

Use of Smokeless Tobacco by Low Socio-economic Populations and Risk Factors Associated with it

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Abstract

There is a strong association of smokeless tobacco consumption with occurrence of adverse cardiovascular disease, particularly in the low socio-economic populations. A cross-sectional study conducted among 459 representative respondents including four focus group discussions (FGDs). Descriptive and inferential analyses including binary logistic regression have done to find out the factors influencing smokeless tobacco use. Almost half of the respondents initiated SLT usage at a very young age (15-24 years), and another 22 percent respondents were smoking and using SLT concurrently. Significant association was found by gender ($p < 0.01$), sufferings from SLT related disease ($p < 0.05$). Males were 2.7 times more knowledgeable than females ($p < 0.01$) about the adverse health effects of SLT usage. The respondents suffering from SLT related diseases were 3.7 times more knowledgeable than without diseases ($p < 0.01$). On health effects of SLT use, one participant commented that “*although mouth is the gateway to health, we infected our mouth by using Zarda and Gul*”. Again, informants opined that peer, family, curiosity and hospitality culture are influencing factors for SLT initiation. Counseling on tobacco, including SLT, health hazards have to be emphasized through mass media and there is a need for development of relevant policies and communication messages to make people aware.

Keywords

Smokeless Tobacco, Low Socio-economic Populations, Risk Factor, Bangladesh

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Biography

Dr. Md. Shahjahan is an Associate Professor, and Head of the Public Health Department at Daffodil International University of Bangladesh. He earned PhD in Statistics from Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh. He has published many journal and conference papers. He has more

than 20 years of experience on teaching, planning, and coordinating training courses on biostatistics, research methodology and demography at graduate and post graduate institutes. In addition to all academic responsibilities, he has been conducting research activities covering the issues of public health, population, reproductive health and family planning along with reviewing project proposals, monitoring and evaluation of research activities, including managing and analyzing various complex datasets for scientific and technical reporting. He was delegated many key responsibilities in different organizations in various capacities and gained substantial knowledge on classroom teaching and research like student's dissertation. His teaching experiences provide him with opportunities to share academic and research expertise with fellow researchers nationally and internationally.