Publication: Afternoon D&C

Govt renews promise of tobacco-free Maharashtra

State joins hands with NGO Salaam Mumbai Foundation by organising an event at Mantralaya to create awareness about tobacco control



Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Health Minister Dr Deepak Sawant and others taking a pledge to make Maharashtra "tobacco free" esterday, at the Mantralaya

By A Staff Reporter

A board that read 'Tambaku Mukt Mantralayat aaple swa bacco-free Mantralaya) greeted visitors at the entrance of Mantralaya on yesterday. As the na-tion readied to observe World No Tobacco Day, the board at Maha-rashtra's premier seat of power symbolised how the state was pro-gressing in its tobacco control ef-tors.

forts. In accordance with 'World No To-bacco Day', the Maharashtra gov-ernment joined hands with NGO Salaam Mumbai Foundation to or-ganise a three-day event at Mantralaya that encompassed dif-ferent activities are been taking ferent activities – each one taking another step forward in making the state tobacco-free. The event that began on May 29

with a public exhibition, exhibited photographs from projects led by the NGO in conjunction with the state government. Posters spoke of the ills of tobacco and interactive games and activities formed a part of the dielay. of the display. The highlight of the programme

was when Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and State Health Minister Dr Deepak Sawant took an oath along with the Mantralaya staff to make the state administration headquarters and the state tomake

The event began on May 29 with a public exhibition and interactive games and activities, which was attended by several government offi-cials, including Mahesh Zagade, Principal Secretary, CMO, Maha-rashtra who inaugurated the funcrashtra who have a tion. Rajkumar Badole, Minister of So-

cial Justice who opened the to-bacco-free school model and exhibliton. Dr. Ranjit Patil, State Home Minister was also present. He inter-acted with the children and was en-lightened about their perspective. The government's latest move has been through the Maharashtra State Rureau of Textbook Perduc-

State Bureau of Textbook Produc-tion and Curriculum Research, popularly known as Balbharti, by including a chapter on tobacco



control in the Class 5,7,9 and 10 SSC Science text books for the aca-demic year. These books for the aca-demic year. These books were also No Tobacco Day event. Strict action has also been taken against the violators of the Ciga-rettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA). The event saw a major move in the direction when a toll-free helpline was launched to refree helpline was launched to re-port any kind of violations of the Act.

Dr. Pallavi Darade, FDA Com-Dr. Pallavi Darade, FDA Com-missioner, launched the toll-free number on May 30 in Mantralaya. The general public can call the number 1800222365 to report any kind of COTPA violations that come to their notice. Maharashtra has also become the first state to implement the Centre's directive to han the sale of toherco and FMCG ban the sale of tobacco and FMCG goods under one roof. It has also banned the sale of gutkha and cig-arettes within 100 yards of educa-tional institutions. While the Global Adult Tobacco

Survey Maharashtra released in December last year showed that there is a decline in tobacco use in the last seven years, its usage in the 15-17 age group has increased from 2.9 per cent in 2010 to 5.5 per cent in 2017. The mean age of initiation into

The mean age of initiation into tobacco use in Maharashtra has also decreased from 18.5 years to 17.4 years, indicating youth are starting tobacco use earlier. In the wake of such alarming statistics, the government's initiative to work alongside NGOs and private organ-

alongside NGOs and private organ-isations. Speaking at the event, Tshering Bhutia, General Manager, Salaam Bombay Foundation lauded the Maharashtra government's efforts for the cause

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Publication: Business Standard

Slum 'super army'

The Salaam Bombay Foundation is equipping slum children to make healthier life choices, writes Geetanjali Krishna

• t is estimated that every day, more than 5,500 children in India below the age of 10 try tobacco for the first time. There are over one crore juvenile tobacco found that seven of 10 students to deal with the reported at least one parent who stresses of their exiscrose friends who used tobacco. Other studies show that tobacco abuse at an early age serves as gateway to other forms of sub-stance abuse and more div consumed some form of tobacco. tence." stance abuse and more dis-turbingly, teenagers perceive stressors in their 309 BMC and smokers to be more popular than non-smokers. Tit is a preventable epidemic,' says Addii Tankh of The the schildren are impacted about Salaam Bombay Foundation (SBF). first-generation The NGO has been working since learners with few 2002 to empower adolescents to make healthier life choices, and specifically educates them on the ill-effects of tobacco abuse. SBF engages with children from Mumbal's slums through in-school leadership programmes and after-

school sports, arts, media and vocational training academies. "The idea is to catch them young, before tobacco has had a chance to ruin their health and quality of users in the country today. A recent life," she says, "To do this, we have study of Mumbai schoolchildren in the 7th, 8th and 9th grades the necessary psychological skills



government-aided schools, and has 530,000 children

The classroom programme not only uses role-playing, interactive

games and storytelling to create awareness about the pitfalls of tobacco — it also encourages and enables them to actively promote the message in their communi-ties. A case in point is Bhairavi Jadhav, the daughter of an autorickshaw driver in Navi Mumbai, who has now

become an active antiadvocate tobacco among the 200 drivers who work with her who work with her father. At a broader level, the project con-ducts tobacco control audits and works with policymakers to better implement tobaccocontrol policies and provisions of the tobacco control law.

first-generation. learners with few good adult role models." This is why SBP's flagship Project Super Army, an in-school programme, aims at the holistic development to strate us agents of change. development to strate us agents of change. value of education vis-à-vis employment is often low," This



became the rationale for the Academy of Sports, Arts and Media Project Resume. This includes a caters to more holistic developskills development programme that imparts training in skills, such ment of students. Professionally taught after-school classes provide as jewellery and fashion design, mobile repair, retail management and web development. Thanks to this programme, many students have been able to work part-time while still in school. "This is not ferent ways, they often find their just added income for the family," says Parikh, "it also ensures that they can earn and learn simultaneously, instead of dropping out of school." The Salaam Bombay

BMC and government-aided schools, and has impacted about 530,000 children. "Many parents tell us that their children's ability to not only world-class training, but focus has improved and their also performance opportunities. approach to education has "The idea is that as children learn changed," says Parikh, While skills to express themselves in many dif- training has enabled many to find el and it's "super army" of confibetter jobs after school, many from voice, get noticed and discover themselves for the first time," says Parikh. "We refer to it as 'the pow-parikh. "We refer to it as 'the pow-

Given that about 20 million children of ages 10-14 are estimated to be tobacco-addicted, as per a recent National Sample Survey Organisation survey, the task ahead is huge. But the Salaam Bombay Foundation's easily replicable moddent kids shows that it can be done.

er of the playground." our reach in the coming year is we The results have been positive, can see a lot of positive impact on So far, SBF has worked with 300 the ground," says Partich. Most participhaidistricts

Online: Business Standard

CM administers oath for tobacco-free Maharashtra

Press Trust of India | Mumbai Last Updated at May 31, 2018 22:45 IST





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CM administers oath of tobacco-free Maha

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Fadnavis welcomes Israeli help in agriculture

Fadnavis leads 'Tiranga Ekta Yatra' in Mumbai Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis today administered an oath against tobacco consumption to government officials and staff at Mantralaya (secretariat) to mark the 'World No Tobacco Day'.

Besides officials, students also took the oath.

Revenue minister Chandrakant Patil and health minister Deepak Sawant were also present.

An exhibition highlighting hazards of tobacco consumption was also organised on the occasion, a government release stated.

"All those present took oath to make their houses, premises, areas, offices, Mantralaya and entire Maharashtra tobacco-free," it said.

Date: 2nd June, 18

Publication: Dainik Sagar

जागतिक तंबाखुविरोधी दिन मंत्रालयात साजरा

प्रतिनिधी

मुंबई:- मंत्रालयाच्या प्रवेशद्वारावर गुरुवारी येणाऱ्यांचे स्वागत तंबाखूमुक्त मंत्रालयात आपले स्वागत, असे लिहिलेल्या एका पाटीने करण्यात आले. जागतिक तंबाखूविरोधी दिन पाळण्यासाठी संपूर्ण राष्ट्र सज्ज होत असतानाच राज्य तंबाखू नियंत्रणाच्या दिशेने कसे मार्गक्रमण करत आहे याचे प्रतिकात्मक दर्शन महाराष्ट्रातील सत्तेच्या या प्रमुख केंद्राने घडवले. नागरिकांच्या आरोग्याची जोपासना करण्याप्रती सरकारची वचनबध्दता या पाटीद्वारे प्रकर्षाने दिसून येत होती. जागतिक तंबाखूविरोधी दिनाच्या निमित्ताने महाराष्ट्र सरकारने स्वयंसेवी संस्था सलाम मुंबई फाउंडेशनच्या सहयोगाने मंत्रालयात तीन दिवसीय कार्यक्रमाचे आयोजन करण्यात आले होते

या कार्यक्रमातील सवांत मंत्रालय महत्त्वपूर्ण क्षण म्हणजे राज्याचे



मुख्यालये व संपूर्ण महाराष्ट्र तंबाखूमुक्त करण्याची शपथ ातील सर्व कर्मचाऱ्यांसोबल घेतली. या प्रदर्शनाला सीएमओ,

राजकुमार बदोले यांनी तंबाखू-मुक्त शाळेचे मॉडेल व प्रदर्शन सुरू केले. या उपक्रमाला पार्ठिबा देण्यासाठी राज्याचे मृहमंत्री डॉ. रणजीत

हे देखील उपस्थित होते १५ ते १७ या वयोगटामध्ये तंबाखू सेवनाचे प्रमाण २०१० मध्ये २.९ टक्के होते ते २०१७ मध्ये ५.५ टक्क्यांनी वाढले. तंबाखू सेवन सुरू करण्याचे सरासरी वयही महाराष्ट्रात १८.५

वर्षावरून १७ ४ वर्षांवर आले आहे याचाच अर्थ तरुण मुले आणखी लवकर तंबाखूचे सेवन सुरू करू लागली आहेल. ही भयंकर आकडेवारी बघता, परिस्थिती बदलण्यासाठी सरकारने स्वयंसेवी तसेच खासगी संस्थांशी सहयोग स्थापन करण्याचा निर्णय वेळीच घेतला त्यामुळे सरकारने केलेल्या या प्रयत्नांची फळेहि दिसू लागली आहेत.

तंबाखू नियंत्रणामध्ये महाराष्ट्र जर आघाडीवर आहे. तरुण पिढीचे तंबाखूपासून संरक्षण करण्यावर सरकारचा भर आहे. यासाठी अगदी अलीकडे टाकलेले पाऊल म्हणजे महाराष्ट्र राज्य पाठ्यापुस्तक निर्मिती आणि अभ्यासंक्रम संशोधन कार्यालय अर्थात बालभारतीने या शैक्षणिक वर्षात इयत्ता पाचवी, सातवी, नववी व दहावीच्या विज्ञानाच्या पाठ्यपुस्तकांमध्ये तंबाखू नियंत्रणासंदर्भात पाठ समाविष्ट

केला आहे. तंबाखूसेवनाच्या दुष्परिणामांची महत्त्वपूर्ण माहिती मुलांना शालेय वयातच मिळेल याची खातरजमा करण्यासाठी योजलेल्या या उपायाची सर्वत्र प्रशंसा झाली. तसेच एक टोल-फ्री हेल्पलाइन

कमांक या कार्यक्रमावरम्यान एफडीए आयुक्त डॉ. पल्लवी दराडे यांनी ३० मे रोजी मंत्रालयामध्ये टोल-फ्री क्रमांक सादर केला. सामान्य जनतेपैकी कोणालाहि COTPA चे उल्लंघन होत असल्याचे लक्षात आल्यास त्यांनी १८००२२२३६५ या क्रमांकावर संपर्क साधून माहिती द्यावी, असे आवाहन करण्यात आले. तंबाखू व एफएमसीजी उत्पादनांची विक्री एका छताखाली करण्यावर बंदी आणण्याची केंद्र सरकारची सूचना अंमलात आणणारे महाराष्ट्र हे पहिले राज्य ठर्ले आहे. शैक्षिणक राजस्थापनांभोवतालच्या १०० यार्ड आस्थापनांभोवतालच्या १०० यार्ड अंतरात गुटखा व सिगारेट्सची विक्री करण्यावर्राहे महाराष्ट्र सरकारने बंदी आणली आहे.

Date: 22nd January, 18

Publication: Hindustan Times



Representing NGO Salaam

promoting children's empower-

"We are trying to convey the message that a child in school has a future," said participant

VESHA KOTAK



Publication: Times of India

Study backs skill development for youngsters

Mumbai: A study by a non-profit ahead of World Youth Skills Day on July 15 has revealed that 92% of the students who get trained in skill development are either pursuing higher education or have become earning members for the family.

Salaam Bombay Foundation conducted the study and released a report focusing on the importance of integrating vocational skill training with formal education.

The study showed that around 92% of their alumni are pursuing education while earning and supporting their families and around 93% are keen to pursue higher studies. Over 50% of the NGO's part-time earning alumni are earning more than Rs 5,000 and 50% wish to continue in their existing profession.—**Upali Saha**

Online: India Today



News / PTI feed / MH-TOBACCO-OATH

MH-TOBACCO-OATH



M administers oath for tobacco-free Maharashtra Mumbai, May 31 (PTI) Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis today administered an oath against tobacco consumption to government officials and staff at Mantralaya (secretariat) to mark the `World No Tobacco Day'.

Besides officials, students also took the oath.

Revenue minister Chandrakant Patil and health minister Deepak Sawant were also present.

An exhibition highlighting hazards of tobacco consumption was also organised on the occasion, a government release stated.

"All those present took oath to make their houses, premises, areas, offices, Mantralaya and entire Maharashtra tobacco-free," it said. PTI MM NSK KRK KRK KRK

Date: 18th August, 18

Publication: Indian Express (Pune)

Play starring municipal school students to be staged in city

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PUNE, AUGUST 17

A GROUP of youngsters from the Mumbai's municipal schools are practicing to perform a path-breaking play that in a way also symbolises freedom of sorts — the freedom of self-expression.

The 20 youngsters who are alumni of NGO Salaam Bombay Foundation's Academy of Arts will be performing shows for its new production *Eka Dhotrachi Goshta* at different venues in Mumbai and Pune.

The play will be performed under the banner of the Salaam Bombay Repertory at Sudarshan Hall in Pune on September 2, 7 pm onwards.

Formed in the year 2016 with an aim to provide advanced professional training to select alumni of the Arts Academy, the Salaam Bombay Repertory provides support to talented youngsters to pursue their careers in multiple areas of arts.

The play has been written by Arun Mirjkar and directed



The experimental play will be performed at venues in Pune and Mumbai.

by National School of Drama alumnus Milind Inamdar and pitches the story of a group of artists who claim the artistic license to dress Lord Krishna in a green dhoti against religious fanatics for whom symbolism supersedes religious teachings of non-violence and acceptance. It is the artists' fight for freedom of expression without which they believe art cannot exist.

For now, Eka Dhotrachi Goshta will be staged as an experimental play, but plans are in the offing to stage it commercially as well based on the response. Online: Lokmat – Hello Mumbai

मनपा शाळांतील विद्यार्थ्यांना 'कौशल्य विकास'चा फायदा

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

मुंबई : मुंबई महापालिका आणि अनुदानित शाळांमधील विद्यार्थ्यांना कौशल्य विकासाचे धडे दिल्याने गळतीचे प्रमाण घटल्याचा दावा सलाम बॉम्बे फाउंडेशनने केला आहे. यासंदर्भातील अहवाल संस्थेने गुरुवारी प्रभादेवी येथे घेतलेल्या पत्रकार प्रूरिषद जाहीर केला.

संस्थेचे कौशल्य विभागाचे महाव्यवस्थापक गौरव अरोरा म्हणाले, इयत्ता नववीमध्ये शिकणाऱ्या विद्यार्थ्यांना रोजगाराभिमुख कौशल्य विकासाचे प्रशिक्षण दिल्याने सुमारे ९२ टक्के विद्यार्थ्यांना पुढील शिक्षण सुरू ठेवता आले. औपचारिक शिक्षणसह कौशल्य विकास प्रशिक्षणाची सांगड घातल्यास विद्यार्थ्यांना आर्थिक मदतही होत आहे. त्यात शिकत असताना कमवण्याचे तंत्र विकसित करीत आहोत. प्रशिक्षणार्थी म्हणून शिकताना बहुतेक विद्यार्थ्यांना महिन्याला सुमारे ५ ते ७ हजार रुपयांपर्यंत विद्यार्थी वेतनही मिळत आहे. त्यामुळे विद्यार्थ्यांच्या कुटुंबाकडूनही त्यांना प्रोत्साहन दिले जात आहे. महत्त्वाची बाब म्हणजे याच प्रशिक्षणाच्या जोरावर विद्यार्थी करिअरच्या दिशेने विचार करू लागल्याचेही निदर्शनास आले आहे.

सलाम बॉम्बे फाउंडेशनतर्फे गेल्या पाच वर्षांपासून विद्यार्थ्यांना विविध १४ कोर्सेसचे प्रशिक्षण दिले जाते.

या वर्षी मुंबईतील एकूण ७० शाळांमधील साडेतीन हजार विद्यार्थ्यांना प्रशिक्षण देण्यात येत आहे. याशिवाय पुणे, कोलकाता, बंगळुरू येथील महापालिका आणि अनुदानित शाळांमध्येही हे प्रयोग राबवणार असल्याचे अरोरा यांनी सांगितले.

Online: Lokmat – Hello Mumbai

जागतिक तंबाखू प्रौढ सर्वेक्षण : राज्यात ३१ टक्के लोक करतात तंबाखूचे सेवन दर १६ सेकंदाला १ खिच्या आहारी

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

मुंबई : राज्यात तंबाखू आणि अहवालातून समोर आले आहे. सेवन तंबाखूजन्य पदार्थांचे करणाऱ्यांची संख्या वाढत आहे. राज्यात ३१ टक्के लोक तंबाखूचे सेवन करत आहेत, तर देशात दर १६ सेकदांना १ मूल तंबाखूचे पहिल्यांदा प्रमाण वाढले आहे. एका वर्षाला सेवन करते. मागील सात वर्षांत १५ ते मुंबईत १५ ते २५ हजार लोकांचा करण्याचे प्रमाण वाढले आहे, अशी एका वर्षाला १० लाख लोकांना धक्कादायक माहिती जागतिक तंबाखूच्या सेवनाने जीव गमवावा आरोग्य संघटनेच्या मार्गदर्शनाखाली लागतो. सरकारकडून अनेक योजना करण्यात आलेल्या जागतिक तंबाखु राबविल्या जात आहेत. मात्र, लोकांनी प्रौढ सर्वेक्षणातून समोर आली आहे.

मुंबईत तंबाखू सेवन करणाऱ्यांची संख्या वाढली असून, यात मुलींचा असल्याचे त्यांनी सांगितले. समावेश अधिक आहे. स्टाईलसाठी, ताणतणाव कमी करण्यासाठी किंवा महाव्यवस्थापक दीपक पाटील यांनी पाश्चिमात्य संस्कृतीमुळे तंबाखूजन्य सांगितले की, राज्यातील २२ पदार्थ सेवन करण्याचे प्रमाण वाढले जिल्ह्यांतील आहे.

आणि तंबाखूच्या तंबाख् पदार्थांचे सेवन आणि त्यामुळे निर्माण होणारी व्यसनधीनता ही समाजापुढील फार मोठी समस्या आहे. तंबाख व तंबाखजन्य पदार्थांच्या सेवनात दिवसेंदिवस वाढ होत असून.

प्रामुख्याने युवा वर्ग हा मोठ्या संख्येने व्यसनधीनतेला बळी पडत आहे, असे

नशाबंदी मंडळाच्या सरचिटणीस वर्षा विद्या विलास यांनी या संदर्भात सांगितले की, तंबाखू आणि तंबाखूजन्य पदार्थ सेवन करणाऱ्यांचे १७ वयोगटातील मुलांचे तंबाखु सेवन तंबाखुच्या सेवनाने मृत्यु होतो. देशात स्वतःहून तंबाखू खाण्यावर व खाणाऱ्यांवर निर्बंध घालणे आवश्यक

> सलाम मुंबई फाउंडेशनचे सह शाळा. महाविद्यालयांमध्ये तंबाखू नियंत्रण कार्यक्रमाच्या माध्यमातून प्रशिक्षण दिले जाते, प्रबोधन केले जाते. देशातील इतर राज्यांतदेखील काम करण्यात येत आहे.

तंबाखू सेवन थांबविल्यावर होणारे फायदे

- २० मिनिटांच्या आत हृदयाचे ठोके नियमित होण्यास सुरुवात होते, रक्तदाब कमी होऊ लागतो.
- १२ तासांनंतर रक्तामधील कार्बन मोनॉक्साइडची पातळी कमी होते.
- २-१२ आठवड्यांनंतर रक्ताभिसरणे सुधारते आणि फुप्फुसांची कार्यक्षमता वाढते.
- १ ते ९ आठवड्यानंतर खोकला आणि धाप लागण्याचे प्रमाण कमी होते.
- दरवर्षी जगात ६० लाख व्यक्ती तंबाखूमुळे मरण पावतात.
- मरणाऱ्या १० व्यक्तींमध्ये १ व्यक्ती तंबाखुमुळे मरण पावतो.

🔷 जागतिक आरोग्य संघटनेनुसार जगात २०३० पर्यंत तंबाखूमुळे मरणाऱ्यांचे प्रमाण दर वर्षाला १ कोटी होईल.

देशात दररोज २ हजार ५००

- १ वर्षनिंतर हृदयविकारच्या धोक्याचे प्रमाण ५० टक्क्यांहून कमी होते.
- ५ वर्षनिंतर पक्षाघाताचा धोका कमी होतो.
- १० वर्षांनंतर फुप्फुसाच्या कॅन्सरचे प्रमाण निम्म्याने कमी होते, तर कॅन्सर होण्याचा धोका कमी होतो.
- 🔶 १५ वर्षनिंतर हृदयविकाराचा धोका कमी होतो.

व्यक्तींचा मृत्यू तंबाखूमुळे होतो, तर दरवर्षी देशात १० लाखांहून अधिक लोक तंबाखुमुळे मरण पावतात.

> • देशात दर 39

सेकंदांगणिक १ मूल तंबाखुचे पहिल्यांदा सेवन करते.

🔶 देशात दरवर्षी २ लाख ५० हजारांहून अधिक लोकांना तंबाखूमुळे कॅन्सर होतो.

Publication: Lokmat



Date: 2nd June, 18

Publication: Loksatta



25th October,18

Publication: Lokmat

कलामहोत्सवात शाळांना पारितोषिके _{लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क}

मुंबई : सलाम मुंबई ॲकडमी ऑफ द आर्टसच्यावतीने पहिले आंतरविद्यालय नाट्य आणि नृत्य स्पर्धा, कलामहोत्सवचे आयोजन करण्यात आले होते. या स्पर्धेमध्ये मुंबईतील एम आणि एन प्रभागातील ४० शाळांमधील ५०० विद्यार्थ्यांनी सहभाग घेतला होता. नाट्य गटात विजेत्या असलेल्या हिंदी विद्यालय शाळेला १० हजार रुपये आणि सन्मानचिन्ह देऊन गौरविण्यात आले. प्रथम स्त- अप असलेल्या चेंबूर हायस्कूल आमि हितीय स्तर- अप असलेल्या औ एल पि एस हायस्कूल याना अनुक्रमे ५ हजार आणि २ हजार ५०० रोख पारितोषिक आणि सन्मानचिन्ह देऊन गौरविण्यात आले. रामजी असस विद्यालयाला १० हजार आणि सन्मानचिन्ह देऊन गौरविण्यात आले.

Date: 2nd June, 18

Publication: Loksatta



Date: 16th December, 18

Publication: Maharashtra Dinmaan



सलाम बॉम्बे फाऊंडेशन देणार हॉकीला चालना

🔳 मुंबई । प्रतिनिधी

एनजीओतर्फे सायन वेथील छत्रपती शाळांमध्ये २००८ सालापासून शिवाजी विद्यालयातील मुला- हॉकीला मुरुवात केली, याद्वारे मुलींनी मुलींसाठी सात अ वर्गीय फेस्टिवलचे खेळात सहभागी व्हावे यासाठी आयोजन करण्यात आले आहे. या प्रोत्साहनही देण्यात आले. यापैकी फेस्टिवलद्वारे खेळाडूसाठी प्रायोगिक मुंबईच्या झोपडपट्टी भागात राहणारी

ऑफिस (डीएसओ)सारख्या उच्च देणे, त्यांना रोजगार मिळवण्यासाठी स्तरावरील स्पर्धांसाठी आणि अन्य सक्षम करणे, जेणेकरून या मुलांना स्पर्धांसाठी विद्यार्थ्यांना त्यांची चांगल्या नोकऱ्या मिळतील आणि कौशल्ये आणि प्रतिभा दर्शवता येणार त्यांना गरिबी दुर करता येईल, हाही आहे. या स्पर्धेत ६ मुलींच्या टीम उद्देश्य होता. तेव्हापासून तब्बल ५२५ आणि ४ मुलांच्या टीम अशा १० विद्यार्थ्यांना तीन वर्षे शिकवण्यांचा टीम खेळतील. या फेस्टिवलमध्ये फायदा करून देण्यात आला आहे. आतापर्यंत १०० तरुण मुले सहभागी झालेली आहेत.या कार्यक्रमाला हॉकीपट देविंदर वाल्मिकी आणि बीएमसीच्या शारीरिक शिक्षण

विभाग प्रमुख रामेश्वर लोहे यांची विशेष उपस्थिती होती. सलाम बॉम्बे सलाम बॉम्बे फाऊंडेशन या फाऊंडेशनतर्फे महापालिकांच्या व्यासपीठ देण्यात येणार आहे. वचित मुले सहभागी झाली होती, यावेळी डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्पोर्टस या मुलांना व्यावसायिक प्रशिक्षण

Date: 14th December,18

Publication: Navrashtra – Mumbai Plus



Date: 1st June, 18

Online: Outlook India



THE NEWS SCROLL

31 MAY 2018 Last Updated at 10:20 PM

CM administers oath of tobacco-free Maha f ♥ P in 8

Mumbai, May 31 Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis today administered an oath against consumption of tobacco to state government officers and employees at secretariat here to commemorate "World No Tobacco Day".

Besides the officers and employees, students also took the oath

State Revenue minister Chandrakant Patil, Health minister Deepak Sawant were present.

An exhibition related to the bad effects of tobacco consumption was also organised on the occasion, a government release stated.

"All those present on the occasion took oath for making houses, premises, areas, offices, Mantralaya and entire Maharashtra tobacco free," it said.

Senior bureaucrats of Health department were also present on the occasion.

Date: 19th January, 18

Publication: Prahaar

राष्ट्रीय कौशल्यविकास धोरणाखाली स्थापन झालेल्या राष्ट्रीय कौशल्यविकास महामंडळाला (एनएसडीसी) १५० दशलक्ष लोकांमध्ये कौशल्यविकास घडवून आणण्याचे निर्देश देण्यात आले होते. हे लक्ष्य किती अवास्तव आहे, हे स्पष्ट होऊनही सध्याच्या सरकारने २०१५ मध्ये हे उद्दिप्ट ४०० दशलक्षापर्यंत वाढवले.

भारत हा जगातील सवांत तरुण लोकसंख्या असलेल्या देशांपैकी एक आहे. देशाची जवळपास निम्मी लोकसंख्या २६ वर्षांहन कमी वयाची आहे. म्हणूनच हा देश स्वतःसाठी आणि जगासाठी मनष्यबळाची एक उपयुक्त खाण विकसित करू शकतो. लोकसंख्येच्या या वैशिष्ट्याचा फायदा करून घ्यायचा असेल, तर तरुण लोकसंख्येच्या विकासासाठी शिक्षण, कौशल्यविकास व रोजगार यांमध्ये मोठ्या प्रमाणात गुंतवणूक करणे अत्यावश्यक आहे. २०२२ सालापर्यंत ४०० दशलक्ष लोकांना प्रशिक्षित करण्याचे उद्दिष्ट असलेले सरकारचे महत्त्वाकांक्षी स्किल इंडिया मिशन हे याच दिशेने टाकलेले पाऊल आहे. भारताच्या लोकसंख्येतील तरुणांचे लक्षणीय प्रमाण हा लाभाचा मुद्दा आहे हे खरे आहे. मात्र, या सकारात्मक मद्द्याच्या जोडीने बेरोजगारांच्या संख्येतील वाढ अर्थात जॉबलेस ग्रोथ ही समस्याही आहे. आवश्यक कौशल्यांच्या अभावी हव्या तशा नोकऱ्या मिळवण्यास अपात्र तरुणांच्या संदर्भात जॉबलेस ग्रोथ संकल्पना वापरली जाते.

शाळा सोडलेल्या तरुणांना लघुकालीन प्रशिक्षण देण्याचे उद्दिष्ट ठेवून कौशल्यविकास कार्यक्रमाची इकोसिस्टम उभारण्यात आली आहे. या संपूर्ण कार्यक्रमामागील कल्पना तरुणांना सर्वप्रथम नोकरी मिळवून देणे ही आहे, करिअर घडवण्यासाठी सक्षम करणे ही नाही. लघुकालीन तांत्रिक किंवा तांत्रिकेतर प्रशिक्षण अभ्यासक्रमांच्या मदतीने या तरुणांना रोजगारक्षम केले जाते. अर्थात, हा दृष्टिकोनच चिंताजनक आहे. हा प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम पूर्ण करून नोकरी मिळवलेल्या तरुणांना एक वर्षांच्या आत नोकरी सोडावी लागल्याचे दिसत आहे. जे

स्किल इंडिया मिशनचे वास्तव आणि गरज

तरुण नोकरीचे एक वर्ष पूर्ण करतात, त्यांच्यासाठी या व्यवस्थेत करिअर घडवण्यास वाव नाही. (विशेषतः कौशल्याधारित रोजगार क्षेत्रात) कारण, करिअरच्या पायऱ्या चढण्यासाठी केवळ कौशल्ये पुरेशी ठरत नाहीत, तर शैक्षणिक पात्रताही गरजेची आहे. तरुणांना नोकऱ्या मिळाव्यात म्हणून प्रयत्न करणारी व्यवस्थाच त्यांना करिअर घडवण्याच्या संधी नाकारते, किंबहुना त्यांच्यावर शिक्षण सोडलेले

असा शिक्का मारते, ही मूळ समस्या आहे. भारतात कौशल्ये आणि शिक्षण या दोन गोष्टी एकमेकींच्या विरोधात का उभ्या आहेत? शिक्षणव्यवस्था मुलाने शाळेत शिकावे यासाठी प्रयत्नांची पराकाष्ठा करते, तर दुसरीकडे कौशल्यविकास व्यवस्था शाळांतील गळतीबद्दल आनंद व्यक्त करते की काय, कारण स्किल मिशनखाली दिलेले कठीण आणि अवास्तव लक्ष्य पूर्ण करण्याच्या दृष्टीने त्यांना सावज सापडते, अशी शंका येते.

ताज्या आकडेवारीनुसार, एनएसडीसीने आतापर्यंत एकत्रितपणे केवळ ११.५१ दशलक्ष उमेदवारांना प्रशिक्षण

}गौरव अरोरा

दिले असून, यामुळे सरकारला ही सर्व उद्दिष्टांची आकडेवारी सोडून देऊन कौशल्य प्रशिक्षणाचा दर्जा सुधारण्यावर लक्ष केंद्रित करावे लागले आहे. कोणत्याही स्पष्ट धोरणाशिवाय दृष्टिकोनातच सतत बदल करत राहिल्याने भारतातील कौशल्यविकासाचा खेळखंडोबा झाला आहे.

रिकल@स्कूल)- हा विशाल उपक्रम शिक्षणव्यवस्थेतच अंतर्भूत करणे किती आवश्यक हे समजून घेण्यात कौशल्यांवकास कार्यक्रम अपवशी ठरत आहे. या प्रक्रियेमुळे मुलांनी शाळा सोडण्याचे प्रमाण कमी होईल आणि कौशल्यांच्या प्रशिक्षणाला ग्रॅज्युएशनच्या पदवीइतके महत्त्व प्राप्त होईल; रोजगार मिळवण्यासाठीचा शेवटचा पर्याय म्हणून त्याकडे बधितले जाणार नाही. सध्या बहुतेक रोजगार देणारे (एम्प्लॉयर्स) उमेदवारांची निवड करताना त्यांची कौशल्ये व लवचिकता, कामाच्या जगात



आपला मार्ग शोधण्याची त्यांची क्षमता, व्यावसायिक वातावरणात संवाद साधण्याची क्षमता, निर्णय करताना सहजपणे समस्या ओठ्यखून त्या सोडवण्याची क्षमता आणि डिजिटल युगाशी जुळवून घेण्याची क्षमता पडताळून बधतात. म्हणूनच कौशल्य आणि शिक्षण यांचा मेळ घालणारी व्यवस्था तरुणांना रोजगाराच्या आव्हानात्सक बाजारपेठेत उभे राहण्यासाठी अधिक चांगल्या पद्धतीने

तयार करू शकते. भारत सरकारच्या मनष्यबळ विकास मंत्रालयाच्या अखत्यारीतील शालेय शिक्षण आणि साक्षरता विभागाने सुरू केलेले राष्ट्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा अभियान अर्थात आरएमएसए ही माध्यमिक व उच्च शिक्षणाचे 'व्यावसायीकरण' करण्यासाठी केंद्रीय पुरस्कृत योजना आहे. मागणीवर आधारित, क्षमतेवर आधारित, परिस्थितीशी सुसंगत अशा व्यावसायिक अभ्याक्रमांच्या माध्यमातून विद्यार्थ्यांमधील रोजगारक्षमता वाढीस लावणे आणि त्याचवेळी माध्यमिक शाळेतील विद्यार्थ्यांची गळती कमी करणे यावर लक्ष केंद्रित करण्याचे उद्दिष्ट या योजनेपुढे आहे. तरीही, आरएमएसएतील सर्वांत मोठा दोष म्हणजे यातील प्रारूपे (मोड्युल्स) शाळेच्या वयाच्या मुलांच्या आवश्यकतांनुसार तयार केलेली नाहीत. १२ ते १४ वयोगटांतील आणि १८ वर्षांवरील मुलांसाठी कौशल्य विकासाचा एकच दृष्टिकोन ठेवणे चालण्यासारखे नाही. थोडक्यात, कौशल्यविकासाकडे आणखी बहुआयामी पद्धतीने बघणे आवश्यक आहे. एकाच कौशल्याच्या विकासासाठी मुलांच्या वयोगटानुसार वेगळ्या पद्धती वापरणे आवश्यक आहे. आमच्या सलाम बॉम्बे फाउंडेशनमधील अनुभवावरून आम्हाला असे वाटते की शाळेतील मलांना कौशल्ये शिकवायची, तर ती गंभीर व्यावसायिक पद्धतीने न शिकवता, छंदाच्या माध्यमातून शिकवणे भाग आहे. तरच हे शिक्षण आनंददायी आणि रसप्रद होते. याशिवाय हे शिक्षणाच्या जोडीने कौशल्य विकासाचे प्रारूप राबवण्यात शाळांमध्ये काही कार्यात्मक आव्हानेही आहेत.

> (लेखक सलाम बॉम्बे फाऊंडेशनचे व्यवस्थापकीय संचालक आहेत.)

Date: 13th December, 18

Publication: Pratahkal

सलाम बॉम्बे फाउंडेशनच्या हॉकी फेस्टिवलसह सर्वसामान्य स्तरावर हॉकील

मुंबई, दि. १२ (प्रतिनिधी) : तरुणांना आजच्या घडीला हॉकीसाठी व्यावसायिक संधी उपलब्ध झाल्या, तर भारताला हॉकीचे सोनेरी दिवस पुन्हा प्राप्त होतील. भुवनेश्वरमध्ये एपाायएच पुरुष हॉकी विश्वचषक सुरू आहे, यानिमित्ताने भारतीय तुकडी आपल्या देशातील या खेळाची लोकप्रियता पुन्हा मिळवण्याचा प्रयत्न करत आहे.

याचवेळेस, मुंबईत अन्य एक संस्था शहरात अगदी सर्वसामान्य स्तरावर हॉकीला प्रोत्साहन देत आहे. विश्वचषक सुरू असतानाच. सलाम बॉम्बे फाउंडेशन या एनजीओतर्फे सायन येथील छत्रपती शिवाजी विद्यालयातील मुला-मुलींसाठी सात अ वर्गीय फेस्टिवलचे आयोजन करण्यात आले आहे. या फेस्टिवलद्वारे खेळाडूंसाठी प्रायोगिक व्यासपीठ देण्यात येणार आहे, यावेळी डिस्ट्रिक्ट स्पोर्टस ऑफिस (डीएसओ)सारख्या उच्च स्तरावरील स्पर्धांसाठी आणि अन्य स्पर्धांसाठी विद्यार्थ्यांना त्यांची कौशल्ये आणि प्रतिभा दर्शवता येणार आहे.

या स्पर्धेत ६ मुलीच्या टीम आणि ४ मुलांच्या टीम अशा १०

टीम खेळतील. या फेस्टिवलमध्ये मिळवण्यासाठी सक्षम जेणेकरून या मुलांना चांगल्या आतापर्यंत १०० तरुण मुले सहभागी नोकऱ्या मिळतील आणि त्यांना झालेली आहेत. गरिबी दूर करता येईल, हाही उद्देश्य

या कार्यक्रमाला हॉकीपटू देविंदर वाल्मिकी आणि बीएमसीच्या



शारीरिक शिक्षण विभाग प्रमुख रामेश्वर लोहे यांची विशेष उपस्थिती होती. सलाम बॉम्बे फाउंडेशनतर्फे महापालिकांच्या शाळांमध्ये २००८ सालापासून हॉकीला सुरुवात केली, याद्वारे मुलींनी खेळात सहभागी व्हावे यासाठी प्रोत्साहनही देण्यात आले. यापैकी मुंबईच्या झोपडपट्टी भागात राहणारी वंत्रित मुले सहभागी झाली होती, या मुलांना व्यावसायिक प्रशिक्षण देणे, त्यांना रोजगार

विद्यार्थ्यांना सलग तीन वर्षे शिकवण्यांचा फायदा करून देण्यात आला आहे. तसेच सध्याच्या घडीला १०० मुले प्रशिक्षण घेत आहेत, यापैकी ६२ मुली आहेत. यात तांत्रिक प्रशिक्षणाबरोबरच जीवनकौशल्य विभागातर्फे आत्मविश्वास, गटाबरोबर मिळून काम करणे, जबाबदारी आणि नेतृत्व आदी गुणांचीही ओळख करून देण्यात येते.

होता. तेव्हापासून तब्बल ५२५

करणे.

विजेती टीम मुली - पिंक पॅन्थर विजेती टीम मुले - थंडर स्ट्रोम सलाम बॉम्बे फाउंडेशनचे उपाध्यक्ष गौरव अरोरा या फेस्टिवलबद्दल म्हणाले की. "आपल्या देशाला १९२८, १९३२ आणि १९३६ साली हॉकीसाठी सुवर्णपदक प्राप्त झाले आहे, इतका समृद्ध वारसा आपल्याला आहे, शिवाय यातून अनेक हॉकीस्टार्सही तयार झाले आहेत. परंतु अलिकडच्या काही वर्षांमध्ये या खेळाची लोकप्रियता काहीशी कमी झाली आहे. यामुळेच मुलांना शालेय स्तरावरच या खेळाची ओळख करून देणे आणि त्यासाठी प्रोत्साहित करणे गरजेचे आहे. यासाठी शिक्षण विभागाबरोबर शालेय स्तरावर हॉकी उपक्रम राबवण्यात एनजीओ महत्त्वाची भूमिका पार पाडु शकतात. गेल्या दशकभरापासन आम्ही या दृष्टीने प्रयत्न करत आहोत आणि हा फेस्टिवल म्हणजे याच उपक्रमाचा भाग आहे. या खेळाला मुलांचा भरघोस प्रतिसाद लाभत आहे आणि ही मुले प्रचंड उत्साहाने सहभागी झालेली आहेत, याचा आम्हाला निश्चितच आनंद आहे."

Date: 2nd June, 18

Publication: Sakal – Today



मुंबई : मंत्रालयात तंबाखूमुक्तीची शपथ देताना मुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस.

मंत्रालयातील कर्मचाऱ्यांना तंबाखूमुक्तीची शपथ

वडाळा, ता. १ (बातमीदार) : जागतिक तंबाखूविरोधी दिनानिमित्ताने महाराष्ट्र सरकारने स्वयंसेवी संस्था 'सलाम मुंबई फाऊंडेशन'च्या सहयोगाने मंत्रालयात तीन दिवस कार्यक्रम झाले. त्यात तंबाखूमुक्तीसाठी विविध उपक्रम घेण्यात आले. या कार्यक्रमांतर्गत मुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस आणि आरोग्यमंत्री डॉ. दीपक सावंत यांनी राज्यातील सर्व प्रशासकीय मुख्यालये आणि संपूर्ण महाराष्ट्र तंबाखूमुक्त करण्याची शपथ मंत्रालयातील सर्व कर्मचाऱ्यांना दिली. गुरुवारी मंत्रालयाच्या त्रिमूर्ती सभागृहात ही शपथ देण्यात आली. सरकारतर्फे तंबाख

नियंत्रणाबद्दल जागरूकता निर्माण करण्यासाठी सलाम मुंबई फाऊंडेशन राज्य सरकारच्या साथीने अनेक उपक्रम राबवत आहे. या उपक्रमाचा एक भाग म्हणून जागतिक तंबाखूविरोधी दिनानिमित्त २९ ते ३१ मेदरम्यान मंत्रालयाच्या त्रिमूर्ती सभागृहात प्रकल्पांची चित्रे आणि फोटो लावण्यात आले होते. तंबाखूचे दुष्परिणाम दाखवून देणारे पोस्टर; तसेच संवादात्मक खेळ व उपक्रमही या प्रदर्शनात होते. या प्रदर्शनाचे उद्घाटन सीएमओ, महाराष्ट्राचे प्रमुख सचिव महेश झगडे यांच्या हस्ते करण्यात आले.

या वेळी सामाजिक न्यायमंत्री राजकुमार बडोले उपस्थित होते. तंबाखूमुक्त शाळेचे मॉडेल आणि प्रदर्शन सुरू केले. सोबतच अनेक सरकारी अधिकारी उपस्थित होते. उपक्रमाला पाठिंबा देण्यासाठी राज्याचे गृहमंत्री डॉ. रणजित पाटील उपस्थित होते. त्यांनी उपस्थित विद्यार्थ्यांशी संवाद साधून उपक्रमाचे कौतुक केले..

Online: The Hindu

THE

Fadnavis administers oath for a tobaccofree Maharashtra

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday administered an oath against tobacco consumption to government officials and staff at the Mantralaya to mark the World No Tobacco Day. The focus of the day this year was 'Tobacco and heart disease'. The campaign was aimed to increase awareness of the link between tobacco and heart and other cardiovascular diseases, including stroke, which combined are the world's leading causes of death.

Besides officials, students also took the oath. Revenue Minister Chandrakant Patil and Health Minister Deepak Sawant were also present. An exhibition highlighting the hazards of tobacco consumption was also organised. A government release said, "All took the oath to make entire Maharashtra tobacco-free."

Publication: The Hindu

Fadnavis administers oath for a tobacco-free Maharashtra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUMBAI

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday administered an oath against tobacco consumption to government officials and staff at the Mantralaya to mark the World No Tobacco Day. The focus of the day this year was 'Tobacco and heart disease'. The campaign was aimed to increase awareness of the link between tobacco and heart and other cardiovascular diseases, including stroke, which combined are the world's leading causes of death.

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Online: Times of India – Education Times

EducationTIMES

Read how India's apprenticeship programme must integrate on-the-job learning with education

Posted on Monday, July 16, 2018

National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme is a futuristic programme but has to overcome shortcomings like fulltime work schedules that leave little time for students to pursue education, writes Gaurav Arora



India has the onus of skilling about 104.62 million fresh entrants in the workforce in the next four years, by 2022. Early this year, the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Manufacturing Index had put India on the 30th position, listing human capital and sustainable resources as the two key challenges for the country. The WEF noted that India requires an upgrade in its education curricula and overhaul its vocational training to meet this demand.

Although the Skill India Mission is working towards this end, the dearth

of quality trainers, shortcomings in training programmes and high dropout rates remain obstacles. Moreover, the skilling programme also needs a robust culture of apprenticeship aka 'learning while earning'.

The National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) was launched in August 2016 by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to promote apprenticeship training. Apprentices covered under NAPS include: trainees passed out from ITI courses, trainees under dual-learning mode of training from ITIs, trainees who have completed Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)/MES courses and candidates who possess minimum educational qualification required for trade and also who have not undergone any formal training in an ITI/PMKVY/MES.

NAPS is, no doubt, a forward thinking programme ushering in a win-win situation for both the industry and the under employed youth in the country. Training apprentices on the job is a crucial element in solving the problem that companies face when they hire from technical institutes and have to re-train them in specialist skills. Another positive aspect of the programme is the element of upward mobility that it lends to candidates. At the end of the apprenticeship training, the apprentices appear for an All India TradeTest conducted by the National Council for Vocational Training in designated trades or optional trades under NAPS. Successful apprentices are awarded National Apprenticeship Certificate, which is considered a qualification for employment. This certificate also makes apprentices eligible to apply for further education in a relevant branch.

Online: Times of India – Education Times

Despite all its strong aspects, the programme has a few shortcomings. For starters, apprenticeships under NAPS are fulltime work schedules that require youth to work through the day leaving little time to pursue education alongside if they wish to. This disparity of the apprenticeship to connect to the education system is a cause for concern. It means that apprentices may not necessarily have access to further degrees they may want in order to advance their careers — at least during the tenure of the apprenticeship.

Another issue is that many industries have cyclic and seasonal demands and the need for apprentices is high when order books are filled. Demand is low during an economic downturn when overall production of goods and services is low. The result: companies are unwilling to support year-long apprentices. One reason could be that under the scheme, only 25% of the prescribed stipend payable to an apprentice is reimbursed by the government, which means the rest has to be paid by the company itself. This creates a financial burden for the companies which they are not willing to bear given the low value-add of the apprentices in lean periods.

Unfortunately, just as the government's skill programme fails to understand how integral it is to incorporate such a huge initiative within the education system, the apprenticeship programme is also plagued with the same issue. Besides, apprenticeships have a perception and dignity problem. They are largely seen as a fall-back option for adolescents who dropout from education or who don't do well academically, or who are capable but not particularly in academics, or only those who want to pursue technical careers.

Yes, the adolescents who are school drop-outs are undoubtedly the biggest beneficiaries of NAPS as it significantly improves their employability as well as their ability to become self-employed. However, apprenticeships can also provide great learning and understanding of the shop floor to even those who excel academically. Such adolescents will be much more job ready and will have a progressive career path once they attain the age of 18 years.

A system that integrates apprenticeship and education can go a longer way in ensuring that such youth are better prepared and equipped in advance to handle a challenging employment market. After all, the scope of an apprenticeship programme cannot be limited to simply providing training; it should rather be about making the youth of the country job-ready.

In many countries, apprenticeship programmes have been hugely successful and are worth emulating. One such instance is the apprenticeship programme in Germany. Germany has the lowest youth unemployment rate in Europe and among the lowest in OECD countries. A significant factor is its Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). In this system, students – after high school – apply to a private company for a contract and upon acceptance receive in-class training in their field of choice at a government-funded vocational school. Most students spend 3-4 days a week at work and one to two days in school. At the end of the term, students are given a certificate that ensures that they can transfer between similar businesses. This kind of a system works because the government, private businesses and intermediaries, including chambers of commerce, industry and unions, are all aligned in their objectives and each is driven by its own set of incentives.

(The author is general manager, skills, Salaam Bombay Foundation)

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Study backs skill development for youngsters

Mumbai: A study by a non-profit ahead of World Youth Skills Day on July 15 has revealed that 92% of the students who get trained in skill development are either pursuing higher education or have become earning members for the family.

Salaam Bombay Foundation conducted the study and released a report focusing on the importance of integrating vocational skill training with formal education.

The study showed that around 92% of their alumni are pursuing education while earning and supporting their families and around 93% are keen to pursue higher studies. Over 50% of the NGO's part-time earning alumni are earning more than Rs 5,000 and 50% wish to continue in their existing profession.—**Upali Saha** Date: 9th March, 18

Online: Your Story



SOCIALSTORY

This Mumbai-based organisation is promoting life skills and preventing tobacco use among low-income youth

Saniya Raza posted Just Now

1 share

On the eve of World Cancer Day, teachers and students from over one lakh schools across Maharashtra pledged for a tobacco-free life, thanks to Salaam Mumbai Foundation.



Tobacco claims nearly one million lives in India every year. This figure becomes even more distressing when every 16 seconds; a child tries tobacco for the first time. That's 5,500 Indian children under the age of 10 every day.

Most vulnerable to this relentless marketing by the tobacco industry are children who live in Mumbai's slums. Here, tobacco use is pervasive and the meagre home incomes make it hardly a suitable environment for children who are illequipped to deal with such stressors. Many start experimenting with tobacco and drop out of school to support their families' income. By the time they reach adulthood, nearly half of the boys and one in five girls turn into tobacco-users.

To add to this existing menace, 90 percent of India's children are unfit for skilled jobs by the time they leave school. About 35 percent of children growing up in the slums do not receive education of any sort and close to 35,000 children in Mumbai between the ages of 5 and 14 are engaged in child labour.

This realisation that tobacco use is a symptom of a larger, complex problem was what led Salaam Bombay Foundation to launch initiatives not limited to just helping children lead tobacco-free lives, but also shaping them into empowered, socially responsible individuals.



Little Masters Challenge 2018.

Born out of an overwhelming experience

Padmini Somani was spurred on by a traumatic personal experience that caused her to take a stand against the menace of tobacco.Upon marshalling facts, she was alarmed to know that children were turning into addicts even before the age of 18. "Without an iota of doubt, I knew my focus had to be the youth of the country," the 42-year-old says.

Padmini established Salaam Bombay in 2002 to work with children growing up in Mumbai's slums, between the age group of 12 and 17. Her motto was to enable children to stay in school and take better decisions for their health, education and livelihood.

Salaam Bombay began work right away but the journey was never easy. Attracting and retaining skilled personnel was one of the team's biggest challenges, followed by getting the general public and potential donors to understand the severity of the problem. "Most people related to hunger, poverty, natural calamities and physical disabilities as social causes. Tobacco use among children was very low on their priority list," says Padmini.

To break this myth, Salaam Bombay fought to show the problem to be as epidemic as it is, bringing to light the fact that India is the oral cancer capital of the world with 86 percent of cases being tobacco related. This helped them break ground and the organisation was given a corpus to begin its work initially. Today, most of its funding comes from corporates and grant organisations.

Battling challenges

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The Salaam Bombay solution

To achieve its vision, Salaam Bombay Foundation engages 'at risk' children through in-school leadership programmes and after-school sports, arts, media and vocational training academies. These programmes aim at building self-esteem and the confidence to stay in school.

Kicking off, the foundation first began its in-school tobacco control and awareness initiative, Super Army, that works on different levels. "It educates children on the ill effects of tobacco, and equips them with the life skills they need to lead change. This, in turn, gives them the confidence to explore their full potential," says Aditi Parikh, VP - Communications, Salaam Bombay Foundation.

Super Army also help communities by engaging local leaders to support schools, worksites, and neighborhoods in their endeavour to become tobacco-free. At the society level, the team works with policymakers to implement tobacco control laws and advocate effective tobacco control policies.

To tackle its larger issue of keeping children in school, Salaam Bombay carries out projects to equip children with skills that helps their horizon grow. Speaking of Project Resume, which is aimed at teaching marketable skills to children, Aditi says, "This programme helps teenage children make informed decisions, equips them with necessary life skills, and teaches them vocational skills for sustainable careers."



Beyond academics

The foundation does more than help children with their apprenticeship. Besides equipping them with 21st century employment skills like computer awareness and building their confidence by increasing their fluency in English, they also broaden their horizons through the creative and performing arts academies, show them how to make themselves heard through media courses, and teach skills like leadership, goalsetting, teamwork and stress management through sports.

Furthermore, the 'Skills@School' programme enables at-risk children to take up part-time jobs without dropping out. It equips children with necessary skills to apprentice with professionals, helping them save up for higher education, and preparing them for sustainable careers after graduation. "Skills@School effectively breaks the cycle of poverty. The programme includes courses in jewellery design, electronic repair, retail management, and hair styling amongst others. Over the years, the programme has successfully motivated children to stay in school. This has enabled them to secure sustainable jobs and lead better, healthier lives," says Aditi.

Rural Intervention

Encouraged by its success in urban Mumbai, the Salaam Bombay Foundation started a rural outreach programme called Salaam Mumbai Foundation in 2007 focused on 'Training the Trainer.' Through this programme the team reaches out to the 'influencers' at the rural level, be it school teachers, anganwadi workers, public health workers, local NGOs, or the village sarpanch. It has also enabled thousands of village teachers take up anti-tobacco causes through the state-level training programmes. "The first level of interaction is with the master trainers, who are government appointees. They, in turn, train school teachers on the tobacco issue and the curriculum to be taught in school," says Aditi.

This programme reaches its peak every year on the eve of World Cancer Day, February 3. This year it brought together teachers and students from over one lakh schools across Maharashtra to pledge for a tobacco-free life. The activity, an extension of the NGO's tobacco-free school campaign; had all the participating schools conducting an awareness drive along with anti-tobacco messaging. It encouraged over seven lakh teachers and over two crore children to lead a healthier life.

Enabling the youth for a better tomorrow

Since its inception in 2007, the rural outreach programme has covered 30 districts of Maharashtra, and has impacted over one crore children across more than 48,000 schools. It has also reached states like Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. The Super Army and skills programme, which have impacted over five lakh children since its inception has also recently expanded to West Bengal. The Salaam Bombay Foundation credits its success to a team of 118 field facilitators who are given prior training, undergo mock sessions and then deliver the model at school. "Our team of employees have established Balpanchayats for students to voice their concerns; they have advocated against tobacco at popular festivals, curbed surrogate tobacco ads and have brought tobacco warnings to cinema. We plan to go pan-India in the long run."

This impact has been evident, as over the years scores of children have received full-fledged scholarships to colleges based on the technical skills they have developed and honed at the Salaam Bombay Foundation. Moreover, the organisation has been responsible for systemic changes that have led to better implementation of existing tobacco control laws. It's programme was also crowned an effective model of schoolbased tobacco use prevention that low-income schools in India and other low- and middle-income countries can replicate by the Harvard School of Public Health.