

May 31, 2024

Press Release

### **JMI commemorates World No Tobacco Day - 2024**

The Faculty of Dentistry, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) organized a series of events to commemorate World No Tobacco Day - 2024. The 'World No Tobacco Day' is celebrated on May 31<sup>st</sup> every year to raise awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use and to encourage individuals and communities to take action toward tobacco control. The theme of World No Tobacco Day as declared by World Health Organization (WHO) this year is "Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference".

The events at the Faculty of Dentistry aimed to educate, engage, and empower children and their families to make informed decisions about tobacco consumption and promote a smoke-free environment. All events saw enthusiastic participation from patients as well as students.

The following activities were organized to commemorate the day.

1. **Slogan writing Competition:** A Slogan writing competition with the theme "Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference" was organized on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024. 12 students from 1<sup>st</sup> year BDS participated in the competition. The competition was organized by Prof. Mandeep Kaur, Prof. Virender Gombra, and Dr. Rahnuma Masood from Oral Medicine and Radiology. The students unleashed their creativity and wrote slogans covering the various aspects of tobacco cessation. The competition was judged by Prof. AshuBharadwaj and Prof. Anuradha Sharma.
2. **Poster-Making Competition:** A creative poster-making was also organised by the Oral Pathology faculty members, Prof. Vatchala Rani RM and Dr. Yusra Khan. The posters had to be in English, Hindi, Urdu language with the primary objective of providing patient who visit faculty of Dentistry with information regarding the harmful effects of tobacco. The event was judged by Dr Saranjit SinghBhasin and Dr Shazina Muzammil.
3. **Health Education Session:** A health talk on the ill effects of chewing and smoking tobacco was delivered by interns for the general public visiting the Faculty of Dentistry. Keeping in mind the theme of the day, the talk particularly focused on raising awareness about the tobacco menace among children and their guardians. The health talk session was coordinated by Prof Abhishek Mehta and Dr Bushra Ahmed Karim from Public Health Dentistry
4. **Anti-Tobacco Pledge:** With the aim of reinforcing the social responsibility of each and every individual, towards raising awareness about adverse effects of tobacco, the anti tobacco pledge was taken by all students of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year BDS. The pledge was also administered by Prof Abhishek Mehta to all children and guardians visiting the Faculty of Dentistry for their dental treatment.

5. **Painting competition for children:** A painting competition was organized for children between the ages of 6 and 13 years to further reinforce the theme and raise awareness about how the tobacco industry influences young minds. The competition was organized by Prof Amina Sulta, Prof Vivek Mehta and Dr Mariam Siddique.
6. **Awareness survey:** A survey was conducted by Dr Panchali Batra and Dr Tabassum for children in the age group of 11 to 18 of to estimate their knowledge about the ill effects of tobacco, particularly smokeless tobacco, which is responsible for a huge burden of oral diseases in India.

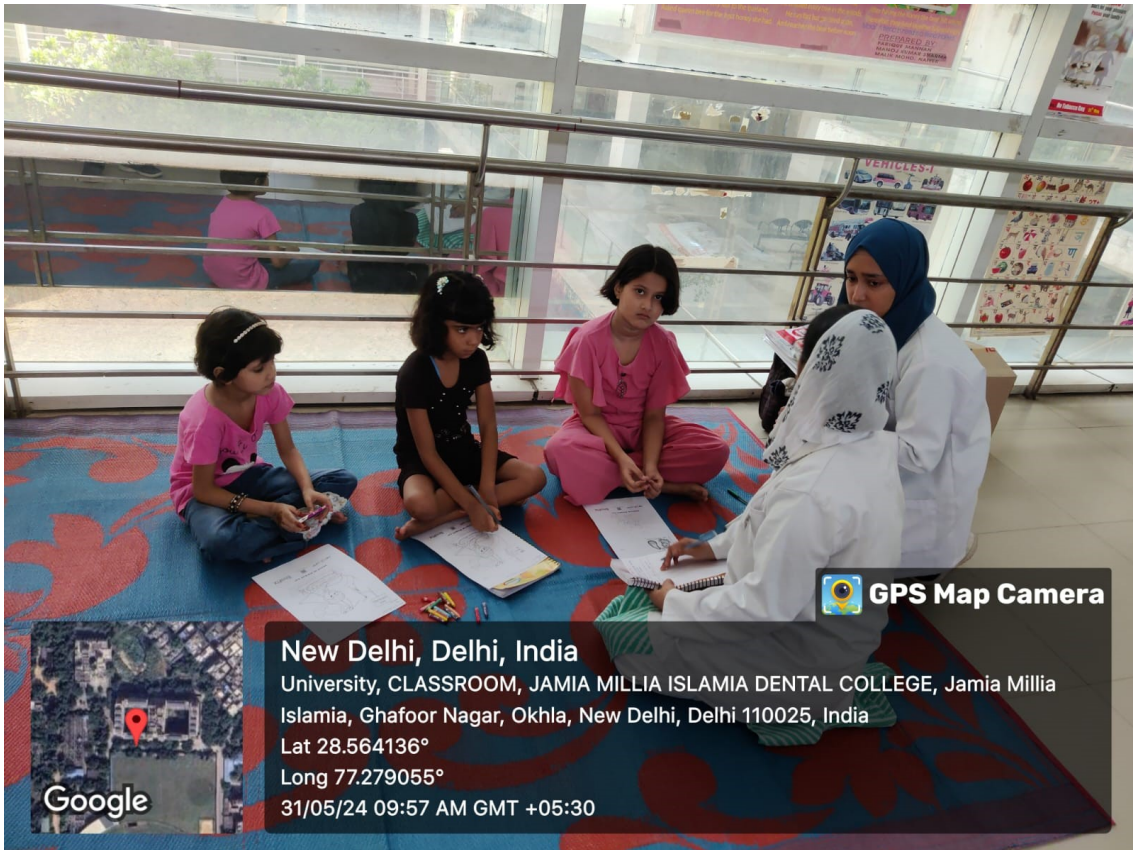
The prizes for various events were distributed by Prof Keya Sircar, Dean, Faculty of Dentistry. Addressing the general public and the students of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year BDS students, Prof Keya Sircar emphasized that it is important for each one of us to be aware about ill effects of tobacco and to always be proactive in protecting children from the influence of tobacco industry. Various activities like surrogate advertisement campaigns using celebrities, sale of tobacco products to minors leads to children consuming tobacco products at very young age. It is very important that the observance of such days is undertaken in all academic institutions so that future health professionals can understand their role and responsibility in reducing tobacco addiction.

The coordinators for this event were Prof Abhishek Mehta, Prof Amina Sultan, Prof Mandeep Kaur, Prof Panchali Batra and Prof Vatchala Rani.

Public Relations Office  
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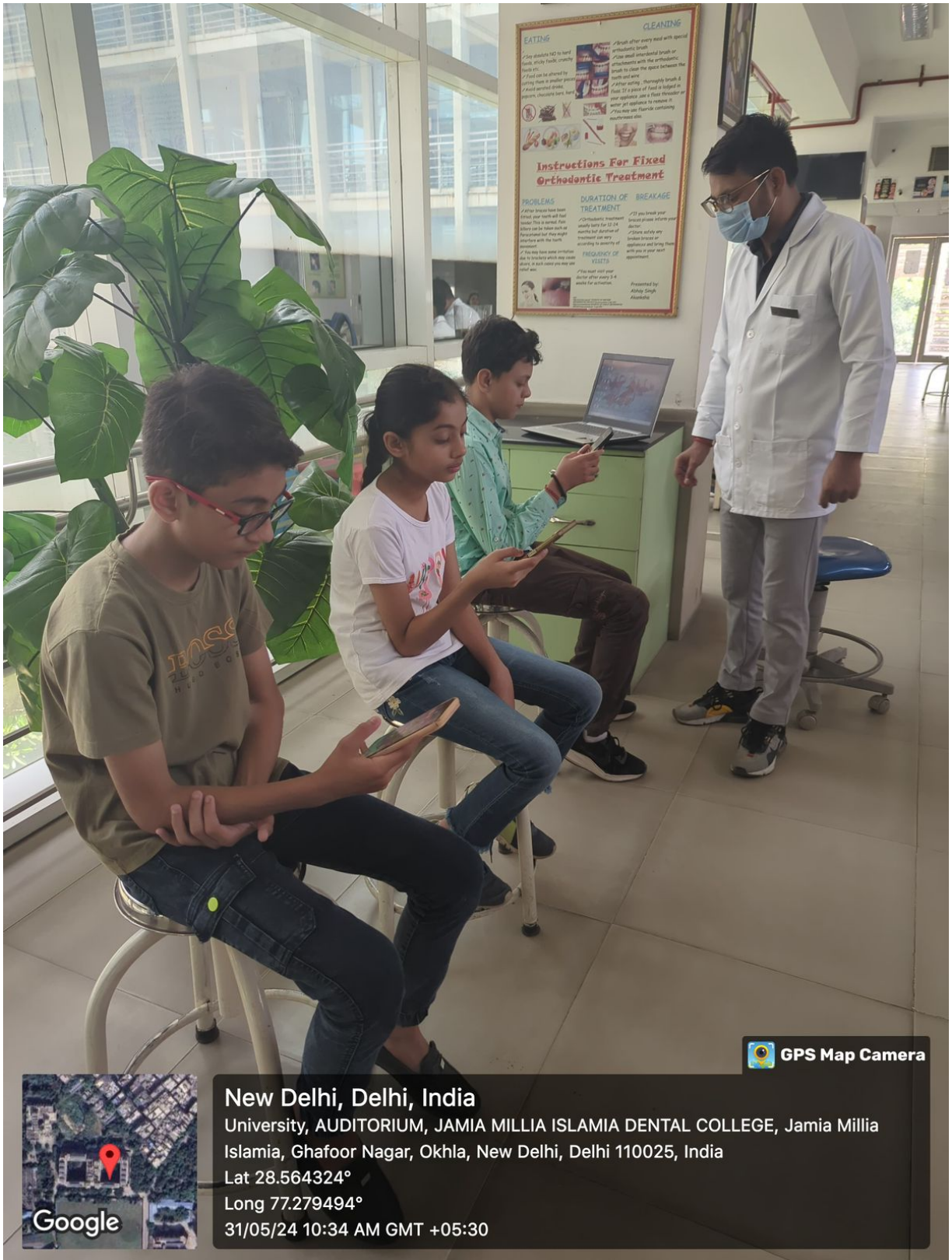
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