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## **Celebration of World Health Day: SMIMS**

**V. K. Mehta<sup>1</sup>, Sumit Kar<sup>2</sup>, Nasrin Banu<sup>2</sup>**

Dept. of Community Medicine, Sikkim Manipal University, SMIMS, Tadong, Gangtok, Sikkim

<sup>1</sup>Professor & Head, <sup>2</sup>Associate Professor

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**D**epartment of community medicine under the aegis of Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences celebrated the World Health Day 2015 at Central Referral Hospital on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2015 to raise public awareness regarding food hygiene and food safety.

World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized non political health agency of the United Nations with headquarter at Geneva. WHO has its origin in April 1945 during a conference held at San Francisco to set up the United Nation. The representative of Brazil and China proposed that there is need to establish an International Health Organization which was agreed upon by the member states.

Every year the World Health Organization selects a priority area of global Public Health concern as the theme for World Health Day which falls on 7<sup>th</sup> April, the birthday of the Organization. . WHO's Constitution came into force on 7 April 1948 – a date we now celebrate every year as 'World Health Day'.

This year the theme for World Health Day 2015 is **Food Safety**, a theme of high relevance to all people on the planet, ensuring that the food on peoples' plates is safe to eat. The slogan for WHO 2015 is "*From Farm to Plate, make food safe.*"

The event was celebrated with great enthusiasm and vigor by students of 4th semester MBBS under guidance. The occasion was graced by Dr S N Mishra, Vice Chancellor Sikkim Manipal University as the chief guest and Dr G S Joneja, Dean SMIMS as guest of honour along with various other dignitaries.

Dean SMIMS in his inaugural speech focused on WHO and the need for celebrating the World Health Day. He emphasized on the fact that food hygiene is every ones responsibility and should be one of the priority goal today. The chief guest in his introductory speech focused on the importance of food safety and the need to percolate down the message to the vulnerable section of the society.

The event consisted of a Panel discussion on food safety, a humorous Skit to pass on the message of food safety, A group song and a floor quiz for the audience. The panelist discussed on the various aspects of food safety and the vulnerable areas of food contamination right from the production to consumption. The panelist also emphasized on our roles in food safety and the authorities involved and to be contacted in case of suspected break in the food safety chain. The skit in a very humorous way brought out the message of food safety and its consequences among the common public. The floor quiz consisted of four sections based on Panel discussion, World health Day, Miscellaneous health related topics.

The entire programme was coordinated by Brig (Dr) V. K. Mehta Head, and faculty members of department of community medicine, SMIMS. Apart from the event there was a poster and model competition Around 180 posters and 5 models based on the theme of World Health Day 2015 were submitted by students for public display. The best posters and models were judged by a panel and prizes were distributed among the winners. The programme concluded with distribution of certificates and vote of thanks.



*Posters & Models made by the students are being judged by the dignitaries*



*Speaking on the occasion - Dr S N Mishra, Vice Chancellor, Sikkim Manipal University as the chief guest.*



*Speaking on the occasion - Dr G S Joneja, Dean, SMIMS as guest of honour*



*Speaking on the occasion - Dr. V. K. Mehta, Head, Dept. of Community Medicine, SMIMS*