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THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL: HOW ARE WE GOING?

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Background: The World Health Organisation’s (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) is a landmark development to address the globalisation of the tobacco epidemic. It is first global health treaty and it consists of a broad range of provisions including: price and non-price measures to reduce the demand for tobacco, reducing the supply of tobacco and mechanisms for scientific and technical cooperation and exchange of information. The FCTC has been ratified by 168 parties, covering 86% of the World’s population (Framework Convention Alliance 2009) and to many countries it is very much in the implementation stage. Unless action is taken, tobacco use is set to cause eight million deaths due to tobacco per year in 2030 (WHO 2008), 80% of which will be in developing countries.

Objectives: This study will provide an up-to-date review of the progress of the FCTC. Recent developments will be explored, its successes and failures will be outlined, as well as recommended strategies to ensure the FCTC’s progression in the future. The fundamental FCTC Articles that have set deadlines and guidelines for implementation will be emphasised. Attention will be given to developing countries as this is where most progress is needed. The fields of public health, health promotion, policy studies and international relations provide the foundation for this research, as it is interdisciplinary in nature.

Underlying values and principles: The underlying values and principles relate to health equity. Here, it is believed that health is a fundamental human right. We further apply a globalisation gaze, through which we recognise that we live in an intimately networked world.

Knowledge base/ Evidence base: Academic literature has substantially contributed to knowledge on tobacco control over several decades. The provisions of the FCTC are based on such knowledge, and its proliferation as an international treaty has been established through consensus on successful ways in which to minimise harm associated with tobacco use.

Context of intervention/project/work: See ‘Background’

Methods: In this explorative, qualitative study, key documents will be reviewed. This includes studies from the academic literature, documents from the WHO, FCTC Conference of Party reports, Framework Convention Alliance as well as from other professional organisations, policy makers and researchers in the field.

Results and Conclusions: This study will contribute to what is a dearth of research on the recent developments of the FCTC. Gaps will be filled in relation to exploring challenges, successes and recent progression of the FCTC with emphasis on its implementation.


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