaders give a green light to it, so we have to comply with their instructions within our work duties ...</p> <p>Our role is to catch the drug addicts ...</p> <p>In the long run, a strong crackdown on drug use must be considered as NSPs is only a temporary measure ...</p> <p>For the Narcotics Division, it is not meaningful [to continue NSPs] as [its policy] it strictly combats illicit drug use, and thus showing no leniency to those who are caught ...</p> <p>I suggested that we need to replace NSPs with MMT ...</p>	<p>Positive comments focussed on the program outcomes</p> <p>Negative comments focussed on their own subjective beliefs about NSPs or own concerns, particularly the clashes with their job nature/work duties</p>