



**Breastfeeding
Promotion Network of India**
Registered Under Societies Registration Act
XXI of 1860, Delhi R-No S-23144)
BP-33, Pitampura, Delhi-110034
Tel: +91-11-27312705, 42683059
Email: bpni@bpni.org
Website: www.bpni.org

BPNI/IMS Act/2020/019

August 14, 2020

To,
Dr. Bakul Jayant Parekh,
President IAP 2020,
Indian Academy of Pediatrics
Kamdhenu Business Bay,
5th Floor, Plot No.51, Sector 1, Juinagar East,
Nerul, Navi Mumbai – 400706

Sub: Abbott violating the IMS Act by sponsoring Webinars organized in collaboration with IAP or IAP members

Dear Dr. Parekh,

I am writing to you as the Technical Director of BPNI and as a member of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics. I submit as under.

1. India enacted an “Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply & Distribution) Act 1992, and Amendment Act 2003” (IMS Act). An offence committed is cognizable. The Government of India notified “Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI)”wide No G.S.R. 540 (E) dated the 27th June 1994, to monitor the compliance of the above Act.
2. BPNI draws your attention towards sponsorship of Webinars (Online Seminars) organized by IAP and/or IAP members participating as resource persons in such webinars during May 2020 – August 2020 by infant milk substitute manufacturer Abbott in violation of the Section 9 (2) of the IMS Act. A list of some of these webinars is given below:
 1. Abbott sponsored a webinar organised by the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) titled “QIV 0.5 ml as Universal Dose” on 8th August 2020 (*Poster attached as annex -1*)
 2. Abbott sponsored a webinar organised by the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) titled “Case Based approach to diagnosis and treatment of cough in children” on 24th July 2020 with IAP members as resource persons (*Poster attached as annex - 2*)
 3. Abbott sponsored a webinar organised by the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) titled “Differential Diagnosis & Management of Cough in Pediatrics” on 24th June 2020 (*Poster attached as annex - 3*)
 4. Abbott sponsored a webinar on 30th June, 2020 titled, “Lactose intolerance in Pediatric practice – Myths and realities” with an IAP member as a resource person (*Poster attached as annex-4*)
 5. Abbott sponsored a webinar on 18th June, 2020 titled “Digital initiatives to enhance the way you deliver neonatal care” with IAP members as resource persons (*Poster attached as annex-5*)
 6. Abbott sponsored a webinar on 14th June, 2020 titled “Pediatrics knowledge enhancement by experts”, with IAP members as resource persons (*Poster attached as annex-6*)
 7. Abbott sponsored a webinar organised by the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) titled on 23rd May, 2020 titled “Constipation: Spectrum of presentation and update on a new formulation” (*Poster attached as annex-7*)

As a policy, BPNI does not accept funds of any kind from the companies manufacturing baby foods, feeding bottles etc. and from organization/industry having conflict of interest.



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For your kind information, Section 9(2) of IMS Act states, “No producer, supplier or distributor referred to in sub-section (1), shall offer or give any contribution or pecuniary benefit to a health worker or any association of health workers, including funding of seminar, meeting, conferences, educational course, contest, fellowship, research work or sponsorship.” Sub-section (1) of Section 9 refers to producers, suppliers, distributors or sellers of infant milk substitutes or feeding bottles or infant foods.

I would also like your attention to an IAP annual General Body Meeting held on 6th January 1997 at B.J. Medical College Ahmedabad which passed a resolution, as below,

“The I.A.P. shall not accept the sponsorship in any form from any industry connected directly or indirectly with the products covered by the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant food (Regulation of Production and Distribution) Act 1992.” (Scanned copy of IAP bulletin is attached for reference in Annex 8)

These actions of IAP are in contravention to the IMS Act and IAP GBM’s own resolution.

3. I draw your attention to a Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India letter to professional organizations dated 29th December, 2010 about effective implementation of the IMS Act by the health workers and their associations. (See the scanned copy of the letter in Annex 9)
4. Kindly, also refer to the communication sent by the then IAP President and Secretary General to the IAP member in December 2019 reiterating IAP’s stand to abide by the IMS act. (Letter copy attached in Annex 10)

Therefore, given this information in public domain, may I request you to kindly take necessary steps to end such sponsorships of IAP seminars and initiate appropriate action at your end to prevent it in future.

A line of action taken will be highly appreciated.

With my best wishes,

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. JP Dadhich MD (Paediatrics); FNNF
National Coordinator and Technical Director,
Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI)

Copy to: Additional Commissioner (CH), MOHFW, Government of India.