

**Press Release**

**Webinar on “Preventive Health Strategies - Tackling Substance Abuse including Narcotic Drugs and Alcohol”**

The State Development Policy Council (SDPC) (erstwhile State Planning Commission) conducted a Webinar on **“Preventive Health Strategies - Tackling Substance Abuse including Narcotic Drugs and Alcohol”** under the Chairmanship of Thiru. C. Ponnaiyan, Hon’ble Vice-Chairman, SDPC on 11.11.2020 with stakeholder departments and domain experts.

Dr. Atul Anand, I.A.S., Member Secretary (FAC), State Development Policy Council briefed the participants on the objective of the workshop. Domain Experts and Government departmental officials viz. NIB-CID and Institute of Mental Health and made presentations and participated in the discussions.

The key objective of the Webinar is to alleviate the addiction related social and health issues.

Substance Abuse refers to the harmful or hazardous use of psychoactive substances, including alcohol and illicit drugs. A maladaptive pattern of substance use leads to clinically significant impairment or distress. Tackling of substance abuse involves treating the physical, psychological, social, financial and legal damages occurred to the addicted.

The Hon’ble Vice Chairman, SDPC in his concluding address remarked that insufficient nutrition is already a threat; substance abuse would be another major threat which could push families into poverty. The Government is taking many initiatives to prevent substance abuse on its own and with the support of voluntary organizations. Similarly many efforts are made to rehabilitate the affected persons so that they could lead normal life and their family members could be protected from psycho-social

pressures. Awareness generation among the people is utmost important and proper recreation is another important factor to prevent substance abuse. It is equally important to include prevention of substance abuse as a part of value education/ moral education in school/ college curriculum. He insisted on the higher participation of NGOs to mitigate substance abuse among the population especially the poor and vulnerable. He recommended establishment of more de-addiction centres and provision of latest medication for rehabilitating the addicts. He mentioned that the Hon'ble CM is committed to provide funds for constructive proposals for reviving a healthy culture.

The webinar deliberations covered medical treatment, counseling and support for substance abuse victims. The recommendations of the webinar would be sent to Government for necessary follow up.

**Member Secretary (FAC)**  
**State Development Policy Council**

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