

**Sensitization Meeting on Advancing Tobacco Control with
Special emphasis on Capacity Building and Enforcement of COTPA, 2003
Habra Municipality on 17.01.2019**

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 Medical Officer of Habra Municipality for conducting a sensitization programme with all the councillors and all Departmental Heads of the Habra Municipality. After discussion with Medical Officer, a date was finalized for the sensitization programme on 17th January, 2019 at Municipal Meeting Hall, Habra Municipality.



Focus:

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

Venue: Municipal Meeting Hall, Habra Municipality

Programme Date: 17.01.2019

Schedule Time: 1 PM

Duration: One Hour and Half Hour

Target Group: councillors and all Department Heads/In Charges, Head of Schools of Habra Municipality

No of stakeholders: 49

Resource persons:

- Dr Manas Das, Health Officer, Habra Municipality
- Ms Sanhita Datta, Regional Coordinator- Tobacco Control, MANT
- Ankita Chowdhury, Project Assistant, 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.

Decision Taken:

- Health Officer, Habra Municipality assured that initiatives would be taken to declare all public places smoke-free and all educational institutions to be tobacco-free.
- For better implementation of Section 6(b), and Blue Line campaign would be initiated by Habra Municipality to make the educational institutions tobacco-free.
- Name of Nodal Officer will be selected and inform us accordingly.
- MANT was requested to share the soft copy of Signage Sec 4 & 6(a)-6(b) COTPA, 2003
- Health Officer, Habra Municipality proposed MANT to work in collaboration with Habra Municipality for Smoke-free Habra City and Tobacco Vendor Licensing.

Feedback:

All the councillors, Health workers and others officials committed that they would take required initiative to make their jurisdiction Smoke Free as early as possible.