

**MINUTES OF THE 1st TOBACCO ALLIANCE MEETING FOR
TOBACCO – FREE HOWRAH ON 17th MAY, 2015
AT DISTRICT LIBRARY CONFERENCE HALL, BANKURA**

The first Tobacco Alliance Meeting for Bankura was held on 17th May, 2015 at the District Library Conference Hall, Bankura. The meeting was organized by MANT and was fully supported by Bloomberg Initiative, USA and the technical support was given by International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, South-East Asia Office, New Delhi. The main vision of the meeting was “Tobacco-Free Bankura”. Dignitaries from different fields of the civil society participated in this meeting.

Remark of the Dignitaries:

Dr. Sudeb Sinha (Doctor)

- Dr. Sudeb Sinha came forward and elucidated the programme perspective very positively, also approached to all alliance members that “We should take an oath to make the society tobacco free and have to play vital role in our own area of concern because we come different stratum of the society’.

Mr. Arabinda Das (Asst. Teacher)

- Arabinda Das made a clean statement that the awareness programme must be arranged in every parts of the district in a broader scale. He called attention that it is very easy to convey the message in the educated part of the society but we have to include grass root level peoples also, towards achieving the goal of mass awareness.

Goutam Nandi (Asst. Secretary Anusilan Samiti)

- Goutam Nandi appealed to start a bigger movement in the society so that the common people can understand the ill effects of the tobacco and asked for to make the first move from our own home.

Sayantana Choudhury (Lawyer)

- Sayantan Choudhury pointed that law is not only the solution to enforce the act. People should be make aware and such type of awareness program help out to include common people.

Sadananda Nayak (Asst. School Teacher)

- Sadananda Nayak approached to collect primary data and make statistical analysis of the data. Which help to create awareness among common people.

Biprodas Middy (Secretary of Volunteer Blood Donation Samity)

- According to Biprodas Middy today's discussion is highly relevant in the current situation. Because our young generation is harshly affected through tobacco consumption. We should bring in all the educational institutions to make students awareness. They can play a vital role to create consciousness among their family members. He also stated a very strong view that **"S for Smoke and S for Suicide"**.

Somnath Banerjee (Former SDLRO)

- Sommnath Banerjee made a clear acknowledgement that the issue is common but the level of discussion is highly appreciable and able to enrich people on harmful effects of tobacco consumption. He believed that the efforts will bring colour and Bankura will be smoke free.

Shyam Das (Volunteer Blood Donation Samity)

- Shyam Das whole hearted supported the program objective and showed his thankfulness for such noble effort of MANT. He is ready to support MANT to make Bankura smoke free.

Mr. Alope Mondal (Secretary, Life NGO)

- He made a brief introduction about the area of concern of LIFE ngo, mainly they are working on the field of cancer, and generating awareness on harmful effects of tobacco consumption is a part of their work. He mentioned two important points- involvement of educational institution and involvement of police and govt. administration to reach the desire goal.

Ram Tarak Chatterjee (Poet)

- Ram Tarak Chatterjee praised us for organizing the programme and he shared two short poems on tobacco issues. He gave assurance to support us.