





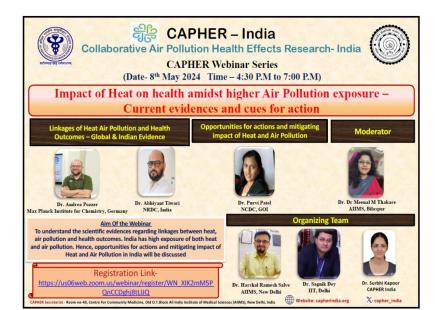
CAPHER India Webinar Series

Impact of Heat on health amidst higher Air Pollution exposure – Current evidences and cues for action

During the past decade, weather and climate extremes, enhanced by climate change trends, have received tremendous attention because of their significant impacts on socio-economy, public health, and ecosystems. At the same time, many parts of the world still suffer from severe air pollution issues. An increasing number of countries are assessing their vulnerabilities to climate change, developing adaptation and emergency preparedness plans, and providing climate information to health services. The responses to climate change have yet to fully take advantage of the health co-benefits of mitigation and adaptation interventions, with action taken to date only yielding modest improvements in human wellbeing. This suggests need of further evidence and research along with policy making by health and non-health ministries of national governments.

The webinar was conducted on the topic "Impact of Heat on health amidst higher Air Pollution exposure – Current evidences and cues for action" on 8th May 2024. The aim of the webinar was to understand the linkages between heat, air pollution and health outcomes. India is susceptible to health outcomes of both heat waves and air pollution hence opportunities for actions and mitigating impact of Heat and Air Pollution in India will be

discussed.









The webinar began with brief introduction about CAPHER India by the Dr. Harshal Ramesh Salve, CAPHER India secretariat. The Moderator, Dr. Meenal M. Thakare introduced the first speaker Dr. Andra Pozzer who is

Adjunct Associate Professor at the Cyprus Institute, Group leader at the Max Planck Institute

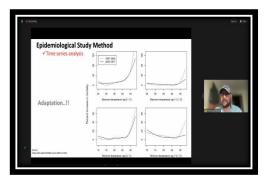
for Chemistry, Mainz, Germany. He discussed about global evidences for Linkages of Heat Air Pollution and Health Outcomes. He quoted studies by Burnette et al (2018) and Pozzer et al. (2023) to reveal the effect of Particulate



Matter on various health ailments. He talked about climate change and it affects on temperature variation and air quality. He stated that mortality due to long term exposure to non – optimal temperature and air pollution is expected to increase significantly in future (2000-5.7m/year; 2090 – 30.3 m/year). It was also added non optimal temperature related mortality increases at faster rate than air pollution related mortality. He finally stated that air pollution and climate change policies should be integrated together.

The second speaker, Dr. Abhiyant Tiwari, Senior Consultant, NRDC India, Indian evidences

for Linkages of Heat Air Pollution and Health Outcomes. He talked about increased mortality among vulnerable people over years due to high temperatures and how it impacts health directly and indirectly. He also explained how climate change poses a barrier to Universal Health



Coverage. He concluded his talk by quoting results from many research studies done in India.







The last speaker was Dr. Purvi Patel, Senior consultant at the National Centre for Disease Control, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. She discussed the various initiatives taken by



Government of India under National Programme for Climate Change and Human Health. Organisational Framework and key objectives of the programme were explained in detail. Lastly she discussed about various guidelines, advisory and resources. The programme concluded by vote of thanks to the Resource persons and Moderator.

Take home message

The webinar emphasized on various issues like increasing global temperature, adverse impact on vulnerable people and combined effect of air pollution and increasing heat. Climate change can pose a threat on universal health coverage by changing diseases burden, rising poverty, population displacement and migration, disruption of health care system and workforce. Government of India has taken many initiatives under National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health like I.E.C development, capacity building, awareness activities and have also developed training manuals and other resources. Since air pollution and heat have a severe impact on health, therefore, the need of the hour is to promote multi-sectoral coordination among Health care workers, scientists, environmentalist, researchers and policy makers. National Health action plan to deal with such adversities needs to be modified as per changing climate trends. Public advisory systems should be updated regularly in regional languages so that they are accessible one and all. Climate







change and increasing levels of air pollution are global problems and the policies of air quality and climate change should be developed together.

The programme received a huge response with more than 100 participants. The audience greatly benefitted from your knowledge and expertise on the topic. The insights on the topic have given a wider perspective to the audience regarding air pollution and extreme heat scenario across the globe and made the event a success.

