



**Government of Odisha**  
**Department of Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities**

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Dt. 21.07.2016

From

**Niten Chandra, IAS**  
Principal Secretary to Government

To

**All RDCs**  
**All Collectors**

**Sub: Controlling drug abuse in Odisha**

Madam/Sir,

On 12<sup>th</sup> July 2016 a National Seminar on 'Exploring Challenges in Controlling Drug Abuse' was held in Bhubaneswar. In the seminar, doctors from AIIMS, Delhi and officials from UNODC and ICMR participated. It was observed that Odisha is one of the seriously affected States and requires immediate measures for controlling drug abuse. The measures relate to supply side control, demand management and harm reduction. In particular, an IEC campaign needs to be initiated to educate public as well as officials about the direct and secondary harm due to drug abuse. Life style training should be promoted in schools and colleges about the harmful effects of drug use at younger ages. Capacity building measures should be taken up in sectors like health, police, welfare, transport and law to facilitate implementation of early intervention programmes.

2. Universal interventions should be geared towards restricting initiation into drug use while high risk strategies should include measures for affected individuals. Communities at local level should be empowered to face and address the growing problem of drug abuse. Well targeted and focussed mass media campaign needs to be put up in place to inform the society about harm from drug use.

3. Drug abuse is associated with increased health problems. Accordingly, drug abuse needs to be seen as a key risk indicator for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD). Screening and brief intervention for drug abuse should be embedded in routine primary health care and be part of community health care delivery by agents such ASHAS and ANMs. Considering the gravity of the problem all efforts need to be made for early identification of drug abuse problems, prevention of harm from drug abuse, treatment and rehabilitation involving health, police and transport organisations.

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