



11 November 2021

NGOs dominating tobacco control law amendment

The story stressed that NGOs are dominating the tobacco control law amendment process including drafting national policies. Echoing tobacco industry voices, the story also expressed worries how relevant stakeholders are being left out in the process of drafting tobacco policies and even questioned the position of the Ministry of Health in this regard. Stakeholders of tobacco industries said that they fear that if the amendment of tobacco control law or formulation of policies is done only by NGOs then it will be difficult to implement it properly.

The story said that the Ministry of Health has taken steps to amend the Tobacco Control Law and has formed a committee for the purpose. The story alleged that the presence of NGOs in this committee and sub-committee is more than 50 percent. 11 out of 19 members in the main committee and 6 out of 12 members in the sub-committee are representatives of various NGOs and foreign donors while there is no presence of industry stakeholders in those committees. The story further said that the industry stakeholders are complaining that NGOs are planning with their own goals and concerns in mind while they do not take into account the business and revenue environment. Hence, said the story, the socio-economic development targets are damaged and traders are facing problems. According to the industry stakeholders, the Ministry of Health should involve trade organizations, especially FBCCI, MCCI and DCCI, and Bangladesh Cigarette Manufacturers Association and Bidi Federation in formulating tobacco policies and their opinions should be taken.

The original report published in Bengali:

<https://www.jugantor.com/todays-paper/city/486000/তামাক-আইন-সংশোধনে-এনজিওর-নিয়ন্ত্রণ>