

Street play on ‘Drug Abuse’ to be staged at Fortis Hospital

Mohali, June 25, 2016: The Behavioural and Mental Health Sciences Team at Fortis Hospital Mohali presented a street play on the topic of drug addiction to mark the **UN International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking** that is observed on June 26 each year. The event was held under supervision by **Dr Hardeep Singh**, Senior Consultant Psychiatrist, Fortis Hospital Mohali.

The play is being put together by the post-graduate interns from various institutes associated with Fortis Hospital, Mohali. **Dr Parneet Sidhu**, Clinical Psychologist, is coordinating the play to create awareness about Drug Abuse through the use of drama and humor.

On the occasion, Dr Singh said, *“Through this play, we will attempt to shatter various myths that surround drug abuse. I believe this is a humane way to encourage the addicts as well as their families to acknowledge the problem and seek proper treatment. The main idea is to convey that addiction is a disease like any other chronic illness and that there is help available.”*

Reiterating constant support and care for addicts under proper medical supervision, Dr Singh further emphasized, *“Addiction is a science and world over appreciated as a specialty. There is so much evidence to suggest that if treated properly, most of the addicts can lead a normal life. There is a need to change the perception of families and society at large towards them. It is not just a social evil or a bad habit but is a disease.”* Families spend rightly spend for seeking treatment for any physical illness but may desist from seeking help from doctor when one is a drug addict fearing social backlash or not realizing the benefit of it, Dr Sidhu shared. Talking about this year’s theme for the **International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**, Dr Singh said ‘Listen First’ is vital as that’s the first step to help the children and youth grow healthy and safe.

About Fortis Hospital Mohali

Fortis Hospital Mohali is a 355 bed, JCI and NABH-certified, multispecialty care hospital. The hospital commenced operations in 2001, and is today considered one of the most recognized cardiac hospitals of India. Located in the heart of Punjab over 8.22 acres, the tertiary hospital has a comprehensive team of clinicians delivering world-class patient care, supported by advanced technology. In July 2014, Fortis Hospital Mohali added the 55-bed ‘Fortis Cancer Institute’ on its premises to offer the latest and most comprehensive Medical, Surgical and Radiation Therapy modalities.

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