

Research

Prevalence and factors associated with tobacco smoking in Bangladesh

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Abstract

Objective This study investigates tobacco use in Bangladesh among adults using 2017 Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) data, with the aim of identifying prevalence and associated factors to inform targeted policy interventions.

Methods Utilizing GATS-Bangladesh 2017 data for individuals aged 15 and above, a comprehensive analysis was conducted employing various statistical techniques. Chi-square tests and binary logistic regression were employed to discern patterns and significant associations.

Results The prevalence of tobacco use in Bangladesh stood at 19.5%, revealing substantial variations across demographic and socio-economic factors. Males exhibited a significantly higher prevalence (40.4%) than females (0.6%), underscoring the gender disparities. Regional disparities were evident, with Mymensingh showing the highest prevalence at 26%. Various factors, including age, residence, gender, education, occupation, family size, wealth index, smokeless tobacco use, health conditions, and media exposure, displayed significant associations with tobacco use, emphasizing the multifaceted nature of this public health challenge.

Conclusion The findings underscore the imperative for policy interventions that prioritize educational initiatives, targeted interventions for specific demographics, refined communication strategies, and comprehensive health education programs. Notably, the influential role of media and the prevalence of smokeless tobacco use should be integral considerations in the formulation of effective tobacco control policies. Furthermore, the study advocates for longitudinal research to deepen our understanding of dynamic factors influencing tobacco use over time and to assess the effectiveness of implemented interventions. These recommendations aim to guide Bangladesh towards achieving its ambitious goal of becoming “Tobacco Free”.

Keywords Tobacco use · GATS · Prevalence · Associated factors · Policy interventions · Bangladesh

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