

**Sensitization Meeting on Advancing Tobacco Control with
Special emphasis on Capacity Building and Enforcement of COTPA, 2003
Guskara Municipality on 05.04.2018**

Introduction:

Tobacco is threatening to become an uncontrollable epidemic with 13 lakh deaths every year due to tobacco related diseases. Economic burden (both direct and indirect) of tobacco use in India is estimated to Rs. 104,500 crores per year. In this context tobacco control programs aim to reduce disease, disability and death related to tobacco use. Against this backdrop MANT has been facilitating for establishment of effective and efficient system of tobacco control in the state of West Bengal.

Planning:

Project Coordinator approached the Chairman of Guskara Municipality for conducting a sensitization programme with all the councillors and all Departmental Heads/In Charges of the Guskara Municipality. After several conversations with Sanitary Inspector date was finalized for the sensitization programme on 05th April, 2018.

Focus:

The main focus of the programme was to orient and sensitize the Elected Councillors and other officials of Guskara Municipality on the burden of tobacco use and need for a comprehensive enforcement mechanism through which the implementation of Cigarette and other Tobacco Product (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003, could be ensured at the Guskara Municipality areas.



Venue: Conference Hall, Guskara Municipality.

Programme Date: 05/04/2018

Schedule Time: 2.30 PM

Duration: One and Half Hour

Target Group: Elected councillors and all Departmental Heads/In Charges of Guskara Municipality

No of stakeholders: 41

Resource persons:

Ms. Samarpita Sanyal, Project Coordinator– Tobacco Control, MANT

Ms. Barsha Nandy, Regional Coordinator- Tobacco Control, MANT

Content of the Programme:

- **Tobacco burden in India and health effects of tobacco use:** Special reference to state of West Bengal & India
- An Overview of COTPA (Section 4, 5, 6, 7).
- Comprehensive enforcement mechanisms of Cigarette and other Tobacco Product (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 – what works in Bengal
- Tobacco Vendor Mandatory Licensing.
- Role of Municipal Authorities in Tobacco Control

Methodology:

- Presentation on Health Burden of Tobacco Use and an overview of COTPA 2003.
- Interactive session.
- Videos on harmfulness of Tobacco and Enforcement of COTPA, 2003.

Decisions Taken:

1. Chairman of Guskara Municipality assured to display the signages at the public places and at the educational institutes that come under their jurisdiction.
2. The memorandum will be issued in favour of 'Smoke Free Public Place', & 'Tobacco Free Educational Institute' as early as possible.
3. After the meeting it was decided to display the signages (Sec 4) at the Municipality Office.
4. Executive Officer has been appointed as Nodal Officer at Guskara Municipality.
5. Chairman assured that a consensus decision will be taken in the next BOC Meeting regarding issue of separate Tobacco Vendor Trade Licence in line with the order from Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Department.



Feedbacks:

All the Councillors committed that they would take required initiatives to make their jurisdictions smoke free as soon as possible.