

“State Level Advocacy Meeting for Effective Implementation of Smoke Free Laws”

Jaipur, Rajasthan, June 10, 2009

Introduction

CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training (CUTS CART) jointly with the Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Rajasthan, and in collaboration with the Health Related Information & Dissemination Among Youth (HRIDAY), New Delhi, and Advocacy Forum For Tobacco Control (AFTC) organised the ‘State Level Advocacy Meeting for Effective Implementation of Smoke Free Laws’ at Hotel Maurya Palace, Jaipur, on June 10, 2009.

Objective

The main objective of the meeting was the effective implementation of the ban on smoking at public places in the state through capacity building of law enforcement officials and non-governmental organisation (NGO) personnel, and advocacy with the concerned government departments.

Participation

More than 70 participants, including senior officials of various government departments, representatives of civil society organisations (CSOs) working on tobacco control, cessation centres, government educational institutions, and media were present in the meeting.

Proceedings

Inaugural Session

The meeting started with the screening of documentary film ‘Tobacco: Time to Act’ and anti-tobacco video spots.



The inaugural session began with the warm welcome of the distinguished guests and participants by **Amar Deep Singh**, Project Officer, CUTS CART. **George Cheriyan**, Director, CUTS in his introductory remarks emphasised that the meeting aims to call upon policy makers and the implementation machinery together to discuss the problems arising in the implementation of

the “Smoke Free Law” in the state, and the possible solutions to the emerging complications.

He shared some of the alarming findings of the various surveys, conducted by CUTS CART to check the execution of the “Smoke Free Law” in the state. He also highlighted 100 percent violation of the compliance of the Supreme Court’s order on “Pictorial Warnings” which came into effect on May 31, 2009. He called upon all concerned stakeholders to collectively brainstorm and explore possible measures to execute the strict enforcement of the law.



Dr R N D Purohit, Director, Department of Medical & Health, Government of Rajasthan was the chief guest of the event. While delivering the inaugural address, he applauded the efforts of CUTS CART and said that “Need of the hour is to provide support to the legal infrastructure through social awareness activities as well as through innovative ideas to implement the law strictly”.

He also stated that awareness programmes conducted by the concerned organisations can assist in generating better understanding of the legal provisions, general public need to be made more aware about the legal aspects concerning the penalties related to tobacco consumption. Purohit showed his concern on the issue and hoped that recommendations, which would emerge out of the meeting, would assist in effective implementation of the law in the state.



Dr D K Ameta, State Nodal Officer, Tobacco Control Cell, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Rajasthan in his keynote address discussed the status of implementation of National Tobacco Control Programme at the state level. He stressed on the fact that strict implementation of the law is not sufficient. Therefore, urgent need of the hour is to make combined efforts to raise awareness among the public against ill effects of tobacco use.

He expressed that in a big country like India public awareness can be an effective tool in the successful execution of “Smoke Free Law”. He also spoke about the impact on passive smokers, as they are more prone to dreadful diseases caused by inhaling poisonous air. He also clarified the issues like smoking in public places and discussed various provisions of pictorial warnings. Dr Ameta expressed gratitude towards CUTS CART for coming



forward and playing an active role in providing the platform to government representatives to come together and generate ideas for effective implementation of “Smoke Free Law”. In the end, he alleged that with the unified approach of government and NGOs, the day is not very far when we can inhale smoke free air.

Technical Session

Dr P N Saraswat, Drug Controller, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Rajasthan, chaired the technical session as the moderator and appreciated CUTS CART for providing a platform to discuss the issues related to the ‘Smoke Free Law’.

In the technical session **Amit Yadav**, Legal Officer, HRIDAY, New Delhi expressed his gratitude towards CUTS CART for coming forward and initiating such endeavors. He stated few lines quoted by Father of the Nation ‘Mahatma Gandhi’ emphasising upon the fact that tobacco consumption is dreadful for the entire society, as its impact is not only on the sufferer but also on the family as well, further economically and socially creating burden on the society. He facilitated two sessions: Enforcement of Section 4: Scope of Smoke Free Law and Guidelines to Implement the Law; and Role of Different Departments/Agencies in Tobacco Control. He informed participants specifically about the provisions of tobacco control law known as ‘Cigarette and Other Tobacco Product Act (COTPA) 2003’.

During the course he focused on various provisions of Section 4 “ban on smoking at public places” of the Act. Amendment in the Act of ban on smoking at public places came into effect on October 02, 2008, in which public places are



defined as all working places including private and government office buildings, hospitals, schools, colleges, railway stations, airports, bus stands, hotels, restaurants, shopping malls and cinemas. He urged on the need of effective implementation of law by law enforcement officials. He opined that civil society organisations (CSOs) are playing an active role and have a huge potential to sensitise the law enforcement officer and create awareness among the masses.

He stated his concern towards the troublesome situation in our country and exhibited the deadly figures of casualties occurring every day due to rigorous tobacco consumption,

further heading the community towards awful situation. But at the same point, he showed a ray of hope stating that collectively we can build a smoke free nation where everybody can avail their rights to live in a healthy atmosphere. He summed up giving certain vital suggestions as:

- Formation of a task force to monitor the implementation of law.
- Coordination among different agencies working on the issue.
- Sensitisation and capacity building of general public.
- Organising events at national level like “Tobacco Control Week”.
- Establishing complaint lines.

Dr Virendra Singh, Prof. & Asthma Specialist, SMS hospital, Jaipur highlighted the deadly consequences of tobacco consumption and discussed various aspects as health, social, economical and environmental and the burden created by smokers in the society. He sought attention of all participants by revealing the astonishing facts that our country will be facing in the near future saying that ‘No oxygen next 10 miles’ will be an interesting signage to observe on the roads after few years if today we do not take any speedy action for smoke free air.



He drew the attention towards the dreadful diseases caused due to tobacco consumption. He also talked about the new evil thinking of the youth that cigarette smoking is the key to socialisation. The need is to reveal the starking truth and realities of smoking among the youth and stop them from spreading such messages in the society.

Dr Pratap Singh CM&HO, Jhunjhunu told about their interventions in this sphere in the district. He shared his experiences in formulation of the resource groups, who are working specifically on tobacco control only and even charging penalty in many cases.

Open Discussion Session

A very interactive open discussion session took place in which participants came up with their experiences, queries and suggestions referring to the presentations made and provisions of tobacco control law. Few issues raised during open discussions are mentioned below:

- Bus drivers and conductors themselves smoke in buses and lack of clarity about the officer to enforce the law in public transport.
- Lack of awareness among the general public about the concerned officials to complain the violation of “Ban on smoking in public places”.
- Public servants such as police officials violating the law while on duty.
- Need for regular monitoring mechanisms in certain public places like bus stops, public parks etc.

After open discussion, Dharmendra Chaturvedi, CUTS CART proposed the vote of thanks to all distinguished guests and participants.

Outcomes:

- Law enforcement official being sensitised towards the smoke free law.
 - Capacity building of law enforcement officials to implement the law in the state.
 - Expression of commitment of the department towards the tobacco control by jointly organising the meeting with a CSO.
 - Participation of senior officials of various government departments in the meeting will be helpful to implement the law in respective departments.
 - Media coverage was helpful to draw the attention of law enforcement authorities towards the smoke free law and in spreading the message in general public.
 - Overall the meeting was helpful in effective implementation of the smoke free law in the state.
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News Clippings of the Advocacy Meeting

Hindustan Times, June 12, 2009

Advocacy meet on tobacco

A 'state level advocacy meeting for effective implementation of smoke-free laws' was organised by the CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research and Training (CUTS CART) and state tobacco control cell, department of health and family welfare. It was organised in collaboration with advocacy forum for tobacco control. Dr RND Purohit, Director, Department of Medical & Health appreciated the efforts of the NGO and stressed that "need of the hour is to provide support to the legal infrastructure through social awareness activities as well as through innovative ideas to implement the law strictly". Tobacco control cell, state nodal officer, Dr DK Ameta discussed about the status of implementation level of national tobacco control programme at the state level.

महका भारत

जयपुर, 11 जून, 2009

धूम्रपान निषेध कानून की पालना कार्यशाला

जयपुर, 10 जून (कासं)। कट्स सेंटर फॉर कन्ज्यूमर एक्शन रिसर्च एण्ड ट्रेनिंग (कट्स-कार्ट) एवं स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग के तम्बाकू नियंत्रण सेल के संयुक्त तत्वाधान में तथा हृदय नई दिल्ली और एडवोकेसी फोरम फॉर टोबैको कंट्रोल के सहयोग से बुधवार को होटल मीर्य पैलेस में राज्य स्तरीय पैरवी कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया गया। कार्यशाला का उद्देश्य धूम्रपान निषेध कानून को प्रभावी तरीके से लागू करवाना तथा सम्बन्धित विभागों से पैरवी करना है। कार्यशाला में मुख्य अतिथि डॉ. आर एन डी पुरोहित, निदेशक स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण थे। तम्बाकू नियंत्रण सेल के स्टेट नोडल ऑफिसर डा. डी के आमेटा ने राज्य में तम्बाकू नियंत्रण सेल द्वारा की जा रही गतिविधियों से

अवगत कराया। हृदय नई दिल्ली के लीगल ऑफिसर एडवोकेट अमित यादव ने तम्बाकू नियंत्रण अधिनियम 2003 की विस्तृत जानकारी दी। अस्थमा केयर सोसायटी के चेयरमैन डॉ. धर्मवीर कटेवा समेत विभिन्न विभागों के अधिकारियों, स्वयंसेवी संस्थाओं एवं विद्यालयों के प्रतिनिधियों ने कार्यशाला में भाग लिया।



राजस्थान पत्रिका

जयपुर, गुरुवार, 11 जून 2009

धूम्रपान निषेध कानून के क्रियान्वयन पर चर्चा

कट्स सेंटर फॉर कन्ज्यूमर एक्शन रिसर्च एण्ड ट्रेनिंग (कट्स-कार्ट), स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग (राज्य तंबाकू नियंत्रण सेल), 'हृदय' नई दिल्ली व एडवोकेसी फोरम फॉर टोबैको कंट्रोल ए.एफ.के संयुक्त तत्वाधान में बुधवार को राज्य स्तरीय पैरवी कार्यशाला आयोजित की गई।

जयपुर, गुरुवार

11 जून, 2009

डेली न्यूज़

धूम्रपान निषेध कानून की प्रभावी पालना आवश्यक

जयपुर। सार्वजनिक स्थानों पर धूम्रपान को समय रहते नहीं रोका गया तो कई लोग धूम्रपान से जुड़ी बीमारियों के कारण जीवन से हाथ धो सकते हैं। अतः धूम्रपान निषेध कानून की प्रभावशाली पालना की आवश्यकता है। यह विचार कट्स सेंटर फॉर कन्ज्युमर एक्शन रिसर्च एंड ट्रेनिंग, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, हृदय नई दिल्ली और एडवोकेसी फोरम फॉर टोबैको कंट्रोल की ओर से बुधवार को धूम्रपान निषेध कानून पर आयोजित राज्यस्तरीय पैरवी कार्यशाला में आए। कार्यशाला में स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण निदेशक डॉ. आर.एन.डी पुरोहित व तंबाकू नियंत्रण सेल के स्टेट नोडल ऑफिसर डॉ. डी.के. आमेटा सहित कई वक्ताओं ने अपने विचार रखे।

जयपुर
गुरुवार, 11 जून 2009

दैनिक नवज्योति

तंबाकू के खिलाफ जन जागरूकता जरूरी

जयपुर, 10 जून। तंबाकू निषेध अधिनियम की राज्य में पालना के साथ-साथ सभी वर्गों में तंबाकू के उपयोग से होने वाली बीमारियों के प्रति भी जन जागरूकता बढ़ानी आवश्यक है। यह कहना है राज्य के स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण निदेशक डॉ. आर.एन.डी. पुरोहित का। डॉ. पुरोहित बुधवार को होटल मौर्य पैलेस में टोबैको कंट्रोल पर आयोजित राज्य स्तरीय पैरवी कार्यशाला में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में बोल रहे थे। यह कार्यशाला कट्स सेंटर फॉर कन्ज्युमर एक्शन रिसर्च एंड ट्रेनिंग (कट्स कार्ट), स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग (राज्य तंबाकू नियंत्रण सेल) के संयुक्त तत्वावधान तथा हृदय नई दिल्ली और एडवोकेसी फोरम फॉर टोबैको कंट्रोल के सहयोग से आयोजित की गई थी। इस अवसर पर तंबाकू नियंत्रण सेल के स्टेट नोडल ऑफिसर डॉ. डी.के. आमेटा ने राज्य में तंबाकू नियंत्रण सेल द्वारा की जा रही गतिविधियों से अवगत कराया। उन्होंने बताया कि राज्य में तंबाकू निषेध अधिनियम के प्रचार-प्रसार के लिए कार्य किया जा रहा है। इसके साथ ही तंबाकू नियंत्रण अधिनियम, 2003 को राज्य में लागू करवाने के लिए संबंधित विभागों के अधिकारियों को निर्देश दिए जा चुके हैं। कार्यशाला में हृदय नई दिल्ली के लीगल ऑफिसर अमित यादव ने तंबाकू नियंत्रण अधिनियम 2003 की विस्तृत जानकारी दी। इस मौके पर अस्थमा केयर सोसायटी के चेयरमैन डॉ. धर्मवीर कटेवा ने तंबाकू निषेध की आवश्यकता को बताते हुए इससे होने वाले नुकसान के विषय में जानकारी दी।

पंजाब केसरी

जयपुर

स्थानीय

11 जून, 2009
बीरवार

प्रभावशाली हो धूम्रपान निषेध कानून की पालना

जयपुर, (कमल शर्मा): सार्वजनिक स्थानों पर धूम्रपान को समय रहते नहीं रोका गया तो कई लोगों को धूम्रपान से जुड़ी बीमारियों के कारण अपना जीवन गंवाना पड़ सकता है। अतः धूम्रपान निषेध कानून को प्रभावशाली पालना की आवश्यकता है। उक्त विचार कट्स-कार्ट संस्था एवं स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में राज्य स्तरीय पैरवी कार्यशाला में प्रकट किए गए। कार्यशाला में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में डा. आर एन डी पुरोहित ने कहा कि तंबाकू निषेध अधिनियम की राज्य में पालना के साथ-साथ सभी वर्गों में तंबाकू के उपयोग से होने वाली बीमारियों के प्रति जन जागरूकता बढ़ानी भी आवश्यक है। तंबाकू नियंत्रण सेल के स्टेट नोडल अधिकारी डा. डी के आमेटा ने राज्य में तंबाकू नियंत्रण सेल द्वारा की जा रही गतिविधियों से प्रतिभागियों को अवगत कराते हुए बताया कि प्रचार-प्रसार के लिए कार्य किया जा रहा है।