

Report on “Training and Capacity Building of Nodal Officers in Higher Educational Institutions on Tobacco Cessation & Control” program.

On 22 January 2025, Ms. Nahid Raees, Program Officer, National Service Scheme (NSS), Institute of Vocational Studies, attended the training as a designated nodal representative for tobacco control and cessation initiatives.

The training was a full-day program on “Training and Capacity Building of Nodal Officers in Higher Educational Institutions on Tobacco Cessation & Control,” conducted by Maulana Azad Medical College in collaboration with GGSIP University, Dwarka, and the National Resource Centre for Oral Health & Tobacco Cessation under NOHP, MoHFW, Government of India. The session was organized under the NSS Cell framework to strengthen institutional readiness for tobacco-free campuses.

The primary aim was to enable affiliated colleges and nodal officers of GGSIPU to achieve tobacco-free status across campuses and surrounding areas. Objectives included sensitizing officers to the health harms of tobacco, youth-focused prevention strategies, and action steps required within higher education institutions.

Key sessions and content related to tobacco harms and public health burden were discussed with a focus on youth vulnerability and prevention. Institutional action planning clarified specific responsibilities for nodal officers to maintain tobacco-free zones in and around campuses. NSS Cell’s facilitating role was emphasized as central to coordination and implementation within the university ecosystem.

The attendee reported high satisfaction with the clarity of operational guidance for nodal officers and expressed hope for continued programs to keep youth away from tobacco through sustained campus-led action. The training was described as valuable for translating policy intent into campus-level execution steps.

