

Note on Tobacco Free Educational Institutions (ToFEI)

3-7-2024

Tobacco use is a leading cause of avoidable deaths and diseases. According to the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) 2019, 8.5 percent of school students in the age group of 13 – 15 years use tobacco in some form. Further, more than 5500 children initiate tobacco use every day.

According to Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS – 2), 55% of tobacco users initiated lifelong tobacco use before the age of 20 years. Tobacco consumption at a young age becomes a gateway to other addictions and unfortunately affects learning outcomes in students.

India is one of the largest young nation with our youth accounting for almost 27.3% of the total population. They need a physically healthy and mentally fit youth to take our development process forward as stewards of education and guardians of our next generation, it is our collective responsibility to take decisive actions and prevent measures at the earliest possible to protect our youth from the clutches of tobacco addiction and any other substance abuse.

As part of the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP), the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, released the Tobaccos Free Educational Institutions (ToFEI) Guidelines for safeguarding minors and youth from tobaccos use.

Department of School Education and Literacy has developed a “ToFEI Implementation Manual” with technical support from vital strategies and Socio Economic and Educational Development Society (SEEDS). The Department unveiled the Manual on World No Tobacco Day (WNTD), observed on 31st May, 2024. The objective is to make educational institutions across the nation comply with the ToFEI guidelines and become tobacco free. Display **‘Tobacco Free Area’** Signage inside the premise of Educational Institution with the information of designated person.

Action Points:

- i. Display **“Tobacco Free Education Institutions”** signage at entrance/boundary wall of Educational Institution with the information of designated person.
- ii. There should not be any evidence of tobacco use inside the premise like cigarette/beedi butts or discarded gutka/tobacco pouches, spitting spots.

- iii. Display of poster & other awareness materials on harms of tobacco within the premise of educational institutions.
- iv. Organizing at least one tobacco control activity every 6 months in educational institutions.
- v. Nomination of 'Tobacco Monitors' and their names, designation, and contact number are to be mentioned on the signages.
- vi. Inclusion of "No Tobacco Use" Guidelines in the Educational Institutions code of conduct.
- vii. Marking of 100 yards area from the outer limit if boundary wall/fence of the educational institute.
- viii. Shops within 100 yards of the Educational Institute shall not sell any kind of tobacco products.
- ix. Take pledge against Tobacco use as per Annexure – III of implementation Manual of ToFEI.
- x. Spread the awareness messages on de-addiction through street plays, video films, talks by NGOs, resource persons etc.
- xi. School management Committee meetings, National Social Service and Vidyanjali – School Volunteer Initiative to rope in resource persons, NGOs working in this area are requested to the spread awareness on tobacco prevention and consumption covering all stakeholders including students, teachers, parents and staff working in the educational institutions.

A state nodal officer is to be appointed at State Level and District Nodal officers in each district are to be appointed for this far reaching initiative and issue necessary directions to all schools for compliance in implementation of this guidelines and strive to make children free from tobacco consumption.

A copy of the ToFEI guidelines and Implementation Manual is enclosed for reference.

Further, the details of the State Nodal Officer may be communicated to this department at keytask20@gmail.com on priority.