

Health promotion encourages persons to monitor and improve their own health. Children and older persons are more susceptible to various forms of environmental pollution than individuals in the intermediate ages and are more likely to be affected by even the lowest pollution levels. Medical conditions due to environmental pollution reduce productivity and affect quality of life of persons as they age. The basic strategies for health promotion were laid down in the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion (1986).⁶ Goals of increasing the healthy lifespan, improving the quality of life for all, reducing mortality and morbidity rates and increasing life expectancy were set at the International Conference on Population and Development (1994).⁷ These goals can be more effectively achieved through implementation of actions recommended by the World Health Organization to improve both public health and access to adequate health care. A life course perspective involves recognizing that health promotion and disease prevention activities need to focus on maintaining independence, prevention and delay of disease and disability and providing treatment, as well as on improving the functioning and quality of life .of older persons who already have disabilities.^{63.64.65}