Program Report



Report

Multi sectoral Workshop on

Preventing Tobacco Epidemic in Responding to Communicable and Non Communicable Diseases "Shared Responsibilities of National and Subnational Government"

Wednesday, 24th November, 2021 8:30 am - 12:00 noon Hotel Himalaya, Rato Baithak Hall Kupondole, Lalitpur



Organizers: Government of Nepal-Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC), Action Nepal, Health Journalists Forum Nepal (HJFN), The Union, and APCAT.

www.actionnepal.net 25th November, 2021

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Background and objectives of the program

The *Multi sectoral Workshop on Preventing Tobacco Epidemic in Responding to Communicable and Non Communicable Diseases: "Shared Responsibilities of National and Subnational Government"* was successfully held on Wednesday, 24th November, 2021 at Hotel Himalaya, Kupondole, Lalitpur, Nepal. It lasted for 4 hours from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. The program was organized and managed by Action Nepal in collaboration with Government of Nepal – Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC), Health Journalists Forum Nepal, The Union, and APCAT.

Honorable minister Birodh Khatiwada, Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), was the chief guest of the program and over 50 persons participated in the program representing different institutions, including WHO, The Union, NHIECC, Professional Organizations, Civil Society, Researchers, and media etc. The speakers also participated in the program via Zoom.

Key Objectives: the overall objective of the program was to gain commitments and accountability of national and subnational level leaders on tobacco control to combat with tobacco epidemic. The specific objectives were as follows;

- To build awareness of national and subnational leaders for effective implementation and enforcement of tobacco control laws in order to combat with tobacco epidemic in Nepal.
- To sensitize and coordinate with mayors and local level leaders to develop and implement tobacco control and monitoring mechanism at subnational levels.

Commencement of the Program and Presentation by health experts and representative from government organizations and Civil Society.

Master of Ceremony Visha Kafle, Executive Editor of Health Aawaj (an online news portal), highlighted the overview of the program, and introduced distinguished guests in the program

Welcoming all the guests, speakers, and participants, Mr. Ananda Bahdur Chand, Chairperson of Action Nepal, highlighted the objective of the program. Furthermore, he presented comparative analysis of deaths due to COVID-19 and deaths due to tobacco use. He further highlighted how the tobacco industry is targeting the youth, influencing the government, and misleading the society during the COVID-19. Tobacco companies put profit before public health. TIs are promoting their products and expanding their business horizon in the name of CSR during the pandemic. Such CSR activities should be closely monitored and banned in no time, he added. Tax increment on tobacco products, initiation of plain packaging on the pack of tobacco products, and effective implementation of tobacco control laws are keys to curb tobacco epidemic, he suggested. Finally, he urged the all the stakeholders, particularly government, to join hand together to fight with the tobacco epidemic.

Dr. Pradeep Gyanwali, *Member Secretary, Executive Chief, GoN- Nepal Health Research Council* (*NHRC*), presented researches findings conducted in several countries on smoking, NCDs, and COVID-19. He summarized his presentation saying that smoking is the leading risk factor of Non-communicable

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disease (NCDs) and COVID-19 has severe health effects to patients with any form of NCDs. He finally urged MoHP and other stakeholders to introduce new and innovative awareness programs on smoking and tobacco control/cessation. IT and community based interventions for "Quit Tobacco" should be implemented immediately, he recommended.

"Tobacco is not only the risk factors for heart diseases, cancer, and diabetes, but it is also the root cause of almost all diseases. Hence, the tobacco elimination is must be the government's priority", said **Dr. Tara Singh Bam**, *Director*, *International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union)*. Nepal did not participate on WHO-FCTC conference of parties (COP 9) recently happened and has lost great opportunity to show its leadership in tobacco control in South Asia. The reasons could be tobacco industry's interference or disinterest of government in tobacco control, he doubted. Finally, he presented that **accountability** of all level of governments in Nepal, *sustainability* of tobacco control laws, plans and policies, and *leadership* from all the stakeholders are the three major pillars for tobacco elimination in Nepal.

Dr. Lonim Dixit, *Representative from WHO Nepal*, highlighted that out of ten people, seven died from NCDs, with tobacco usage being one of the biggest risk factors. She further stated that Nepal has strong tobacco control laws in the world but due to lack of implementation, still no significant progress has been made in tobacco control in Nepal. Additionally, she urged all the concerned authorities to increase tax on tobacco with significant percentage as recommended by WHO as Tobacco tax increment is the single most cost effective method to curb the tobacco epidemic.

Dr. Chandramani Adhikari, *Director, Shahid Gangalal National Heart Centre*, presented international scientific evidences indicating that 23% of heart disease patients die before being admitted to a hospital. Heart disease-related deaths are on the rise in Nepal. "The smoking is the single cause of 20 percent of heart disease among others. Unfortunately smoking habit is increasing among the youth. As a result, number of heart diseases patients below 45 years is rapidly increasing in Nepal", he said.

Mr. Sunil Raj Sharma, Director of NHEICC, stated that NHEICC has been working hard to combat the tobacco epidemic in Nepal for a long time. During COVID-19, we are collaborating closely with the Ministry of Health and Population and the World Health Organization-Nepal to educate people about tobacco and its harmful impacts on human health. Dr. Prakash Prasad Shah, Director of National Tuberculosis Control Center, Government of Nepal said that smoking has a deleterious impact on human immunity, which worsens the severity of COVID-19 in patients with NCDs such as tuberculosis. "The majority of tobacco control activities and programs take place in metropolitan areas. However, a large percentage of tobacco smokers live in rural areas, especially in hilly areas. Tobacco control operations at the subnational and local levels should be pursued for better results," he urged.

Smoking promotes NCDs, and NCDs are connected to poverty, according to **Dr. Devi Prasad Parsai**, *Health Economist*. In Nepal, medical costs associated with NCDs have increased poverty by two percentage points. "Tax increment is essential for win-win situation for both MoHP and Ministry of

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finance. Tobacco Tax increment is strongly recommended for reducing tobacco consumption and creating sustainable source of health financing", he added.

Hon'ble Birodh Khatiwada, Minister, Government of Nepal, MoHP said that tobacco control activities have been in place since long but no significant progress have been achieved. Now is the time to embrace a new strategy and approach. He also advised all doctors to warn and educate smokers about the harmful effects of tobacco use. Patients must be encouraged to give up cigarettes or they will be no more. "Instilling fear of death in cigarette smokers is the most effective method," he said. Dr. Dipendra Raman Singh, Director General (DG) of the Department of Health Services, stated that collaboration between the NHIECC, the Ministry of Health, and the Department of Health Services is critical in achieving visible results in Nepal's tobacco control efforts. "Apart from the loss of human life, Nepal has suffered a billion-dollar loss as a result of tobacco consumption. These monetary losses and deaths can be minimized through eradication of the tobacco epidemic", he added.

Conclusion

The program was concluded by the Mr. Ram Prasad Neupane, *President*, *Health Journalist Forum Nepal*, with his vote of thanks to all guests, speakers, and participants.

Altogether 35 journalists from different media houses participated in the program. Total of 23 online, 3 print news and 1 TV news have been released.

Enclosed Material:

- Attendance Sheet.
- List of media release.
- Program Photos

List of participants:

Action Nepal Tripureshwor -11, Kathmandu

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Venue: Hotel Himalaya, Kupondole, Lalitpur

SN	Name of Participants	Organization	Designation	Email	Cell No.	Signature
1	Ram Pd. Neupane	HJFN	President-	rpolpali@gmail.co	m 9851235700	\$
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_	Nam Ray Bhath	Health News	Reporter	nrshatta6@gm		

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38	Maya shrestha	Radopali-com	Report	Mayashrest hanped gmillion	9841189466	40
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44	AJITA RIJAL	The Rising Nepal	Reporter	aj lawoizegmail	(20)	-7

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45	Reya Bhandar	News24 tu	Sto Deporter	heathzunbcog	9851184840	Thus
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53	Shanta Rom Bidani	MOHP	press Alvisor	bidans agmail	9851145186	2002)
54	Yasima Mahat	Inatatimes.com	E-Editor	mahatoyashmalo		81'n
55	Romu Sylcasa	Himal Media	Corresponden	rspressisaylera	9840073654	July:

Multi sectoral Workshop

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Preventing Tobacco Epidemic in Responding to Communicable and Non Communicable Diseases

"Shared Responsibilities of National and Subnational Government"

Date: Wednesday, 24th November, 2021

(Mangsir 08, 2078) Time: 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

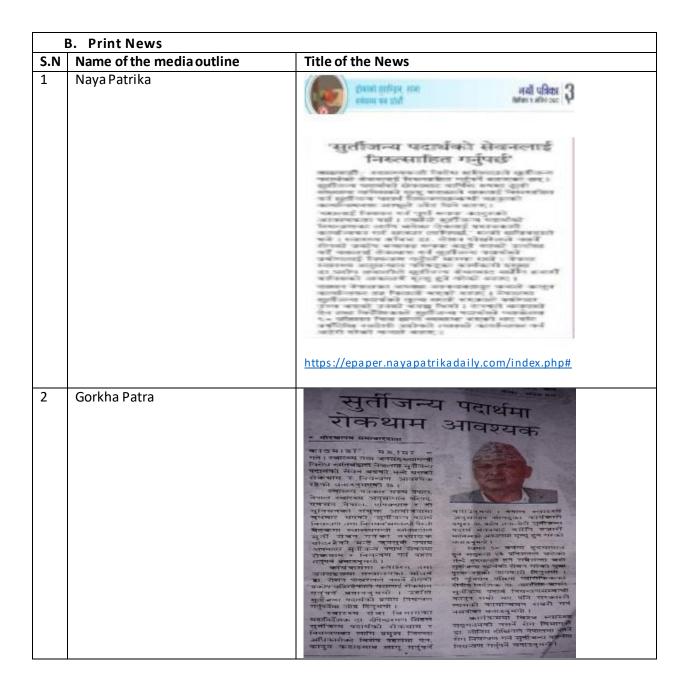
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News Published

	A. Online news					
S.	Name of the	Title of the News	Link			
N	media outline					
1	Health tv	'चुरोट सेवन गर्नेमा हृदयघात हुने	https://healthtvonline.com/health-			
	online	सम्भावना ८ गुणा बढ़ी [,] नेपालमा चुरोटकै	news/2021/11/38324/			
		कारण युवा अवस्थामै हृदयघात बढ्दो				
2	Nepali Health	सूर्तजिन्य पदार्थ नयिन्त्रण सम्वन्धी	www.nepalihealth.com/2021/11/24/65025/			
		कानूनको कार्यान्वयन गराउन पहल				
		गर्छु स्वास्थ्य मन्त्री खतविडा				
3	Janata times	कोरोना भन्दा खतरा धुम्रपान चार गुणा	https://janatatimes.com/archives/109336			
		बढीको मृत्यु				
4	Mero News	सूर्तिजन्य पदार्थको सेवन गर्ने	https://www.meronews.com/2021/11/86711			
		अधिकाशलाई हृदयघात दुई अर्ब रुपैयाँ	•			
		नेपालीले चुरोटको धुँवामा उडाए				
		महानर्दिशक सहि				
5	Swasthyakha	सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थको न्यिन्त्रण र	https://swasthyakhabar.com/story/43182			
	bar.com	नियमनका लागि ७७ वटै जिल्लाका				
		सिंडिओ सँग छलफलको तयारी				
6	Kathmandup	चुरोट सेवन गर्ने महलािहरुमा	https://www.kathmandupati.com/news/chur			
	ati.com	हृदयघातको जोखमि १३ गुणाले बढी	<u>ot-news/198737/</u>			
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7	Setokhabar.co	युवामा कनि बढी रहेको छ हृदयघात डा	www.setokhabar.com/news/212438			
	m	चन्द्रमणिका यस्ता छन् सुझाव				
8	Ne pal vie ws	'नेपालमा मुटुरोग र हृदयघातको प्रमुख	https://www.nepalviews.com/2021/11/24/1			
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9	Ratopati	सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थ नयिमनका लाग ७७ वटें	https://ratopati.com/story/208182/2021/11/			
		जि्ल्लामा तत्काल छलफल गर्न नर्दिशन	24/health-news-			

10	News 24	सूर्तीजन्य पदार्थका रोकथामका लाग	https://www.news24nepal.tv/2021/11/24/83		
		पहल गर्छु मन्त्री खतविडा	<u>7544</u>		
11	Aayomail	सूर्तीजन्य पदार्थको सेवन गर्ने युवा हृदयघातको उच्च जोखमिमा	https://www.aayomail.com/khabar/77971/		
12	Nagarik	सूर्तीजन्य पदार्थका रोकथामका लाग	https://nagariknews.nagariknetwork.com/he		
	dainik	पहल गर्छु मन्त्री खतविडा	alth/673751-1637744493.html		
13	Nepal samaya	हृदयाघातको कहालीलाग्दो वृद्धदिर चुरोट त्यागे कम गर्न सकनि्छ जोखमि	nepalsamaya.com/opinion/2021-11-24- 202711?		
14	Farakdhar	सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थ नयिन्त्रणमा नेपालले के–के गर्यो	https://farakdhar.com/story/67465/		
15			https://www.prasashan.com/2021/11/24/27 8015/		
16	Kendrabindu. चुरोट खानेको दिमागमा डर पैदा com गर्नुहोस्: स्वास्थ्य मन्त्री खतविडा		https://kendrabindu.com/health/79852- 1637751841.html		
17	Online seven सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थ सेवन रोक्न पहल गर्छु मन्त्री खतविडा		onlinenews7.com/archives/75455		
18	Ne pal samaya	सूर्तीजन्य पदार्थको सेवन नयिन्त्रण गर्न सबै उपाय अपनाइन्छ स्वास्थ्यमन्त्री खतविडा	nepalsamaya.com/health-life/2021-11-24- 173028		
19	Health pati	नेपालमा धुम्रपान सुरु गर्ने महलािको संख्या नरिन्तर वृद्धि	<u>healthpati.com/detail/14520211124162028.h</u> <u>tml</u>		
20	Annapurna post.com	चुरोट सेवन गर्नेलाई डाक्टरले डर देखाइद्दनिपर्यो स्वास्थ्य मन्त्री सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थ नयिमनका लागि ७७ वटै	https://annapurnapost.com/news/190677		
21	1 Khabarbhitta. सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थ नियमनका लागि ७७ वरै com जिल्लामा तत्काल छलफल गर्न निर्देशन		https://khabarbhitta.com/2021/11/25E%E0% A4%A8%E0%A4%95/		
22	Ekantipur	सूर्तीजन्य पदार्थ नयिन्त्रणका लागि ऐन कार्यान्वयनमा जोड दनुिपर्छ स्वास्थ्यमन्त्री	https://ekantipur.com/news/2021/11/25/		
23	Barakhari	नेपालमा सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थको प्रयोग नियन्त्रण गर्न बलियो नियम, फतिलो	https://baahrakhari.com/news- details/334644		
		नियमन			



The Rising Nepal	Minister Khatiwada stresses awareness against tobacco use
	By A Staff Reporter Kafmanda, New 24 Minister for Health and Population Boroth Kinstituda has called for the effective implementation of the relevant arch and laws to control and regulate the import, production, tales, and concumption of telescopy reducts. Addressing a multi-sectoral workshop titled Travering Telescop Epidemic in Responding Communication and Non-Communication Disease. Shared Responsibilities, of National and Infinite titled Research Council, Health Iournalists Forum Neptl, Action Ne
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Some picture of workshop:



