

## Necessity to break the relationship between tobacco addiction and deprived economy in China

**Dear Editor:**

Globally, China ranks as the leading nation with regard to both the production and the consumption of tobacco [1]. In-fact, the available estimates suggest that the nation is home to more than 300 million smokers, with close to 45% of the world's cigarettes being consumed each year [1]. Further, it has been projected that smoking-related diseases will account for more than 200 million lives in the nation in the current century [1-2].

Also, it has been identified that the major proportion of these reported deaths will be among the poorest and the most vulnerable population groups, which is an alarming reality, and clearly calls for the need to implement specific measures to eventually minimize the dependency of the local population on tobacco [1, 3].

Moreover, the financial cost of tobacco use for the year 2014 in the nation, reported a 1000% rise, as compared with the estimates for the year 2000 [3]. In addition, these higher expenditures will even lead to negative impact on many other sectors, thereby compromising the nation's economy, social welfare and the health systems [3].

However, considering the target of minimizing 33% of the premature deaths associated with non-communicable diseases as part of the Sustainable Development Goals, it is of utmost priority to target tobacco as it is the main predisposing risk factor [2-3].

In order to assess the tobacco-induced financial cost on the development of the nation and to formulate effective tobacco control policies to prevent millions of deaths, a recent report has been released by the World Health Organization and its partner [3]. The ultimate aim of the

planned interventions is to put the nation to a healthier, equitable and more sustainable financial future for the nation [1-3]. It's extremely essential to take specific actions, otherwise the inequality and poverty in the nation will exacerbate, and the mission to promote healthy lives will not be accomplished [3].

A wide range of interventions, namely adoption of a holistic smoke-free law in the entire nation, increasing the tobacco taxes to decrease the affordability of tobacco products; prohibition of advertisement, promotion, and sponsorship on the various forms of tobacco; intensification of advocacy, communication and social mobilization activities to spread the information about the harmful consequences of tobacco among the general population; mandatory display of graphic warnings on tobacco packaging; extension of support for assisting people to quit smoking; and implementation of measures to eliminate any interference by the tobacco industry in the tobacco control policymaking, has been recommended to reduce the hazardous impact of tobacco products [1-4].

These proposed measures are expected to play a defining role in the accomplishment of the Healthy China 2030 [1, 3].

To conclude, acknowledging the impact of tobacco on multiple dimensions of health and other sectors, there is an indispensable need to be proactive and implement strategies to reduce the consumption of tobacco in any form. However, if the stakeholders fail to accomplish the same, it will not only affect the lives of millions of people, but even jeopardize the economic growth of the nation.

### References

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