

Conflict of Interest - Declaration

Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi

Tobacco is the most widely produced non-food crop in the world and is considered as the most powerful addictive substance. Tobacco in all its form is harmful to health and its use is a risk factor for various diseases. Scientific evidence has unequivocally established that tobacco use causes premature death, disease, and disability. It's use poses significant threat to mankind as it prevents individuals, families, societies, and nations from achieving their fullest potential and growth. The use of tobacco begins during the adolescence and experimentation during this period results in lifelong addiction. Hence, the tobacco industry approach is to target the most vulnerable period of adolescence. It is also well-documented that people affected by mental illness and/or substance use disorders are significantly more likely to use tobacco than those in the general population. In India, smokeless tobacco is the dominant tobacco product followed by bidis (tobacco rolled in tendu leaf used for smoking) and cigarettes. The tobacco industry is comprised of all manufacturers, growers, suppliers, processors, distributors and retailers of tobacco and allied products and it includes the bidi industry which is highly informal and limited information about it is available in the public domain. The tobacco industry engages in most corrupt and venal practices through which it tries to diffuse the tobacco control policies. Apart from manipulating the political and legislative processes, overplaying the employment and economic importance of tobacco sector, gaining public support by looking respectable, creating front groups to show support for tobacco industry, the tobacco industry engages in strategies that seek to discredit scientific evidence relating to the risk associated with tobacco use. It manipulates evidence about its products by funding, publishing, and disseminating research that supports the continued sale of tobacco and promotes e-cigarettes and related products as a harm reduction strategy while suppressing and critiquing research that does not support this position. Research shows that approximately 30% of articles in tobacco, e-cigarette, and related product publications declared industry sponsorship. These affiliations are counter to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), which documents that due to irreconcilable conflicts between the tobacco industry and public health, they recommend limited interaction, the need to ensure transparency in any interaction, and not seeking to hide affiliations and parent companies or dismiss non-independence. The World Health Organization and many leading public health organizations have warned that the tobacco industries would mislead governments and communities to achieve its profits by advancing their addictive products. Central Institute of Psychiatry (CIP), Ranchi, strongly believes in promoting a healthy

lifestyle for all by preventing tobacco use and addiction. CIP strives for mental health promotion and engages in the mental health literacy among people as part of its public health policy. In this regard, CIP recognizes a fundamental conflict of interest between the tobacco industry and public health.

- CIP, Ranchi does not partner with any entity directly or indirectly related to and /or engaged with the tobacco industry.
- CIP, Ranchi does not partner, invest in or get investment by organizations with interests in the tobacco industry, or those who further the agenda of tobacco companies.
- CIP, Ranchi shall not accept and / or endorse any direct or indirect support from the tobacco industry neither in cash and nor in kind.
- CIP Ranchi shall not participate in any research activity or project that has direct or indirect sponsorship from tobacco industry.