

**Sensitization Meeting on Advancing Tobacco Control with
Special emphasis on Capacity Building and Enforcement of COTPA, 2003
Alipurduar Municipality on 13.2.18**

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. In this perspective MANT is on the way towards establishment of effective and efficient system of tobacco control in the state of West Bengal.

Planning:

Project Coordinator approached the Chairman of Alipurduar Municipality for conducting a sensitization programme with all the councillors and officials of the Alipurduar Municipality. Programme Coordinator followed up with the Urban Planner and finalized the date of the programme on 13th February, 2018.

Focus:

The main focus of the programme was to orient and sensitize the Elected Councillors and other officials of Alipurduar 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 Alipurduar Municipality areas.

Venue: Conference Room, Municipal Conference Hall

Programme Date: 13/02/2018

Schedule Time: 2.00 PM

Duration: One Hour and Half Hour

Target Group: Elected Councillors and other officials of Alipurduar Municipality

No of stakeholders: 27

Resource persons:

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

Ms Baesha 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

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.



Decision Taken:

1. Chairman, Alipurduar Municipality assured to display the signages at the public places and at the educational institutes that come under their jurisdiction.
2. The memorandum has been issued in favour of 'Smoke Free Public Place', & 'Tobacco Free Educational Institute'.
3. City Mission Manager, NULM has been appointed as Nodal Officer.
4. After the meeting it was decided to display the signages (Sec 4) at the Municipality Office.
5. Chairman assured to issue an order to provide a separate Trade License to all tobacco vendors selling Cigarette and other tobacco products as per the order issued by Dept of Urban Development & Municipal Affairs Dept

Feedback:

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