

AIIMS, Rajkot inaugurates Addiction Treatment Clinic on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day

Smoking and smokeless tobacco use is a matter of public health concern in the state of Gujarat with more than 24% men and 8% women using some form of tobacco. May 31st of each year has been declared World No Tobacco Day by the WHO with the aim of informing the public on the dangers of using tobacco, the business practices of tobacco companies, the WHO's efforts to fight the tobacco epidemic, and what people around the world can do to claim their right to health and healthy living and to protect future generations.

On the occasion of World, No Tobacco Day, 2022, AIIMS, Rajkot, under the patronage of esteemed Executive Director, Dr. CDS Katoch, inaugurated its Addiction Treatment Clinic under Department of Psychiatry. The positivity and enthusiasm for the occasion was also enhanced by a special film created by MBBS students of AIIMS, Rajkot, with guidance from department of Community and Family Medicine, which aimed to create awareness about the long-term ill-effects of tobacco and the importance of quitting. Dr. Katoch called this initiative a challenge for AIIMS, Rajkot and a gift to the people of Gujarat.

Dr. Gayatri Bhatia, MD (Psychiatry), DM (Addiction Psychiatry) running this clinic, is committed to provide specialized treatment and counselling services to tobacco users of Gujarat who are in need of assistance to quit or reduce tobacco use. The clinic is operational from Monday to Saturday, 10 am to 12 noon, providing outpatient services including medication and counselling to those suffering from tobacco use disorders and other substance related problems. In addition to services in the main campus, Addiction treatment services will also be available through online platform of e-Sanjeevani on every Saturday, 10 am to 12 noon.



Figure 1 Lamp-lighting ceremony



Figure 2 Ribbon-cutting ceremony



Figure 3 Psychiatry and Addiction Treatment Clinic, AIMS, Rajkot



Figure 4 Support and enthusiasm shown by AIIMS Rajkot faculty and students