



WEBINAR ON ROLE OF DENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN SMOKELESS TOBACCO CESSATION

Date: November 30, 2021 to December 02, 2021

Time: 2.30 PM to 4.30 PM (IST)



WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Smokeless Tobacco (KH-SLT) organised a three-day webinar sessions for Dental health professionals of SEAR countries from November 30, 2021, to December 02, 2021, at ICMR-NICPR. Altogether more than 100 participants from across the Globe attended all sessions. The webinar was accompanied by stakeholders and cessation experts from private and government sectors.

Dr. Shalini Singh, Director, ICMR-NICPR and KH-SLT, virtually inaugurated the webinar, attended by global participants and eminent speakers. In her opening remarks, Dr. Shalini Singh reiterated the high burden of smokeless tobacco use in the South East Asia Region and its efforts to regulate smokeless tobacco use effectively. During her address, she emphasized that "together we can accelerate the exchange of ideas, share experiences, and scaling-up of reliable cessation practices to control tobacco use."

She further added that "I am confident that we will find new approaches and novel strategies and techniques in the effort to reduce smokeless tobacco-related mortality and morbidity and can contribute immensely to implementing better public health policies relating to smokeless tobacco control".

The three days webinar was carried out by discussing key presentations shown by the speakers under the different efforts and themes. These efforts and themes align with the oral health implications of smokeless tobacco use. On the first Day of the Webinar, the attendees were elucidated with information related to the Epidemiology of Tobacco and its impact on oral health, the cues for the early detection of oral cancer lesions by Dentists. The experts also presented the FCTC provisions dealing with tobacco cessation.

On day 2, the esteemed experts presented the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) provisions focusing on tobacco cessation as well as the guidelines and recommendations under the international treaty. Dr. L Swasticharan, Additional Deputy Director General, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Govt. of India, explained the attendees about tobacco control strategies in the Health System of India.

One of the expert from India's leading Dental College imparted the details about Addiction and Withdrawal symptoms associated with SLT use, the behavioral changes, interventions that need to be adopted for tobacco cessation, and why the role of the dental health fraternity becomes so crucial in achieving tobacco cessation objectives. The participants were also apprised about strategies and techniques for empowering smokeless tobacco users to make successful attempts to quit, including effective forms of communication and cessation assistance.

During the third day, the discussion revolved around the best practices in tobacco cessation. The representatives from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and India shared their firsthand information about the strategies being followed in implementing Tobacco cessation services and challenges they face. As the next steps, the valuable messages and insights received from the cessation experts and distinguished speakers at the webinars were useful to develop and further fine-tune the implementation & monitoring of the smokeless tobacco use globally.

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