Deadly Partners--Tobacco and COVID-19

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International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union), Asia Pacific, Singapore
Triple pandemics

**Tobacco Pandemic**
- Tobacco kills >8,000,000 million/year
- Smokers & vapers are at higher risk of serious illness and complications if they get COVID-19

**NCD Pandemic**
- NCDs kills >41,000,000 million/year
- Transmission of the virus from hand to mouth
- People with NCDs are more likely to suffer severe COVID-19 with serious outcomes, including death

**COVID-19 Pandemic**
- COVID-19 killed >287,000 as of 11th May

**Agent factors**
- Industry marketing
- Product packaging
- Retail environment
- Product design

**Host factors**
- Knowledge, attitude, belief
- Demographic factors

**Moderators**
- Political will
- Culture
- Tobacco industry

**Environment factors**
- Cheaper cigarette
- Exposure to tobacco smoke
- Attractive pack
- Tobacco ads
- No Cessation Industry interference

**AIR POLLUTION**
Ending pandemics; Tobacco, COVID-19 and NCDs

Strong health system & health programs

Accountability & Transparency

Tobacco, COVID-19 and NCDs

Box: Tobacco, COVID-19 and NCDs

One Health (Public engagement Civil society participation)

Rights to Health Universal Health Care

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WHO Statement

• Tobacco kills more than 8 million people globally every year
• COVID-19 - infectious disease that primarily attacks the lungs and smoking impairs lung function
• Tobacco is a major risk factor for various NCDs

A review of studies by public health experts convened by WHO on 29 April 2020 found that smokers are more likely to develop severe disease with COVID-19, compared to non-smokers
COVID and Tobacco: Reviewing The Science

What we know

• Tobacco smoking is a known risk factor for many respiratory infections and increases the severity of respiratory diseases.

• Studies to date suggest an association between smoking and more severe COVID-19 outcomes

What we don’t know

• The risk that smokers have of being infected or hospitalized— for these we need population studies to quantify these risks
COVID and Tobacco: Reviewing The Science

• Some non-peer-reviewed studies have claimed that smoking or nicotine may protect against COVID-19.

• There is currently insufficient information to confirm any link between tobacco or nicotine in the prevention or treatment of COVID-19.

• WHO is constantly evaluating new research, including research that examines the link between tobacco use, nicotine use, and COVID-19.

• People should exercise caution in amplifying unproven claims.
Support to Governments

- Increase in demand to Quit tobacco – need to scale up counselling, Quitlines, mobile cessation, NRTs
- 17 Countries in the EMR banned waterpipe smoking
- Tobacco industry Interference/Litigation e.g. South African Ban (import and sale),
- Increased taxation on tobacco and Alcohol
- Collection of robust data – working with countries to design studies and surveys (Iran, Italy, etc.)
The global campaign aims to expose tobacco industry tactics to attract children and adolescents and empower them to reject industry manipulation.

World No Tobacco Day 2020

The secret’s out.
If your product killed 8 million people each year, you’d also target a new generation.

31 MAY | WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY
SPEAK OUT | #TobaccoExposed

World Health Organization

12 May 2020  Tobacco and Covid-19
World No Tobacco Day 2020

Tobacco and related industry tactics to attract younger generations include...

**Advertising**
- Advertising in entertainment media
- Use of social media and influencers to promote products

**Promotion**
- Promotion of tobacco products at popular events
- Distribution of free samples and promotional material

**Sponsorship**
- Apprenticeships and scholarships for students
- Sponsorship of major sporting events/teams

**Other marketing tactics**
- Flavours appealing to children in nicotine and tobacco products
- Kiddie packs and single stick sales
THANK YOU

http://www.who.int/tobacco
SHARED RESPONSIBILITY TO PREVENT COVID-19

Khagraj Adikari
Member of Parliament, Nepal
Chair APCAT Parliamentarians
Former Minister of Health, Nepal
Current Situation of COVID-19 in Nepal

1st case
24th January 2020

134 cases
11th May 2020

33 recovered cases
101 cases under treatment

Nepal’s measures to address COVID-19

• Testing
• Tracing
• Isolation
• Quarantine
• Expanding Laboratory capacity
• Strengthening Public-Private Partnership
How Nepal response to COVID-19 pandemic?

Nepal has declared a **timely lockdown** that helped to cut down the chain of community transmission of COVID-19.
Deadly partners - COVID-19, NCDs and Tobacco

- WHO estimates that **over a hundred thousand (121,100)** people die from NCDs in Nepal each year that represents **66% of the total deaths**.
- Reports show that people with NCDs are more likely to suffer **severe COVID-19 with serious outcomes**.
- **Tobacco use** is a major risk factor for NCD morbidity and mortality in Nepal - **over 27,000 people die** each year from tobacco-related diseases (WHO).
- Nearly **30 million** people, 28.9% continue to use tobacco each day.
- Increasing prevalence of use of waterpipe, chewing tobacco and electronic cigarettes is a serious health concern in Nepal.
- Evidence shows that people who smoke and vape are at higher risk of **more severe illness and complications from COVID-19**.
- Comprehensive actions are needed and should be implemented to prevent COVID-19 outbreak, tobacco use, and non-communicable diseases.
Role of parliamentarians

• Ensure NCDs services are included in the national COVID-19 response plan and programs.
• Review and amend existing tobacco control policies including raising tax and prices on tobacco products, including banning and restricting the sale of harmful products such as alcohol, tobacco. Industry’s donation to market these harmful products should be banned.
• Prioritize the enactment of new health policies and legislation to ensure health for all and universal health coverage. Some initiatives have already initiated, but they need to be further reviewed and revised.
• Ensure the adequate budget for managing COVID-19 and secure health care budget for NCDs, tobacco control, TB and HIV, and other essential services including immunizations.
• Ensure the COVID-19 national response plan integrates tobacco cessation programs, physical and mental health programs, public education on the use of harmful products such as tobacco, alcohol, sugary drinks.
• Ensure government accountability in implementation and enforcement.

APCAT Parliamentarians are committed to enhancing our partnership, sharing lessons learned, and exchanging our technology to prevent COVID-19, tobacco, and NCDs.
The secret’s out.
If your product killed 8 million people each year,
you’d also target a new generation.

World No Tobacco Day
31st May 2020

Thank You
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY IN RESPONDING COVID-19, NCDS AND TOBACCO USE

Barrister Shameem Haider Patwary, MP
Member of Parliament, Bangladesh National Parliament
President, Tobacco Control & Research Cell (TCRC)
Chairman, Board of Trustees
Dhaka International University
Introduction

- The country faces double burden of diseases – both CDs, NCDs and recent global crisis covid-19
- High burden of CDs was historical in a developing & tropical country like Bangladesh
- But, NCD burden is rapidly increasing due to social transition, unhealthy dietary habit & rapid urbanization
- In terms of the number of lives lost due to ill-health and disability, NCDs account for 61% of the total disease burden
- The under-privileged communities in the country are bearing the heaviest toll of this burden
### Covid-19 Status Bangladesh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>IEDCR lab</th>
<th>Other lab</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 test conducted in last 24 hours</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>6904</td>
<td>7208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total COVID-19 test conducted</td>
<td>15723</td>
<td>114142</td>
<td>129865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 positive cases in last 24 hours</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>980</td>
<td>1034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 Total cases</td>
<td>2280</td>
<td>13411</td>
<td>15691</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR)

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Death in last 24 hours

11

Total Death

239
Smokers are likely to be more vulnerable to COVID-19 as the act of smoking means that fingers (and possibly contaminated cigarettes) are in contact with lips which increases the possibility of transmission of virus from hand to mouth. Smokers may also already have lung disease or reduced lung capacity which would greatly increase risk of serious illness. --WHO

Tobacco Consumption in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is densely populated country near about 168.7 million people among this 34.4% are youth (Age: 15-34). In Bangladesh 37.8 million people (GATS-2017) are using tobacco in different format whose age 15 years and above.
Covid-19 tested positive death patient age distribution

Sources: Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR)
Major NCDs and Death of Bangladesh

- Diabetes
- CVD
- Hypertension
- Stroke
- Chronic respiratory diseases
- Cancer

Proportional mortality (% of total deaths, all ages, both sexes) in Bangladesh

Source: WHO-NCD Country Profiles, 2014c

Total deaths:
886,000
NCDs are estimated to account for 50% of total deaths
In 2010, there was a National NCD Risk Factor Survey.

- 59% of deaths in Bangladesh are due to NCDs (WHO 2014).
- The findings are alarming:
  - 99% of the survey population had at least one NCD risk factor.
  - ~29% had >3 risk factors.
- The message is clear - hardly anyone without a risk factor.
- Rural inhabitants and urban slum dwellers particularly suffer the most.

### CVD Mortality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of CVD</th>
<th>% among all deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heart attack</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stroke</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other CVD</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total CVD</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you, Honorable Speaker. There is no indicator of NCD prevention in our health system yet. Cancer, diabetes, blood pressure, heart disease, such diseases that are modifiable, highly preventive, where we need to have a gymnasium, playground where we have yoga, a place to meditate, but no budget for this NCD Prevention. Budget is being honored by NDD Prevention worldwide.

This budget space states that tobacco control is necessary; taxes on tobacco need to be imposed. But in that traditional sense, there is a current level of tobacco taxation with that level. And appropriate taxes have not yet been imposed on tobacco. Cigarettes and bidi are still among the lowest prices in Bangladesh worldwide. That is why we cannot play a significant role in controlling tobacco, Mr. Speaker. I would say the tax on heavy tobacco should be increased even more. E-cigarette is a new type of cigarette, Prof. Pran Gopal Dutta and National Professor BIG: Malik sir have both said that e-cigarette is equally harmful. We should stop importing it, remove it from the import schedule, honorable speaker.

- Budget Speech (2019-20):
  Barrister Shamim Haider Patwari, MP
Initiatives for NCD Prevention & Tobacco Control at Sundarganj, Rangpur

The president of TCRC, Barrister Shameem Haider Patwary, MP take many initiatives for NCD prevention and Tobacco Control at Sundarganj, where he was elected as a Parliament Member.
Work for NCD Prevention

He also take initiatives for healthy Sundarganj, by develop park for walking and playing, inauguration of diabetes society etc.
He also took initiatives for a stadium in Sundarganj.
NCD & Tobacco Control Movement under COVID crisis Moment
- Prepare Policy Paper on Smokeless Tobacco in Bangladesh and share it by a webinar.

- Letter to IGP to take initiative to stop spitting and smoking in public place to reduce the risk of COVID-19.

- A letter has been sent to the chairman of the National Board of Revenue requesting that all tobacco products in the country be included in the tax with a list of about 800 tobacco companies attached.
- Webinar for increase TAX with Parliament Members & Tobacco Control Specialists.
- Webinar for take initiative in the COVID Situation with Parliament Members.
- Webinar with different societies to take many initiatives for COVID-19 situations.
- Make hand sanitizer our own laboratory and distribute it among the poor people.
- Online study on COVID-19
- Online signature campaign for ban E-Cigarette.
- Online Signature Campaign for increase Tobacco Tax in upcoming budget 2020-21.
- Online Signature Campaign for Standard Packaging of Tobacco Products.
- Online Signature Campaign for increase GHW from 50% to 90%
Steps taken in Sundarganj

Sunderganj is one of the early detected of COVID-19 out of a Hindu marriage. But after taking some steps, now there is no detection for the last 15 days. It’s a successful model in Bangladesh.

- Free ambulance facility
- Initial 500 PPE
- 10000 soaps
- 15000 people relief
- 1000 hand sanitizers
- One harvesting machine
- 1000 masks
- Awareness
New Challenges in COVID-19 situation

- Non-corona patients death is increasing in the situation that must be notices.
- Dengue danger in this Corona situation
- Corona situation in the upcoming rainy season (rain may cause flood)
- Corona situation in the upcoming winter
- Govt. must produce oxygen, ICU bed, ventilator
- We need huge hand gloves
- Huge Masks
- Huge PPE and
- Hand sanitizers
Post Corona Steps

- The government will face huge economic loss up-to 2-3% GDP.
- Pressure will be raise on current activities for a reduction on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD).
- The government should more focus on Ubiquitous Health System and should develop a universal health database.
- The early predictable, modifiable, and preventable approach should be incorporate.
- Ablution of the tier system in tobacco taxation (Bangladesh has a complex tier tax system) and should impose the specific tax.
- The government should formulate a holistic health policy including NCD prevention.
Thank you