

Webinar Report: Tobacco Free Schools- A Way Forward To Smoke Free Education



Date: 7th October, 2020

Time: 11AM to 12:30PM

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Introduction

It is well established that tobacco is the foremost preventable cause of disease and death in the world. As per the Global Youth Tobacco Survey 2009, around 14.6% of children in the age group of 13-15 years consume tobacco in India. Being the only industry that kills majority of its users, Tobacco Company focuses the youth to create market for their products. This highlights the need to protect our youth from industry tactics. Our schools have the potential to reach a large number of children repeatedly at an age when they are tempted to experiment with tobacco. Therefore schools and in turn teachers play an integral part in putting an end to initiation of tobacco use.

It is in this context that the webinar was organized with an aim to sensitize principals, teachers and other staff on impact of tobacco on children; to orient them on Tobacco - Free Institution Policy and to make Puducherry Schools as “Tobacco Free Schools”.

Webinar Structure

The webinar on ‘Tobacco Free Schools- A way forward to smoke free education’ organized by Resource Center for Tobacco Control, PGIMER Chandigarh in collaboration with The Union; JIPMER, Puducherry and Department of Health and Family Welfare, Puducherry. The webinar was conducted on zoom platform and was live streamed on YouTube.

The Team

Chief Guest: Dr. S. Govindrajan, State Nodal Officer (HIV, TB & Tobacco Control)

Speakers:

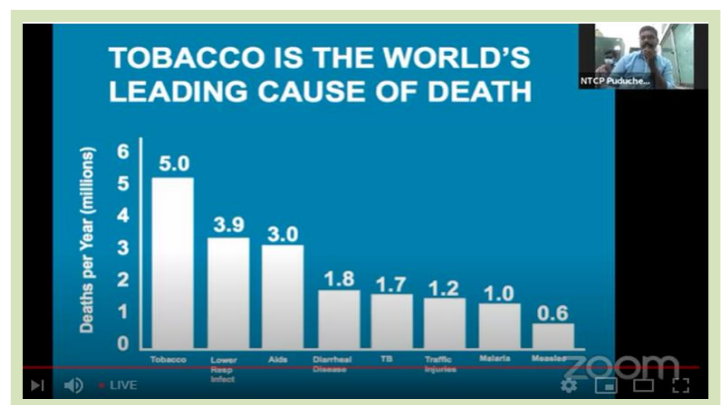
- Dr. Suriya Kumar, State Consultant, NTCP- Puducherry
- Dr. Amit Yadav, Senior Technical Advisor- Tobacco Control at The Union, South East Asia, New Delhi
- Dr. Sitanshu Sekhar Kar, Additional Professor, Department of P&SM, JIPMER, Puducherry
- Dr. Sonu Goel, Professor DCM&SPH, PGIMER, Chandigarh

Vote of thanks: Mr. Rajeev Choudhary, Project Coordinator, PGIMER Chandigarh

Moderator: Dr. Neema Joseph, ASPO- Puducherry

Overview and Topics of Discussion

The webinar commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Sitanshu Sekhar Kar followed by a brief introduction of the project by Dr. Sonu Goel. The opening remarks were made by Dr. S. Govindrajan where he emphasized on the need to focus on children and the youth for effective tobacco control in Puducherry. Accentuating the importance of preventing initiation of tobacco use, he appreciated the joint efforts of education and health department towards achieving the goal of ‘Tobacco Free Schools’.



Thereafter, we moved on to the technical session. The first speaker for the session was Dr. Suriya Kumar who briefed us on the social, economic and disease burden of tobacco use in Puducherry and the role of National Tobacco Control Programme in addressing the issue. He further elaborated on the reasons for initiation of tobacco use and proceeded on to demonstrate the importance of active collaboration between various stakeholders for successful tobacco cessation efforts.

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Top chat

- rakesh gupta Question to Dr. Sonu- Can weekly monitoring of the weight of the tobacco litter at an educational institution be a useful parameter?
- rakesh gupta Best compliments to all speakers for very comprehensive presentations. It is surely a landmark webinar.
- Resource Center for Tobacco Control in India Provide your feedback of the webinar by filling this form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FA...>
- Resource Center for Tobacco Control in India Dear Participants, don't forget to fill the feedback form.
- Dr. Bishwaranjan Purohit Sonu Sir, thank you for having a very detailed insight of Tobacco Free Schools
- Santosh Kumar Sir How can we put more Emphasis on a Institute to banned tobacco and make Tobacco Free Workplace for the employees
- debarati sarkar sir In general nowadays it has been witnessed that tobacco use have rightly pointed as a norms, a fashion rather to say.

The next speaker was Dr. Amit Yadav who engaged the audience with an introduction to Tobacco Control legislation (Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003 (COTPA), w.r.t Educational Institutions. He went on to elucidate the key points of the Act in detail and urged to advance awareness regarding the same among government officials and general public.

The third speaker for the occasion was Dr. Sitanshu Sekhar Kar. He sensitized the participants on the role of teachers in achieving Tobacco Free School status. He stated that teachers are crucial pillars of tobacco control as they influence the attitudes and behavior of children in a positive direction to resist tobacco use. He also described the possible micro and macro level interventions to be carried out by the teachers to achieve smoke free education.



The last speaker of the session was Dr. Sonu Goel who threw light on the guidelines for Tobacco Free Educational Institutions. He walked the audience through the various daily activities that could be undertaken by the school authorities to curb the use of tobacco by students. He also emphasized the need for active involvement of student committees for monitoring the progress of such activities.

Top chat ▾

done in such situations?

Semathi IX-D [message retracted]

Resource Center for Tobacco Control in India
Your feedback is valuable. Don't forget to fill the above-shared form.

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Dr. Bishwaranjan Purohit Sonu Sir, thank you for having a very detailed insight of Tobacco Free Schools

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The technical session was followed by question and answer session to allow a productive dialogue between the speakers and the participants. The attendees put forward their queries in the comment section of the live streaming video. These questions were taken up and put forth by the moderator for speakers to answer.



Thereupon, the webinar concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Rajeev Choudhary wherein he expressed his gratitude towards all the speakers for sparing some time from their busy schedule to impart knowledge on the way forward to achieve Tobacco Free Schools. He also thanked the participants for their keen interest and appreciated the efforts of the organizers in making this event a huge success.