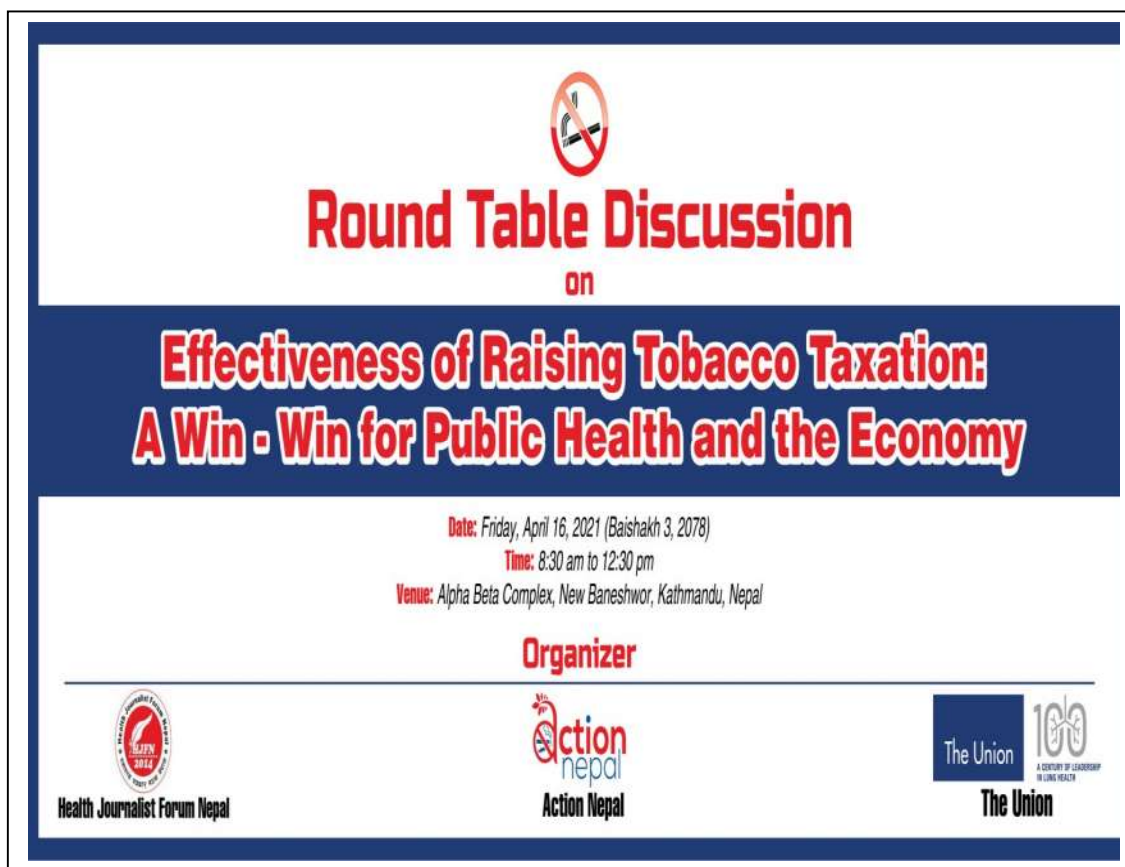


Round Table Discussion
on
Effectiveness of Raising Tobacco Taxation: A Win - Win for Public Health
and the Economy



The poster features a central graphic with a red circle and a diagonal slash over a cigarette icon. Below this, the title "Round Table Discussion on Effectiveness of Raising Tobacco Taxation: A Win - Win for Public Health and the Economy" is displayed in red and white text on a dark blue background. The event details are listed in red text: "Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 (Baishakh 3, 2078)", "Time: 8:30 am to 12:30 pm", and "Venue: Alpha Beta Complex, New Baneshwor, Kathmandu, Nepal". The organizer is listed as "Organizer" in red. At the bottom, there are three logos: "Health Journalist Forum Nepal" (a circular logo with a red and white design), "Action Nepal" (the same logo as in the top right), and "The Union" (a blue square logo with the text "The Union" and "A CENTURY OF LEADERSHIP IN LONG HEALTH" next to a stylized "100" logo).

Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 (Baishakh 3, 2078)
Time: 8:30 am to 12:30 pm
Venue: Alpha Beta Complex, New Baneshwor, Kathmandu, Nepal

Background and objectives of the program

The program round table discussion on “**Effectiveness of Raising Tobacco Taxation: A Win - Win for Public Health and the Economy**” was successfully held on Friday, 16th April, 2021 at Alpha Beta Complex, New Baneshwor, Kathmandu, 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 Health Journalists Forum Nepal and The Union.

Honorable minister Ganesh Singh Thagunna, ministry of Federal Affair and General Administration (MoFAGA), was the chief guest of the program and over 34 persons participated in the program representing several institutions including Ministry of Health and population (MoHP), WHO, **NHIECC**, Department of Industry, Professional Organizations, Civil Society, Researchers, and Health Journalists, etc.

The major objective of the program was to have discussion on rationale behind raising tobacco tax in Nepal and to gain commitments from **the** all the stakeholders to advocate for raising tobacco tax to reach to global standard as recommended by WHO and World Bank. The specific objectives of the program were as follows;

- To identify an urgent need of tobacco tax increment to reach up to 70 % as suggested by World Bank and WHO.
- To build capacity and raise government’s awareness, accountability, and commitment to increase tax on tobacco products.
- To gain commitment and supports of policy makers, experts from tax recommending committee, senior government officials, members from national planning commission, and experts from inland revenue department for tobacco tax increment in upcoming budget 2021-2022.

Commencement of the Program

Master of Ceremony Mrs. Kalpana Acharya, Former Chairperson of Health Journalist Forum Nepal, briefed overview of the program, and introduced all the distinguished guests of the program. The program started with a brief inaugural ceremony by playing national anthem.

Welcoming all the guests, speakers, and all participants of the program, Mr. Ram Prasad Neupane, **Chairperson of Health Journalist Forum Nepal**, highlighted the objective of the program. He briefed the current situation and burden of tobacco epidemic especially in low and

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middle income countries like Nepal. On behalf of the organizers, he expressed hope to gain fruitful inputs from all the stakeholders to play their roles in advocating for tobacco tax increment in upcoming budget 2021 -2022.

Presentation by representatives from Professional Organizations/ Health Experts/ Researchers

Mr. Anand Bahadur Chand, Director, Action Nepal began his presentation by explaining tobacco control journey in Nepal. He highlighted burden of tobacco consumption in terms of deaths and economic loss to the economy. Poor are becoming poorer through tobacco consumption and are pushing themselves into vicious circle of poverty. Sugar, alcohol, and tobacco, are commodities which are nowhere necessities of life, which are become objects of almost universal consumption, and which are therefore extremely proper subjects of taxation, he added. **Dr. Prem Raj Baidya, Senior Consultant / Cardiovascular Surgeon** explained that tobacco consumption is sole responsible risk factor for several non-communicable diseases and deaths such as heart attack (cardiovascular disease), cancer, stroke, lung diseases, chronic bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and cor pulmonale. He said that smoking is also responsible for tuberculosis. He also explained that risk of chronic heart disease is reduced by 50% within the first one year of quitting the smoking. Tobacco industries are influencing the youths through misleading information. There is no any safe form of tobacco hence, staying away from the tobacco is the best way to promote the healthy lifestyle, he added.

Lonim Dixit, WHO- Nepal, presented about WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Empirical researchers have shown that price and tax measures are effective method to reduce the demand for tobacco. The specific excise tax needs to be adjusted to reflect income growth so that tobacco products do not become more affordable over time. WHO reported that there has been no change in the affordability of cigarettes in Nepal, she said. **Dr. Devi Prasad Parsai, Health Economist** presented that why tobacco taxation and how it could be raised. Nepal has lowest tobacco tax among south Asian countries. Tobacco is less expensive and affordable and thus accessible to poor people easily in Nepal. It contributed to pervasiveness of poverty in long run. Every year we encouraged and suggested for tax increment to concerned authorities but nothing happened, ironically he added. Last year Nepal collected 18.5 billion as revenue whereas economic loss is approximately 40 billion. There is no chance of illicit trade from Indian if tax is increased in Nepal because Indian tobacco products are expensive in comparison to

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Nepal. Hence, increment of tax on tobacco products is beneficial from all the perspectives. Excise tax can be increased to 200% in order to raise tobacco tax to WHO standard, he suggested roadmap for tax increment. **Mr. Shanta Lal Mulmi, Resource Center for Primary Health Care** asked all the dignitaries why owners of tobacco industries are welcomed in red carpet in Nepal. Nepal has strong tobacco control law but implementation is extremely poor. Nepal has lowest tobacco tax; it needs to be increased significantly. We all have to work closely for this, he urged.

Honorable minister Ganesh Singh Thagunna, Ministry of Federal Affair and General Administration (MoFAGA) said that tobacco related diseases are diseases of poor in Nepal. He said that basically poor people consume more tobacco products. Especially, school and college going youths are consume more tobacco related products now a day. In order to reduce the tobacco consumption, all 753 local level governments should work together, he added. This is right time to discuss about raising tobacco taxation as the government is preparing Budget for upcoming fiscal year. Tobacco tax increment would be beneficial for both to reduce tobacco consumption among poor and it is sustainable source of health financing. I would do everything from my side by raising the voice and meeting personally to concerned authorities to increase the tobacco taxation in upcoming budget, he made commitment.

Interaction with Law Makers, Enforcing Agencies and Institutions

Mr. Sunil Raj Sharma, Director, NHEICC said that **NHEICCE** team has been working in the field of raising awareness among mass people by organizing different types of capacity building programs and workshop. **Mr. Man Bahadur Basnet, Under Secretary- Law, MoHP** explained about tobacco control governing laws in Nepal and said that tax measure is effective instrument to raise prices of tobacco products and thus, to decrease the tobacco consumption in Nepal. **Mr. Shambhu Marasini, Deputy Director, IRD** informed that we have been discussing about tax increment in tobacco products and lobbying with other government authorities to increase the exercise tax on tobacco products. Likewise, **Dr. Pradeep Gyanwali, Member Secretary, NHRC** emphasized to carry out more research in the field of tobacco especially on tobacco taxation and tobacco economics. He said that very few people know that those who smoked in any stage of their life, their children would more likely to consume tobacco in future. Hence, more researches needed to be carried out in this field, he urged.

Likewise, **Sandeep Bhandari, SSP, Metropolitan Police Office, Rani Pokhari** urged all the stakeholders not to make focus in Kathmandu valley only. Awareness is need at rural areas about

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detrimental health effects of tobacco consumption. **Mr. Puskar Raj Nepal, Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, Nepal requested all three organizers to prepare a tax brief note and submitted it to concerned authorities through personal visit. This time, we have to pressurize all the concerned authorities to work in public health seriously by increasing tax on tobacco products. **Dr. Dipendra Raman Singh Director General (DG), Department of Health Services** stated that tobacco taxation measure is effective tool to reduce the demand for tobacco products. This is proven tool in several countries. People spend more than 53 billion in tobacco products in Nepal. On the one hand we say Nepal is poor country, on the other hand we spend such huge amount of money to destroy our health, he ironically said. . Tobacco tax should be increased in upcoming budget. We are giving pressure for the same, he added.

Conclusion:














The program was lasted for 4 hours from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. The program was successful in achieving its objectives. All the participants have fruitful discussion and sharing. Tobacco tax increment in upcoming budget related commitments were made from the concerned authorities. The need of raising tobacco taxation to decrease the tobacco consumption and generate sustainable health financing, role of different stakeholder in tobacco tax increment, road map of tobacco taxation, implementation of tobacco control laws, help to decrease poverty through reducing tobacco consumptions etc. were major topics of discussion in the program.

Altogether 13 journalists from different houses participated in the program. Total of 22 online and 1 print news ([NayaPatrika](#)) have been released.

Enclosed Material:

- **Attendance Sheet**
- **List of media release.**

❖ Attendance list of honorable Minister, Government and non-government officials.

S.N.	Name of participants	Organization	Designation	Contact No.	E-mail	Signature
1	Dr. Prem Raj Baidya	NITECC	OFFICER	984904882		
2	Dr. Prem Raj Baidya	TRC (G14)	TRC (G14)	984904882		
3	Dr. Prem Raj Baidya	NATEA	Consultant	985110105	deniprasen@yahoo.com	
4	Dr. Prem Raj Baidya	संस्थागत अनुसंधान	RESEARCH	985126570	opalpatel@gmail.com	
5	Uddhab Thapa	N.I.D.		9841499283		
6	Rajendra Koiri	APF		9849585746		
7	Dr. Prem Raj Baidya	HSPN/Healthcare	REPORTER	984204983	drishor.koiri@gmail.com	
8	Prakash Sharma	NEFA FIM	REPORTER	984718334	udeshbasya@nfa	
9	Kamala Gurung	स्वास्थ्य क्लब पत्रिका	REPORTER	9845706979	komala.gurung57@gmail.com	
10	SANDEEP SHANDAR	मेसुरपुलियाम पब्लिक (NPP)	ISS	9851091126	Sandeepkshandari@yahoo.com	
11	Bhagwati Paudyal	mobiloswamy	Reporter	9860417055	paudyalbhagwati@gmail.com	
12	Shrijana Khatri	Nepalmanch.com	Reporter	9849097659	keshmijana299@gmail.com	
13	Dr. Prem Raj Baidya	Wilam Hospital	DOCTOR	9841201735	prembaidya@wilam.com.np	

S.N.	Name of participants	Organization	Designation	Contact No.	E-mail	Signature
14	Man Bdr Basnet	NOTP	Under Secretary	9841475334	manbasnet123@gmail.com	
15	Sadurman Lamichhane	Healthline online	Co-ordinator	9849994417	Sadurmal@gmail.com	
16	Sanjeep Sureshtra	N.O.P.	N.P.	9852090088	Baneseer	
17	Subodh Thapa	NA	NA	9847749141	—	
18	Yasna Mahat	Janatafms.com	.	9861-990045	mahayasin@gmail.com	
19	Yan Bopli Mahat	Ward chikitsa		9844419060	frumelak-3	
20	Silkhamsini	ILP	DDH	9851058222	sunamsini@gmail.com	
21	Dr. Laxmi Dixit	WWS	NPO NGD	9801010002	chitika@wwo.np	
22	Shanta Laxi Muli	RECPHEC	Gen. Sec.	9857058383	S_muli@yash.com	
23	Samridhi-Neur	RECPHEC	Secretary	9860948376	Samridhi.SNR@gmail.com	
24	Sunil Raj Sharma	Pine stone	NHEIC	9951971100	sunilrajsharma5@gmail.com	
25	Srijana Basal	Himalaya TV	Reporter	9848940362	sbasal06@gmail.com	
26	Shareed Sharna	RS	"	9857077893	Shareed.help@gmail.com	

Round Table Discussion
on
"Effectiveness of Raising Tobacco Taxation : A Win - Win For Public Health and the Economy"

Organized by: Action Nepal, Health Journalist Forum Nepal & The Union
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 (Baishak 3, 2073)
Time: 8:30 to 12:30 PM
Venue: Alpha Beta Complex, New Baneshwor, Kathmandu, Nepal

S.N.	Name of participants	Organization	Designation	Contact No.	E-mail	Signature
27	Dr. Ksanka Yadav	Proyati dental College & Hospital	Assistant Professor	9818235152	ksankayadav63@gmail.com	
28	Dr. Riya Shrestha	PDCH	Intern.	9815480032	riya.shrestha.1217@gmail.com	
29	Malita chand	PDCH	Intern	9843506970	malitachand82@gmail.com	
30	Puskar Ray Nepal	MOFA	Undersecretary	1851073383	mrpuskar57@gmail.com	
31	Sanjita Khanal	Morenews.com	Sr. Reporter	9857571574	ksanjitasanjiti@gmail.com	
32	मानम ज्ञोम सिरे बुढा	स्वीडिश मॉडर्न (सोनी) प्रकाशन माला	मंनि	9851184422	gansh.thakur@gmail.com	
33	डा. वीपेन्द्र मण सिरे	स्वास्थ्य सेवा निगम	मैनिजिङ	985124441	deepchand82@gmail.com	
34	Pragya Timsing	Image channel	News Reporter	9849696619	pragya77@gmail.com	
35						
36						
37						
38						
39						

❖ List of news releases

A. Online published news:

1. जनताको स्वास्थ्य भन्दा माथि सुर्तीजन्य उद्योग होइनन् : मन्त्री ठगुना विज्ञ भन्छन्, 'कर बढाउनुको विकल्प छैन'

हेल्थ आवाज शुक्रबार, २०७८ वैशाख ३ गते, १५:१० मा प्रकाशित 80 Shares Share Share

see more at

: <https://www.healthaawaj.com/news/36010/?fbclid=IwAR0rUxzqoXe9QBSxDhk6F45eAaOvsSSXI63bwVdAiPXoObvhmQdviFYXHIQ>



2. सबै सरोकारवालाको एकै स्वर : नेपालमा सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थमा कर बढाउने पछि

हेल्थ टिभी अनलाइन 173 Views

See more at: <https://healthtvonline.com/health-news/2021/04/35082/>



3. नेपालमा चिया भन्दा चुरोट सस्तो, नियन्त्रण गर्न कर बृद्धि

नेपालमा ८ प्रतिशत अर्थात् ८४ लाखले चुरोट खान्छन्

See more at: <https://mahilaswasthya.com/detail/329?fbclid=IwAR0-JaJzPIALIW3GWsS0LPiKXgeC2VoSC1V5RPSa0RxzVrkHSHII0X2n0NU>

१७ घण्टा पहिले भागिरथी पण्डित



4. सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थमा कर बढाउनुको विकल्प छैन

काठमाडौं, बैशाख ३

See more at: https://janatatimes.com/archives/77382?fbclid=IwAR3fA1SjdF9t6WNfg32feFoCADGTo_OoFmj-sK8QHxDUqRZMuU3QHvQ3x9Y



5. नेपालमा सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थ माराजस्व बृद्धि गरी नियन्त्रण गर्नु पर्ने सुझाव



- गण्डकी खबर - ३ बैशाख २०७८, शुक्रबार १७:३२ 0

See more at: <https://gandakikhabar.com/2021/04/15207/>



6. सुर्तीजन्यपदार्थमा 'प्रभावकारी' दरमाकिनबढेनकर ?

•सामान्यप्रशासनमन्त्रीभन्छन्, 'अर्थरस्वास्थ्यमन्त्रीसंगैराखेरयसविषयमाछलफलगर्छु'

२०७८वैशाख३गते१८:३७माप्रकाशित58Shares

- नेपालीहेल्थ

See more at: <https://www.nepalihealth.com/2021/04/16/59128/>



7. सरकारलेकिनसुर्तीजन्यपदार्थमाकरबढाउदै ?

करकोदर३०प्रतिशतभन्दामाथिचढेकोछैन

160
SHARES

See more at:

https://healthpati.com/detail/37420210416192125.html?fbclid=IwAR2C_oApluPSxBDOSgGPPkTSmt8J9eU9i0y3GY_t7xGM2DfY1RvHVxGFbQ



8. 'सूर्तीजन्यपदार्थमालाग्रेकरकोदायराबढाउनुपर्छ'

स्वास्थ्य

स्वास्थ्यखबरशुक्रबार, वैशाख३, २०७८, २०:२१:३४

See more at:

https://swasthyakhabar.com/story/38761?fbclid=IwAR0mHbB7lsHuydOtV2CUEJz3rUL3nHgmV5TPmzhzppJvOqrasHcR_R-oLG8



9. नेपालमादैनिक८करोड४०लाखचुरोटमाखर्च

दृष्टिसंवाददाता

बैशाख३, २०७८शुक्रबार5Shares

See more at: https://www.drishtinews.com/archives/69487?fbclid=IwAR2ISlhm28pB4NkQ59dgN5XggI8y-z_zr-7LASVbarVc5ej9XvHlxHiZHU

10. सुर्तीजन्यपदार्थमाराजस्वबढाउनुपर्ने

Brief report
17th April, 2021

See more at: https://gorkhapatraonline.com/open/2021-04-16-35633?fbclid=IwAR3q_g9mz7fwFYKkuyitKkm08VO8nfm7AqMUgPxqJq15p02sj-2FsQ0hWs



रासस बैशाख ३, २०७८ शुक्रबार 4Shares

11. सुर्तीजन्यपदार्थमा करबढाउनुपर्छ : मन्त्रीठगुत्रा

नयाँ पत्रिका वि. सं २०७८ बैशाख ४ शनिबार

See more at: https://www.nayapatrikadaily.com/news-details/62855/2021-04-17?fbclid=IwAR32U_G4GB2nBgC3cT-bbvnkCYrP0u3cbo8HEWbahXk9Ep2rtjjclBCkVhk

12. सुर्तीजन्यपदार्थमानियन्त्रण: राजस्वबढाएरसेवनमानियन्त्रणगर्नसुझाव

आगमनखबरसंवाददाता

See more at: <https://aagmankhabar.com/news/2021/04/17/13941/>

13. सुर्तीजन्यपदार्थमा ७५ प्रतिशत सम्म कर लगाउन माग

See more at: nepalmanch.com/6948/?fbclid=IwAR2ISlHm28pB4NkQ59dgN5Xggl8y-z_zr-7LASVbarVc5ej9XvHixHiZhU



14. सुर्तीजन्यपदार्थमाराजस्वबढाउनुपर्ने

See more at:

<https://www.arthadabali.com/2021/04/16/7290?fbclid=IwAR1WTVCXZ3OKFsnc15I8UEdlQCsevA3Sr5nmR0YRgZJ1zLBo70zCPBBPyjs>



15. सुर्तीजन्यपदार्थसेवनमानियन्त्रणगर्नराजस्वबढाउनुपर्नेसरोकारवालाहरुकोसुझाव

See more at:

arthasansar.com/news/28013?fbclid=IwAR1aNi41AOROBXRQP0bsOWEvYJVIQ_O0Q0QYEsKtt9C0JPvNxPf2SrBNYT8



अर्थसंसारसंवाददाता

शक्रबार, ०३ बैशाख २०७८, १७ : ३५ मा प्रकाशित

16. सुर्तीजन्यपदार्थमाराजस्वबढाउनुपर्नेसुझाव

See more at: kathmandupress.com/news/33891?fbclid=IwAR3fA1SjdF9t6WNfG32feFoCADGTo_OoFmj-sK8QHxDUqRZMuU3QHvQ3x9Y



Brief report
17th April, 2021

शनिबार, वैशाख ४, २०७८

17. सुर्तीजन्यपदार्थमाराजस्वबढाउनुपर्नेसुझाव

See more at: <https://www.nepalbahas.com/2021/04/16/292720/?fbclid=IwAR0iUI1EfrBkUx-l8PFGUd4HHvKnzNy5ySCKKJkufW3c8dSmERBytmyHOT8>



[नेपालबहससंवाददाता](#) १९घण्टापहिले | १७:३२:५३माप्रकाशित share 7

18. सुर्तीजन्यपदार्थमाराजस्वबढाउनसुझाव

See more at: sanjalkhabar.com/news/8424?fbclid=IwAR2yEkHuH3f4JJjCiC66F6wjcmJgCFZh35D-K_UKt6_UTWWrFXngEVjMfVE [सञ्जालखबर](#) २०७८ वैशाख ३ गते १८:१४:०० मा प्रकाशित



19. सुर्तीजन्यपदार्थमाराजस्वबढाउनुपर्ने

See more at:

https://purwanchaldaily.com/98190/?fbclid=IwAR0YEv3Y7TbGNSV_nlUGgaODt2LaNX6OeMzu0pvbvcxTaCbRKlbi-pHUhI88

३ वैशाख २०७८, शुक्रबारमा प्रकाशित 2.1K Shares



20. सुर्तीजन्यपदार्थमाकरबढाउनुकोविकल्पछैनःमन्त्रीठगुन्ना

See more at: https://www.medicalpatra.com/news-details/2646/2021-04-16?fbclid=IwAR1fNDszgLGPM21gU7A0UO_IRexW7LI0zH007vIMjtDQ4Vc6Qe5-ydQn7E

[मेडिकलपत्र](#) ३ वैशाख, २०७८



21. सुर्तीजन्यपदार्थमाराजस्वबढाउनुपर्ने

See more at: sancharkarmi.com/news-details/47079/2021-04-16?fbclid=IwAR0sQ5Lli-tLLsgaag4a511fenu5VphotGSRahuC9JQTUYp6ifv2TmRPvtc

22. विज्ञहरुभन्छन् -सुर्तीजन्यपदार्थमाकरबढाउनुकोविकल्पछैन

See more at:

https://www.meronews.com/2021/04/34364.html?fbclid=IwAR2C_oApluPSxBDOSgGPPkTSmt8J9eU9i0y3GY_t7txGM2Dfy1RvH-VxGFbQ



B. Print News:

1. NayaPatrika



नयाँ पत्रिका
शनिबार ४ वैशाख ०७८

कोरोनाविरुद्ध

सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थमा कर बढाउनुपर्छ : मन्त्री ठगुन्ना

काठमाडौं। संघीय मामिला तथा सामान्य प्रशासनमन्त्री गणेशसिंह ठगुन्नाले सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थमा लाभे आएको कसको दर बढाउनुपर्ने बताएका छन्। कर वृद्धि गरिँदा जनताको स्वास्थ्यमा हित र राजस्वसमेत वृद्धि हुने उनको भनाइ छ।

एकसय नेपाल, स्वास्थ्य पत्रकार मञ्च नेपाल र व युनियनको सहकार्यमा शुक्रबार काठमाडौंमा भएको अनलाइनमा मन्त्री ठगुन्नाले वार्षिक २७ हजारभन्दा बढी नेपालीको ज्यान लेजाने सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थ प्रयोगलाई नियन्त्रण गर्न पनि कर बढाउनुपर्ने बताए। 'सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थ उत्पादन गर्ने कम्पनीले तिरको राजस्वभन्दा दोब्बर बढी रकम हामीले सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थको सेवनले लान्ने रोगको उपचारमा खर्चे गर्ने गर्छौं,' उनले भने, 'सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थको सेवनबाट दैनिक ७५ जनाभन्दा बढीको मृत्यु हुँदा पनि यो विषय ओभरलुका परेको छ। कोभिडबाट अहिले दैनिक तीन सय सातसयको मृत्यु भएको छ यो जनस्वास्थ्यको राष्ट्रिय मुद्दा बनेको छ। यस विषयमा अर्थमन्त्री र स्वास्थ्यमन्त्रीसँग गम्भीर ढंगले छलफल गर्ने उनले बताए।

नेपालमा सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थमा कसको दर ३० प्रतिशतको हाराहारीमा छ। यो सार्क राष्ट्रै सबैभन्दा कम हो। विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठनले कसको दर ७० प्रतिशत पुऱ्याउन सुझाव दिएको थियो। तर, यो सुझाव कार्यान्वयन भएको छैन।

कार्यक्रममा स्वास्थ्य सेवा विभागका महाप्रदेशक डा. दीपेन्द्रमण सिंहले सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थको प्रयोगलाई निरस्पाहित गर्ने एक उपाय कर बढाउनु रहेको बताए। 'युरोप सेवनमा मात्रै नेपालीले वार्षिक एक खर्ब ५३ अर्ब ३० करोड रकम खर्चे गर्ने गरेको उनले बताए। हामी नेपाल गरिब छ भन्दौं, तर यति धेरै रकम धुवोमा उडाइरहेका छौं,' उनले भने। विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठनको

मापदण्डअनुसार नेपालले कान्तीमा ७० प्रतिशत कर सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थमा लगाउन स्वास्थ्य मन्त्रालयले दबाव सिर्जना गरिरहेको उनले बताए।

आन्तरिक राजस्व विभागका उपमहाप्रदेशक रामधु मरासिनीले सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थ नियन्त्रण गर्न कसको ऐन-नियम र अन्त-शुल्क ऐन-नियम हेरेर कसको दरमा वृद्धि गर्ने सकिने बताए। स्वास्थ्य अर्थशास्त्री डा. देवीप्रसाद प्रसाईले नेपालमा सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थमा लागेको कर सार्कमै सबैभन्दा कम भन्दै त्यसलाई दोब्बरभन्दा बढीले वृद्धि गर्नुपर्ने बताए। नेपाल स्वास्थ्य अनुसन्धान परिषद्का सदस्यसचिव डा. प्रदीप शवालीले आफूहरूले गरेको अनुसन्धानले नेपालमा २८.३ जनाले सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थ सेवन गर्ने गरेको पाएको बताए।

राष्ट्रिय स्वास्थ्य शिक्षा सूचना तथा सन्चार केन्द्रका निर्देशक सुनीलराज शमाले आफूहरू सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थ नियन्त्रणका लागि सचेतना बढाउने कार्यमा लागेको बताए। महानगरीय प्रहरी कार्यालय काठमाडौंका एसएसपी सन्दीप भण्डारीले कान्तीमा भएका कुरा कडाइका साथ कार्यान्वयन गर्नुपर्ने बताए। वरिष्ठ मुद्राँग विरोधका डा. प्रमराज वैद्यले सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थको सेवनका कारण २५ प्रकारका रोग निम्तिने बताए। सबैभन्दा बढी अरु र मुटु र फोक्सोमा गर्ने उनले बताए। विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठनको डा. लोमिस वीक्षितले सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थमा ७५ प्रतिशतसम्म कर बढाउन यसअघि नै संगठनले भनिसकेको भए पनि पालना नभएको बताइन्।

एकसय नेपालका अध्यक्ष आनन्दबहादुर चन्दले सुर्तीजन्य पदार्थमा कर बढाउन अब पनि हिलाइ गरी धेरै युवा कुलतमा फस्ने बताए। कर बढाउँदा धुपान त्याग्ने दर पनि बढ्ने र राजस्व पनि बढ्ने उनको भनाइ छ।

Brief report
17th April, 2021