Concept Note

Stakeholders Meeting Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals

Manmade chemicals have now become an integral part of our lives. We can’t imagine any products which can be manufactured without the use of chemicals. Though there are some chemicals which benefit us, but some could be highly toxic and extremely harmful to human health and environment. Some research noted that a particular group of chemicals can affect the endocrine (hormonal) system and interfere with important developmental processes in humans and wildlife species. These chemicals are mostly termed as the Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs).

Endocrine disruptors are chemicals generally known to interfere with hormone action by altering the endocrine system thus having adverse impact on the human beings and other fauna including wildlife. After carefully analyzing the scientific research conducted across the globe, the International Program on Chemical Safety (IPCS), a joint program of WHO, UNEP and International Labor Organization constructed the definition of EDCs: “Endocrine disruptor is an exogenous substance or mixture that can alter the functions of the endocrine system and consequently causes adverse health effects in an intact organism or its progeny or population”. Some of the known EDCs are Bisphenol-A, Triclosan, Parabens and Phthalates and globally actions have been mooted to phase out these chemicals from the products.

However in India these chemicals are widely used in the various products. The studies conducted by Toxics Link in the children’s products like baby feeding bottles and sippy cups found high content of Bisphenol-A (BPA). Also Triclosan has been detected in the toiletries. However in India the public information on EDCs is very limited though India is one of the biggest markets for the chemical use. And there is hardly move in these directions.

In this context, Toxics Link in association with the National Institute of Research in Reproductive Health (NIRRH), Mumbai is proposing a half-day roundtable meeting with various stakeholders including researchers, academician, doctors, industries and civil society groups on 23rd September, 2016 at the conference hall NIRRH, Jehangir Merwanji Street, Parel, Mumbai-400 012, Maharashtra.
The overall objectives of this meeting are as follows:

- To bring the relevant issues of EDCs with the cross cutting stakeholders
- To discuss the possible actions for phase out of BPAs from the products
- To catalyze more research in Indian context

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| Venue      | Seminar Hall, National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health (NIRRH), JehangirMerwanji Street, Parel, Mumbai-400 012, Maharashtra  
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**About Toxics Link**

Toxics Link is an Indian environmental research and advocacy organization set up in 1996, engaged in disseminating information to help strengthen campaign against toxics pollution, provide cleaner alternatives and bring together groups and people affected by this problem. Toxics Link’s Mission Statement is “Working together for environmental justice and freedom from toxics.” We have taken upon ourselves to collect and share both information about the sources and the dangers of poisons in our environment and bodies and information about clean and sustainable alternatives for India and the rest of the world.”

**About National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health**

National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health (NIRRH), formerly known as Institute for Research in Reproduction is a premier research institute of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). It is situated in the vicinity of a number of hospitals and research institutes in central Mumbai. Since its inception in 1970, it has been making vigorous efforts to improve the reproductive health of people through research, education and health care services. The Institute is a WHO Collaborating Center for Research and Training in Reproductive Health. Collaborations are undertaken with national and international organizations in a global effort to promote research and dissemination of information on reproductive health matters.