## YOGITA DENTAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, KHED

#### INSTITUTE DISTINCTIVENESS

Yogita Dental College & Hospital at Khed was established by the trust named Shivtej Arogya Seva Sanstha, Khed in Ratnagiri district.

The college has started functioning from academic year Oct. 2008 with 100 students. This is the first and only dental college in Konkan region providing modern oral health care facilities. The aim of the institute is to provide quality education to the students and optimum oral health care to meet the regional oral health care needs.

Tobacco dependence is one of the most serious public health risks, with consequences that go beyond cancer, causing a slew of severe debilitating diseases. Tobacco use is responsible for approximately 33% of cancer-related deaths worldwide.

Our institute has efficiently functioning Tobacco cessation centre which plays major role in creating awareness about harmful effects of smoked and smokeless form of tobacco with help of various activities such as Integrated tobacco cessation practices under **corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives of companies such as Bajaj Electricals Foundation** in an institute which is an excellent way for an institute to distinguish itself while promoting health and wellness both within the organization and in the broader community.

The institute has collaborated with Bajaj Electrical Foundation which have a vested interest in improving public health and reducing tobacco use. With this collaboration institute has established a shared goal of making an impact on tobacco use, focusing on employee and community health.

### Following are the benefits of this collaboration-

- Training of key employees or community advocates to become certified tobacco cessation coaches has also been in practice in an institute. This helps ensure that there is always an in-house resource to support individuals who want to quit tobacco.
- To report a monitoring & reporting impact, tobacco cessation centre of an institute regularly collects and analyse data on the success of the tobacco cessation programs. This includes tracking the number of participants, quit rates, and feedback on program effectiveness. This helps in refining and improving the program. It also helps in

incorporating feedback from participants and make adjustments to increase effectiveness and engagement.

• End to end Coordination, collaboration and research with National Tobacco Control Program Cell (NTCP) cell, Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH), Mumbai and other stakeholders

Another distinct aspect of institute is that of integration of free **Bus Services** for patient which is a unique and impactful way to increase the accessibility and availability of dental care, particularly for underserved communities. This initiative has set the dental college apart by addressing both transportation barriers and the importance of oral health.

The bus service has been established by Identifying the need and targeting the underserved population

## Development of the Free Bus Service Initiative-

- Route planning was done keeping the high-density areas where people have limited
  access to transportation, highlighted. Routes that connected major hubs such as lowincome neighbourhoods, senior living facilities, schools, and public transportation
  centres to the institute.
- Pickups & drop-offs are scheduled during convenient hours to accommodate patients.
- The bus service also makes several stops in key locations, ensuring that it serves a wide area.

## Following are the benefits of the program-

- Improved Oral Health in the Community: By making dental care more accessible, the initiative has a profound impact on the local community's oral health. Reducing barriers to care have led to earlier detection of dental problems, better treatment outcomes, and improved overall well-being.
- Increased Enrolment and Reputation: Offering a free bus service has helped the local community as well as it has enhanced the reputation of the dental college. It also has attracted new students interested in working in an institution that is engaged in community service and public health outreach.

# Monitoring and Evaluation of the Success is done under following criteria-

- Track Usage: By monitoring the number of passengers using the bus service, the demographics of the riders, and how many patients are receiving dental care through the service have been recorded.
- Patient Feedback: Feedback is collected from passengers on the service's effectiveness, convenience, and impact. This has helped improve the program and make adjustments based on the community's needs.
- **Health Outcomes**: Improvements have been tracked in patient health, such as the number of patients who have received preventive care, treatments, and follow-ups.

# **GEOTAGGED PHOTOS**

• TOBACCO CESSATION CENTRE









#### FREE BUS SERVICE INITIATIVE







