Subject : Creating a health and tobacco free environment in Educational Institutions

Respected Madam/Sir,

As you are aware, tobacco control has been one of the high priorities of the Government of India. UGC has been issuing letters to all the HEIs to take steps for both prevention of initiation of tobacco use among the youth and providing cessation services. Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA)-2003 contains specific provision to discourage tobacco use among youth, such as ban on smoking in public places in higher educational institutions and prohibition of sales of tobacco products within 100 yards of any educational institutions.

You may also be aware that Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India have notified the guidelines for Tobacco Free Educational Institution containing measures for tobacco control and role and responsibilities of Educational Institutions to achieve the objective of creating tobacco free environment. These guidelines are available on https://ntcp.nhp.gov.in/assets/document/TEFI-Guidelines.pdf.

It is important that all possible measures are taken to curb the use of tobacco and create awareness about harms due to tobacco use. All HEIs are requested to take appropriate action/measures to create awareness among students on the harmful effects of tobacco use which shall lead to realize the goal of creating a healthy and tobacco free environment in educational institutions.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Rajnish Jain)

To,

The Vice-Chancellors of All Universities