



Smokeless Tobacco Use and Tobacco control In Bangladesh

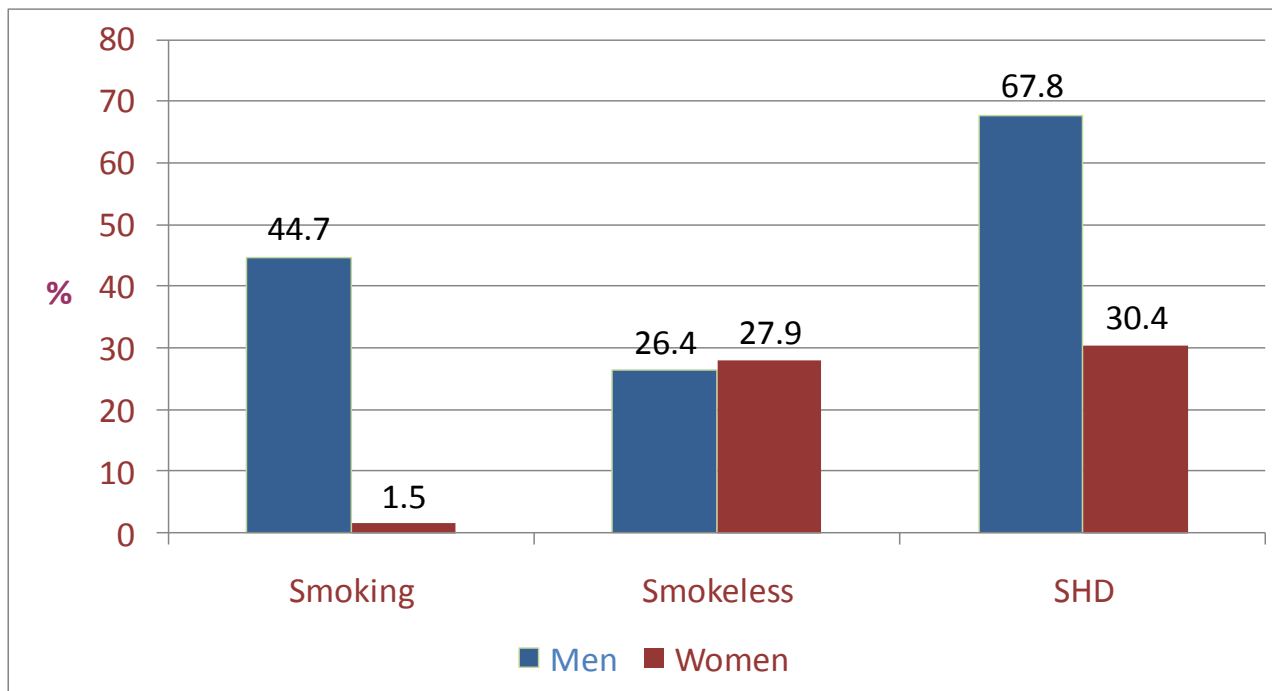


MD. Rezaul Alam
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Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Tobacco usage in Bangladesh

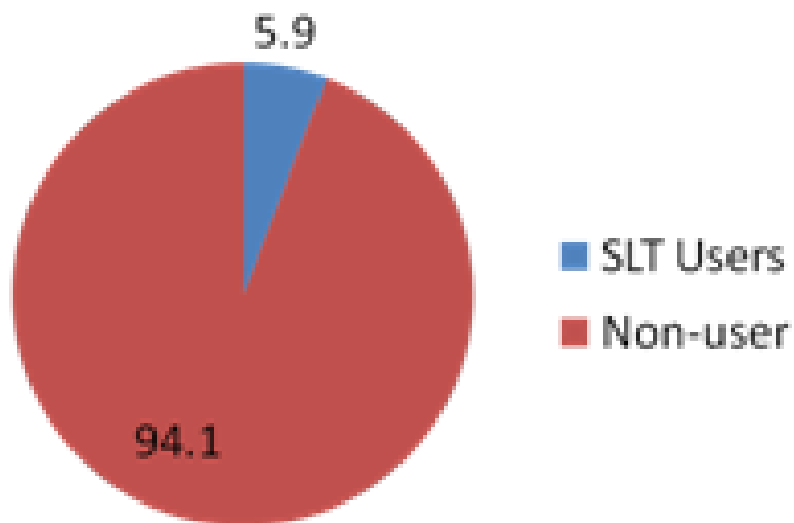
According to Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) 2009:

- Tobacco User (in any form)- **43.3%** (Male:58.0%, Female:28.7%)
- Tobacco smokers- **23.0%** (Male:44.7%, Female:1.5%)
- Smokeless Tobacco user- **27.2%** (Male:26.4%, Female:27.9%)

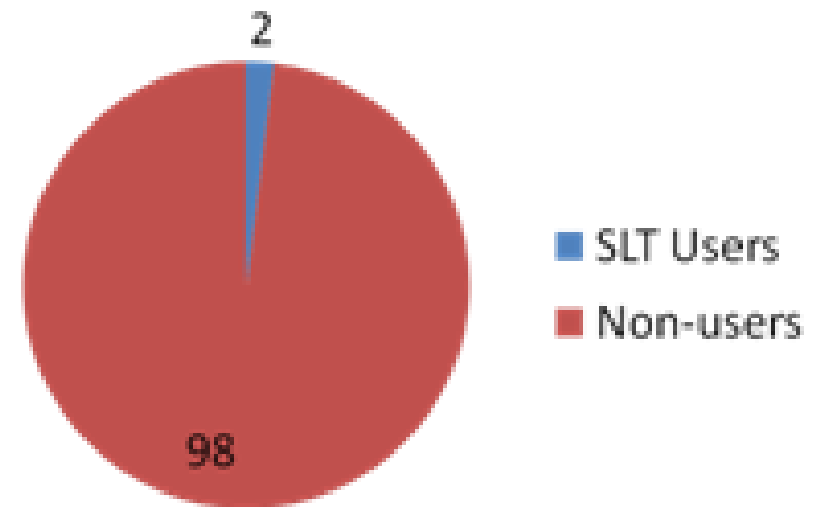


Prevalence among youth, 13-15 y

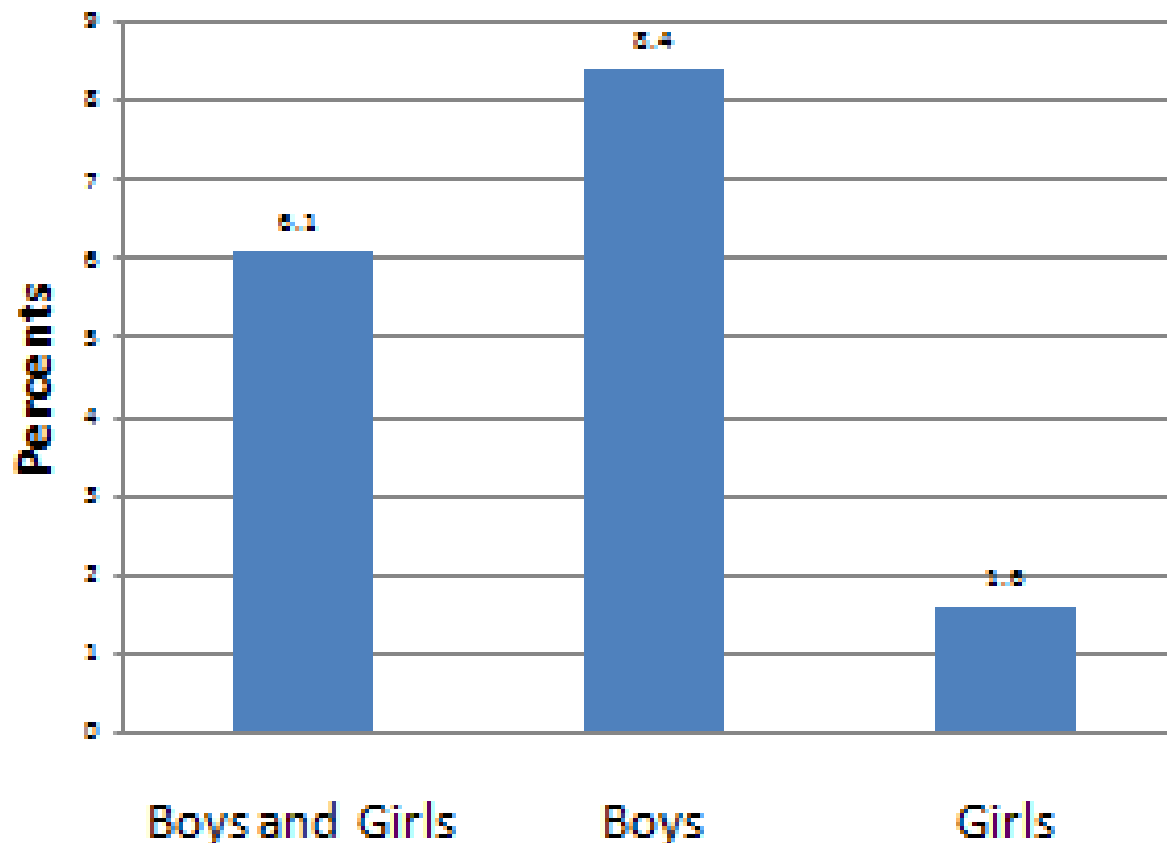
Boys



Girls



Prevalence of use of tobacco other than cigarettes, 13-17 years



Source: Global School Health Survey 2014

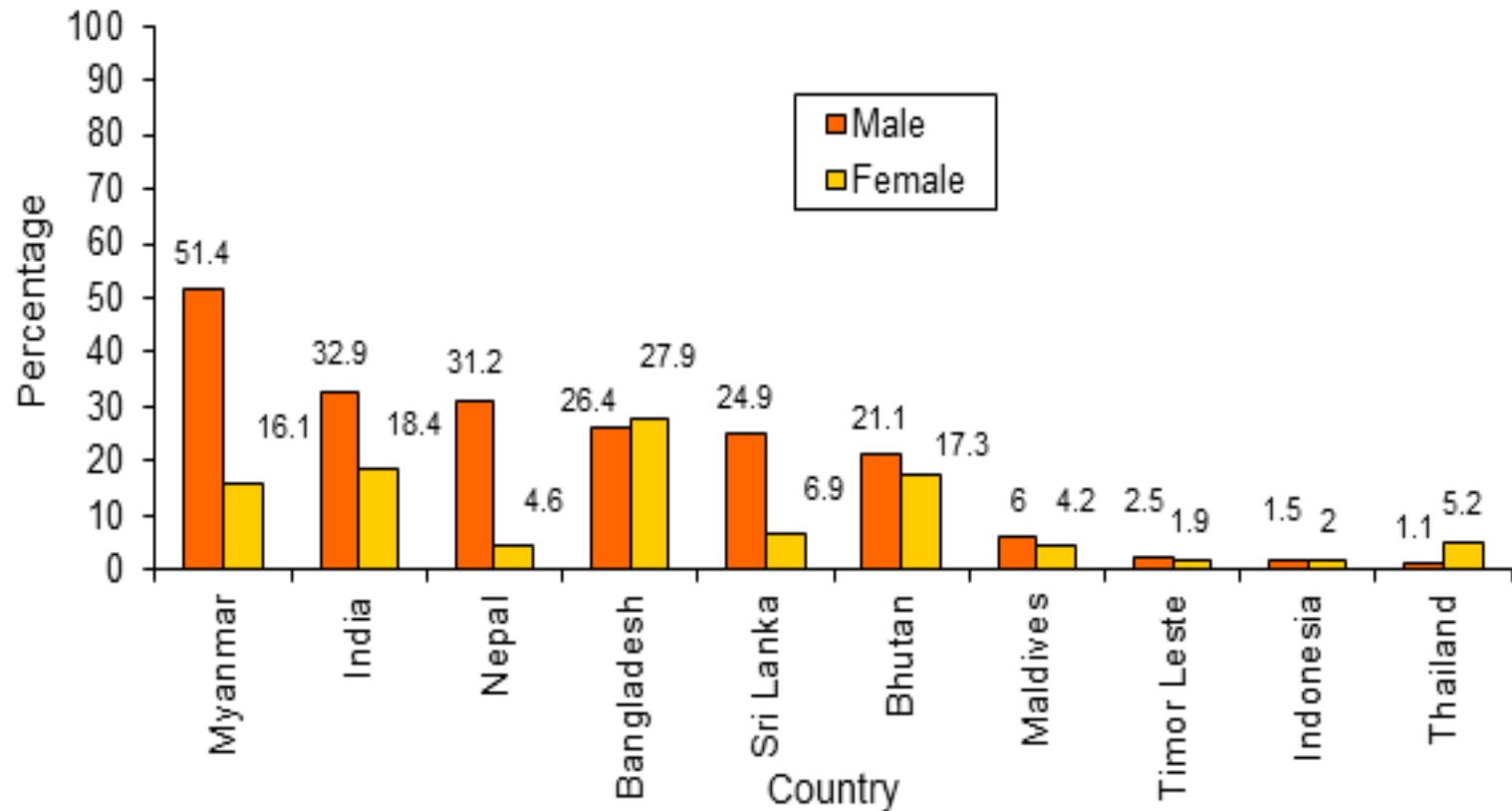
Smokeless Tobacco

- Chewing tobacco
 - Jarda
 - Sada pata
 - Gul
- Snuff
 - Nasshi
- Khoinee
- Kimam



SLT in Bangladesh

- Bangladesh has the highest usage of smokeless tobacco among women in the world.



Prevalence of smokeless tobacco use among adults (current users) in the South-East Asia Region

90% of smokeless tobacco users live in South-East Asia, WHO SEARO, SEAR/PR 1563, 2013

Tobacco industry needs SLT

- Major cigarette companies have moved into the SLT market by purchasing SLT manufacturing companies - expanded their operations.
- Tobacco industry is promoting SLT use as a short-term substitute for smoking in countries that have made good progress in ensuring smoke-free environments .
- SLT use has been promoted by some as a cessation aid and a harm-reduction tool for cigarette smokers.



F C T C

WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON TOBACCO CONTROL

- On 21 May 2003, FCTC was adopted in 56th World Health Assembly.
- Bangladesh has signed on 16 June 2003
- Bangladesh has ratified in 2004



Key policy development

- According to some provisions of FCTC, in 2005, Bangladesh has enacted 'The Smoking and Usage of Tobacco Products (Control) Act 2005'
- 'The Smoking and Usage of Tobacco Products (Control) Rule 2006' in 2006
- 'The Smoking and Usage of Tobacco Products (Control) (Amendment) Act 2013'



ধূমপান হইতে বিরত থাকুন
ইহা শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ

Abstain from Smoking, it is a punishable offence



জাতীয় তামাক নিয়ন্ত্রণ সেল
স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়, গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

Key issues of TC Law

- **In 2005 Law**, Smokeless Tobacco (SLT) was not included. According to that law, **"tobacco product"** means any thing made from tobacco which can be inhaled through smoking, and also includes Biri, Cigarette, Cheroot, Cigar and mixture used by pipe;
- **According to amended law of 2013 -**
"tobacco products" means any product made from tobacco, tobacco leaf or its extract which can be sucked or chewed, or inhaled through smoking, and shall include bidi, cigarette, cheroot, gul, jarda, khoinee, sadapata, cigar and mixture used in pipe or hukkah;

Key issues of TC Law

- Now **Smoking** and **Smokeless** Tobacco both are included;
- Ban on Tobacco Advertisement, Promotion and Sponsorship (TAPS);
- 50% Pictorial Warning on all tobacco Pack;



Key issues of TC Law

- Sale of tobacco to or by minor is prohibited ;
- Policy to reduce cultivation;
- Establish a National Tobacco Control Cell;



Monitoring Selling and buying by Minor

- Buying and selling of SLT by minors is prohibited according to TC law
- But, buying and selling of tobacco products through the children is rampant
- The practice is due to ignorance and unawareness of law.



Monitoring Graphic Health Warning (GHW) on the packets of smokeless tobacco products

- ❑ GHW on 50% of the pack is compulsory
- ❑ The picture of oral cancer and effect on fetus is mandatory on the packets/containers of jarda and gul
- ❑ Few companies complied partially and others were not aware of it.
- ❑ Insignificant size of pictorial warning was used to bypass the law.



Spitting adds to health hazards of SLT



Spitting in contravention of a notice in any building is punishable under Metropolitan Police Ordinance. Fine between 100 to 300 Taka.

Outcome

- Smokeless tobacco products are being referred by other TC groups
- SLT is now being focused by the policy makers (Health Ministry, NTCC)
- Economists, researchers, relevant regulatory authorities (BSTI, VAT, Tax) are taking interest for policy formulation
- Companies are being monitored by Tabinaj (Alliance of Women in Tobacco Control. Bangladesh) group and mobile courts are arranged

Need to Do

- Smokeless tobacco (SLT) products needs to be enough focused as a priority at national and international level
- Awareness about the harmful effects and the violations of law to control use SLT is necessary
- Effective policies and regulatory framework for SLT is needed

Supreme Court's Direction

The Appellate Division has upheld a High Court verdict pronounced 16 years ago to control production and processing of tobacco products. The verdict contained several directives.



Political Commitment

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pledged the commitment of her government to work towards full compliance with the WHO FCTC and stated that overhauling tobacco tax was high on the agenda as the most powerful measure for reducing tobacco use. Bangladesh aims to be tobacco-free by 2040.



“আমরা ২০৪০ সালের মধ্যে বাংলাদেশ থেকে
তামাকের ব্যবহার সম্পূর্ণভাবে নির্মূল করতে চাই”

শেখ হাসিনা

মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার



জাতীয় তামাক নিয়ন্ত্রণ সেল
স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়

Key policy development

- Health Development Surcharge Management Policy, National Tobacco Control Policy and Tobacco Cultivation Control Policy was drafted.
- Tobacco Control issue was included in the 7th Five years plan.



Efforts for Tobacco Control

- Tobacco Control Law has a provision to establish the National Tobacco Control Cell (NTCC).
- In 2007, NTCC was established under the auspice of MOHFW with the technical support of WHO.
- Since 2009, NTCC is running with the technical and financial support from The Union under the Bloomberg Initiatives to Reduce Tobacco Use.
- A proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Public Administration to create post for the NTCC in the revenue budget.

Implementation Mechanism

Advisory, Supervision

National Tobacco Control Task Force

Coordination

Focal Point in different ministries.



Implementation Mechanism

Tobacco Control Law Implementation

- 1) District Tobacco Control Law Implementation Committee.
- 2) Sub-district Tobacco Control Law Implementation Committee.



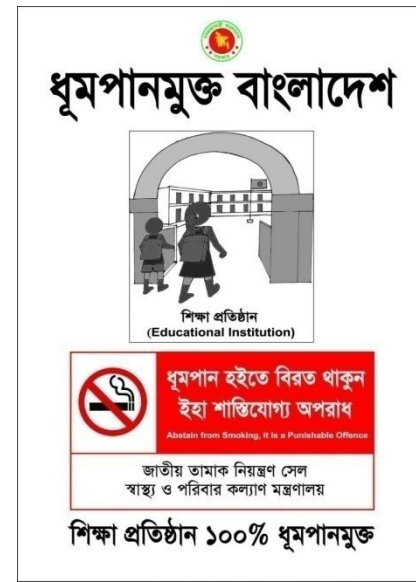
TC Law Enforcement

- Capacity Building of authorized officers.
- Develop guideline for authorized officers.
- Developing a mobile Apps for monitoring and reporting.
- Tobacco Control Law Monitoring by GO/NGOs
- Conduct Mobile Court to enforce the TC law.



Warn and educate people

- NTCC runs mass media campaign with the joint support from GOB fund and Vital Strategies under the Bloomberg Initiatives (BI).
- NTCC has printed and published no-smoking signage, poster, stickers and publication on Tobacco under the Bloomberg Initiatives.



Need to raise Tax

- No specific tax policy on tobacco products exist
- Real price of tobacco falling
 - Price not increasing as much as other products
- Per capita income increasing significantly
- Result: tobacco getting more and more affordable.
- Every year NTCC submit a recommendation to the Ministry of Finance for increase tobacco tax.

Sustainable Funding

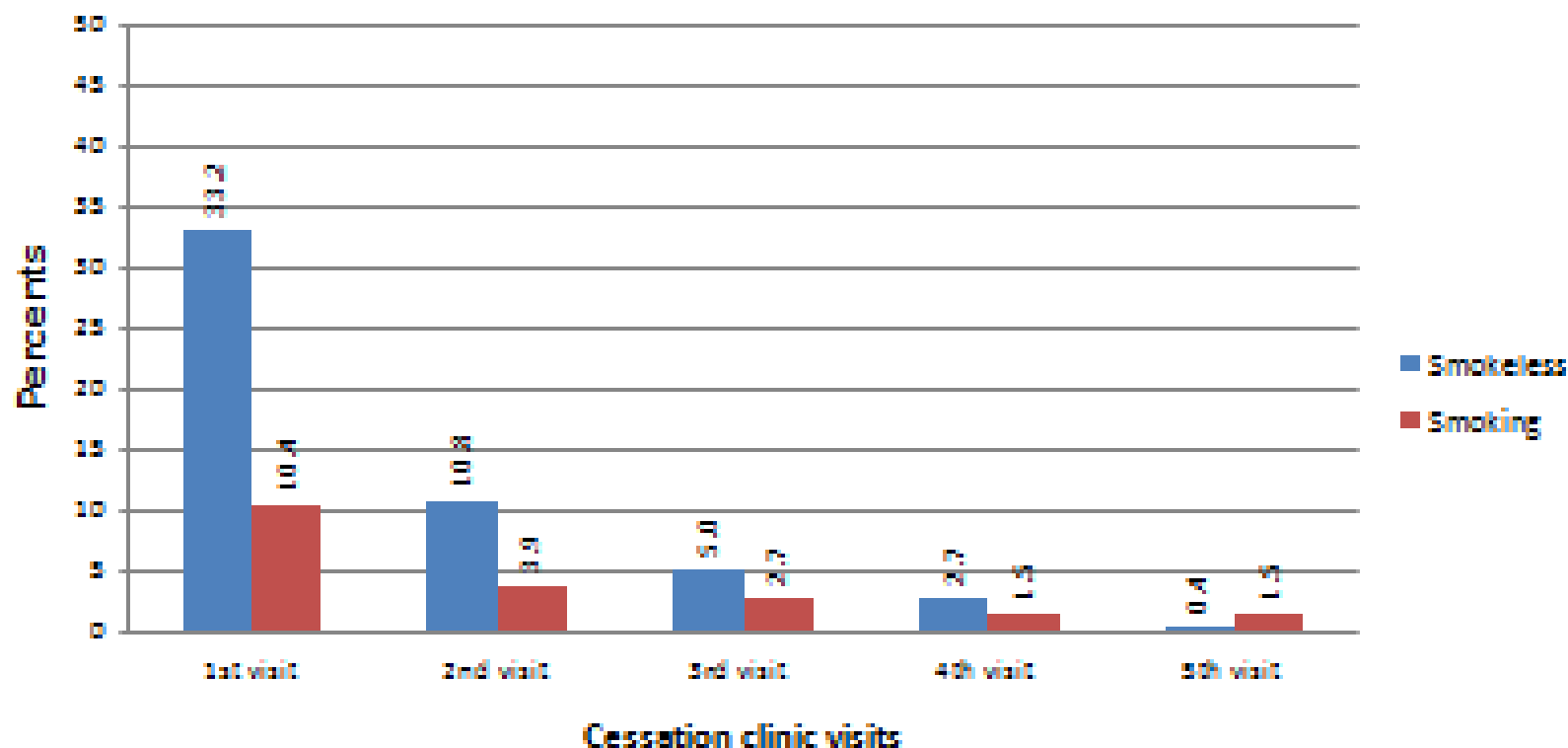
- Small amount fund was allocated for tobacco control under the Non-communicable Disease Program Operation Plan.
- In 2014-15 financial budgets, 1% Health Development Surcharges on all tobacco products is a milestone initiative of the Government of Bangladesh to protect public health.
- NTCC is working to develop a **National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP)** with the 1% Health Development Surcharge.

Research

- NTCC, WHO and Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics are working for repeat GATS survey.
- NTCC has conducted a research on Tobacco Advertisement, Promotion and Sponsorship (TAPS) Ban.
- NTCC has conducted a pilot program on tobacco free model hospital.



SLT is more sensitive to cessation counselling: Experience from a grass-root level health center



Zaman MM et al. Hypertension clinic service is a good opportunity for tobacco cessation in Bangladeshi villagers. *Cardiovascular Journal* 2016;9:19-22.

Reduce Tobacco cultivation

1. Bangladesh Bank Circular: No loan for Tobacco farming:
2. Ministry of Agriculture: Withdrawal of Fertilizer subsidy:
3. National Budget : In order to discourage tobacco farming in agro land 15% export duty on tobacco (un-manufactured)
4. Court's Direction
5. Bangladesh Govt. has develop a draft Tobacco Cultivation Control Policy
6. Agricultural Extension Department instructed to its field officers not to promote tobacco cultivation anymore,

Challenges

- 1) To approve the proposed policies by the authority.
- 2) Tobacco Control Law Implementation.
- 3) Tobacco Companies Interference.
- 4) Low Tax on tobacco Products.



Thank You