

## **National Dissemination Workshop and Expert Group Consultation on Studying Alcohol Pricing and Taxation Policies in India, April 09, 2015**

ICRW (International Center for Research on Women) in partnership with IPE Global, supported by Government of UK's Department for International Development (DFID) under its Knowledge Partnership Programme (KPP) held an Expert Group Consultation on their study findings from the project on 'Analytic Study on Alcohol and Violence against Women in India' on April 09, 2015, New Delhi.

Dr Ravi Verma, Regional Director, International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) Chaired the session and Dr Anindya Chatterjee, Regional Director- International Development and Research Centre (IDRC) was the Co-Chair. The findings were presented by Dr Priti Prabhugate, Senior Technical Specialist for the project.

The consultation was attended by nearly 50 participants, all working on issues related to public health, alcohol policy and women. Experts such as Dr David Jernigan, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and Dr Damodar Bachani, Deputy Commissioner (NCD), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare commented on the relevance of the study and also gave constructive feedback on the findings.

Issues raised included: the need for a pan-India policy on Alcohol like the existing Tobacco policy, regulation versus prohibition of alcohol, need for indicators to calculate the social costs of alcohol especially on women, the need for health/ women and excise/ revenue officials to have a combined dialogue etc.

The feedback session flagged important limitations of the study such as lack of data to causally link alcohol outlets and incidences of violence against women, de-addiction centers/ hospitals recording alcohol leading to violence and so on.

The feedback session was fruitful for both the participants and the researchers to strengthen the final study report. In addition several experts agreed to provide a thorough review to finalise the research.