and Scientific Recently Foundation of Street, and Street, and

Content available at: https://www.ipinnovative.com/open-access-journals

# Indian Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology

Journal homepage: https://www.ijpp.org.in/



## **Original Research Article**

# Knowledge attitude and perception on ill effects of tobacco usage among college students

Sushmitha SM<sup>1</sup>\*, Kumarswamy M<sup>1</sup>, Shashank D Gowda<sup>1</sup>, Jayanth Krishna<sup>1</sup>

Dept. of Pharmacy Practice, Sri Adichunchnagiri College of Pharmacy, Karnataka, India.

#### **Abstract**

**Background:** Tobacco use is responsible for around six million fatalities globally each year. Younger people suffer more pronounced consequences, including impaired physical performance, dependency, and a gateway to other substances. Almost every organ in the body, including the lungs, head and neck, bladder, kidney, liver, stomach, pancreas, colon, and rectum, might develop cancer as a result of tobacco smoking. Smoking is responsible for about nine out of every ten instances of lung cancer. Globally, lung cancer claims the lives of over a million people each year.

Objectives: The study's goals to evaluate college students' perceptions, attitudes, and understanding about the harmful effects of tobacco.

Materials and Methods: This study is an interventional cross-sectional community-based study. The students of pharmacy, nursing, and engineering from various colleges belonging to 18-24 years were chosen based on the interests of the students. The information was gathered through the use of self-administered questionnaire. The (SPSS) version 25.0 was used to examine the data.

**Results:** 453 students participated in the study; 74.39% of them knew the ill effects of tobacco use.58.5% had a positive attitude towards the ill effects of tobacco, and 58.8% had a positive perception of the ill effects of tobacco. A chi square analysis displays a statistically significant association between smoking behaviour and knowledge, attitude, and perception.

Conclusion: The study highlights the necessity of educational initiatives to acquire more knowledge, attitude, and perception of tobacco and its ill effects by removing all the barriers. Awareness needs to be increased among the students.

Keywords: Tobacco, Students, Knowledge, Attitude, Perceptinos

Received: 10-02-2025; Accepted: 15-03-2025; Available Online:

This is an Open Access (OA) journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.

For reprints contact: reprint@ipinnovative.com

#### 1. Introduction

Tobacco use leads to about six million global deaths annually linked to diseases of heart, respiratory and cancers. Due to impaired physical performance, dependency approach younger to suffer from smoking and its consequences. <sup>1-2</sup> The prevalence of smoking in Karnataka found to be 28.2% varying based on gender and location, with higher rates in rural males. <sup>3-4</sup> Nicotine is the major carcinogen in tobacco, creates strong physical and psychological dependence. Tobacco products in lower-income countries tend to have higher nicotine levels and less filtration, increasing health risks. <sup>4</sup> Almost every organ in the body develop cancer as a result of tobacco. <sup>5</sup> Nondaily smokers often don't consider themselves smokers, making difficult for detection and intervention. <sup>6</sup> Smoking alters the immunity, inflammation

and body's response to foreign agents.<sup>7-8</sup> The study aimed to evaluate the college students' perceptions, attitudes, and understanding about the harmful effects of tobacco.

## 2. Materials and Methods

A cross-sectional questionnaire study was conducted among college students, age 18 to 24, who were enrolled in various institutions. Only after being properly informed of the purpose of the study and providing their informed consent were all participants current smokers and non-smokers added to the study. Consequently, 453 students participated in the study. A 28-item self-administered questionnaire was used for the investigation.

\*Corresponding author: Sushmitha SM Email: sushmithasm99@gmail.com

Each item was a closed-ended question with yes no and don't know. Several self-report measures that have been developed and used in numerous studies, as well as several that have been used by other researchers in other studies to measure knowledge, attitude, and perception regarding tobacco use and its detrimental effects on oral and general health, these were included in the questionnaire items. The questionnaire was pretested on five respondents to determine its validity, and any necessary adjustments were made before it was distributed in the field. The questionnaire evaluated smoking and tobacco use, which causes lung disease, heart disease, throat and oral cancer, and other issues. It also suggested that public places and other areas should be smokefree and that selling tobacco products to minors should be prohibited.

Other psychosocial factors linked to teen smoking, such as whether smoking makes you more beautiful or helps you lose weight, and the various NRTs that are available. before the study was conducted prior permissions were obtained from the head of the respective institutions. The institutional review board granted ethical approval. Following an explanation of the study's objectives and a reminder that participants needed to finish the entire questionnaire.

This was done in an effort to decrease dropouts brought on by incomplete questionnaires. The questionnaire was not required to be filled out by any study participants. The survey was performed in front of the researcher, and study participants were not allowed to talk among themselves while responding to the questions. Regarding the questionnaire, the researcher addressed students' questions and cleared up any confusion. Software called SPSS Version 25.0 was used to examine the data. To identify significant differences, descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, and chi square tests were employed.

## 3. Results

The study population consisted of a total of 453 various college students, among them 213(47%), 126(27.8%), and 114(25.2%) were pharmacy, engineering, nursing students of which 314(69.2%) were male and139 (30.7%) were female, respectively. Participants based on academic year were 1<sup>st</sup> year 119 (46.3%), 2<sup>nd</sup> year 120 (26.5%), 3<sup>rd</sup> year 106 (23.4%), 4<sup>th</sup> year 87(19.2%), 5<sup>th</sup> year 21 (4.6%) respectively. Based on close friend smoker. Among 225 (49.7%) who have close friend smoker, 228 (50.3%) have no smoker friend. based on smoking behaviour of participants. Among 202

(44.6%) smokers, 251(55.4%) were non-smokers, respectively.

The study population had good knowledge regarding the ill effects of smoking. The majority of the study population, 395(87.2%) know that smoking causes heart disease, of which 68.1% (269), 31.89% (126) were male and female, respectively, and 4.4% (20) were not knew that smoking leads to heart disease. Almost 87.6% (397 know that the primary cause of cancers of the throat and mouth is from smoking. Among 400(88.3%) know that smoking causes lung disease. 232(51.2%) know that pregnant women who exposed to passive smoke may give birth to kids that weigh less. Among 245(54.1%) in that 140(57.1%) were male 105 (42.8%) were female, know that males who use tobacco products may experience decreased sexual importance and fertility. 338(74.6%) of study population said that smoking discolours the teeth and tongue. 402(88.7%) of the students agreed that smoking leads to breathing disorder. 287(63.5%) know that smoking leads to paralysis.

When participants were being questioned about their attitudes related to the ill effects of tobacco use. 198(43.7%) of students believe that smoking is effective to solve problems.225(55.6%) students will not smoke if their best friend offers a cigarette.395(87.2%) students aware that smoking is harmful to health.83(18.3%) of study population aware that smoke from other people cigarette is harmful to your health.264(58.3%) students agreed that smoking should be prevented in means of transportation.334(55%) have opinion that selling tobacco products to people under 18 years should be prohibited.249(55%) public places should be smoke free areas.210(46.4%) believe that Banning of cigarette advertisement can reduce tobacco use.181(40%) said that Raising taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products cannot reduce tobacco use. 202 (59.6%) have attitude that Smoke lessness tobacco is good for health.

When the study participants were asked about the perception toward quitting smoking habit will be difficult when once they have started the habit, most of them had a negative attitude 319(70%). 247(54.2%) participants think that their number of friends increases/decreases for those who have the smoking habit. 228(50%) participants believe that this smoking habit enhances their appearance. 169(37.1%) members agree that smoking habits do not make them lose weight.

**Table 1:** Smoking-related knowledge among gender

Variables	Male	Female	Total	P
1. Do you know that smoking leads to heart				
disease?				
Yes	269(68.1%)	126(31.8%)	395(87.2%)	0.327
No	30(78.9%)	8(21%)	38(8.4%)	
Don't know	15(75%)	5(25%)	20(4.4%)	
Do you know that the primary cause of				
cancers of throat and mouth is smoking?				
Yes	265(66.7%)	132(0.33%)	397(87.6%)	0.007
No	34(87.7%)	5(12.8%)	39(8.6%)	
Don't know	15(88%)	2(!!%)	17(3.8%)	
2. Do you know that smoking causes lung	, ,	, í	Ì	
disease?				
Yes	269(67.2%)	131(32.7%)	400(88.3%)	0.031
No	31(86.1%)	5(13.8%)	36(7.9%)	
Don't know	14(82.5%)	3(17.6%)	17(3.8%)	
3. Do you know that pregnant women who are	(		(4.7.7.7)	
exposed to passive smoke may give birth to				
kids that weigh less?				
Yes	118(50.8%)	114(49.1%)	232(51.2%)	0.000
No	74(87%)	11(12.9%)	85(18.8%)	0.000
Don't know	122(89.7%)	14(10.2)	136(3.8%)	
4. Do you know that males who use tobacco	122(0):170)	11(10.2)	130(3.070)	
products may experience decreased sexual				
importance and fertility?				
Yes	140(57.1%)	105(42.8%)	245(54.1%)	0.000
No	59(69.4%)	11(12.9%)	85(18.8%)	0.000
Don't know	115(83.3%)	23(16.6%)	138(30.0%)	
Don't know	113(63.370)	23(10.070)	138(30.070)	
5. Do you know that smoking discolors the				
tongue and teeth?				
Ye	221(65.3%)	117(34.6%)	338(75.6%)	0.008
No	60(81.0%)	14(18.9%)	74(16.3%)	0.008
Don't know	43(66.9%)	8(33.0%)	41(9.1%)	
	43(00.9%)	0(33.0%)	41(9.1%)	
breathing disorder?	260(66.00/)	122(22 90/)	402(99.70/)	0.000
Yes	269(66.9%)	133(33.8%)	402(88.7%)	0.008
No	31(88.5%)	4(11.4%)	35(7.7%)	
Don't know	14(87.5%)	2(12.5%)	16(3.5%)	
7. Do you know that smoking leads to				
,				
paralysis?	104(64.10/)	100(24.90/)	207(62.50/)	0.022
Yes	184(64.1%)	100(34.8%)	287(63.5%)	0.033
No	50(73.5%)	18(26.4%)	68(15.0%)	
Don't know	77(78.5%)	21(21.4%)	98(21.6%)	

**Table 2:** Smoking-related attitude among gender

Variables	Male	Female	Total	P
1. Smoking is effective to solve				
problems?				
Yes	180(90.0%)	18(9%)	198(43.7%)	0.000
No	110(49.1%)	114(50.8%)	224(49.4%)	
Don't know	24(77.4%)	7(22.5%)	31(6.8%)	
2. You will smoke if your best friend offers a cigarette?				
Yes	176(96.1%)	7(3.82%)	183(40.4%)	0.000
No	124(49.2%)	128(50.7%)	252(55.6%)	0.000
Don't know	14(77.7%)	4(22.2%)	18(4.0%)	
3. Smoking is harmful to your health?	11(//./////	.(22.270)	16(1.670)	
Yes	270(68.3%)	125(31.6%)	395(87.2%)	0.322
No	28(71.17%)	11(28.2%)	39(8.6%)	0.322
Don't know			` '	
	16(84.2%)	3(15.7%)	19(4.2%)	
4. Smoke from other people cigarette is harmful to health?				
Yes	176(96.1%)	7(3.82%)	183(40.4%)	0.000
No	124(49.2%)	128(50.7%)	252(55.6%)	0.00
Don't know	14(77.7%)	4(22.2%)	18(4.0%)	
5. Smoking should be prevented in	11(77.770)	1(22.270)	10(1.070)	
means of transportation				
Yes	171(64.7%)	93(35.2%)	264(58.3%)	0.000
No	104(86.6%)	16(13.3%)	120(26.5%)	
Don't know	39(56.5%)	30(43.4%)	69(15.0%)	
6. Selling tobacco products to	,	, ,	,	
people under 18 years should not be prohibited?				
Yes	220(65.8%)	124(37.7%0	334(55.0%)	0.000
No	61(85.9%)	10(14.0%)	71(15.7%)	
Don't know	33(86.8%)	5(13.1%)	38(8.4%)	
7. Public places like school, hospital and park should be smoke free areas?	, , ,			
Yes	155(62.2%)	94(37.7%)	249(55.0%)	0.000
No	130(74.4%)	44(25.2%)	174(38.4%)	
Don't know	29(96.6%)	1(3.3%)	30(6.6%)	
8. Banning of cigarette advertisements can reducetobacco use?				
Yes	114(54.2%)	96(45.7%)	210(46.4%)	0.000
No	136(80.9%)	32(19.0%)	168(37.1%)	0.000
Don't know	64(85.3%)	11(14.6%)	75(16.6%)	
9. Raising taxes on cigarettes and	04(83.370)	11(14.0%)	73(10.070)	
other tobacco productscan reduce tobacco use?				
Yes	109(53.9%)	93(46.0%)	202(44.6%)	0.000
No	148(80.9%)	33(19.4%)	181(40.0%)	0.000
Don't know	57(85.3%)	13(19.4%)	70(15.5%)	
10. Quitting of smokeless tobacco is	57(05.570)	13(17.770)	70(15.570)	
good for health?	4540535	0.5117-51	205/72 7	
Yes	174(86.1%)	96(47.5)	202(59.6%)	0.000
No	90(77.5%)	26(22.4%)	116(25.6%)	
Don't know	50(74.6%)	17(25.3%)	67(14.8%)	

Table 3: Smoking-related perception among gender

riab		Male	Female	Total	P
1.	Do you feel quitting will be difficult,				
	when once you have started the habit?				
	Yes	227(71.1%)	92(28.8%)	319(70.0%)	0.126
	No	45(71.4%)	18(28.5%)	63(13.8%)	
	Don't know	425(9.1%)	29(40.8%)	71(15.6%)	
2.	Do you think the number of friends				
	increase/decrease for those with the				
	smoking habit?				
	Yes	177(71.6%)	70(28.3%)	247(54.2%)	0.202
	No	94(69.6%)	41(30,3%)	135(29.2%)	
	Don't know	43(40.9%)	28(26.6%)	105(15.6%)	
3.	Do you think this habit makes you				
	more attractive?				
	Yes	193(84.6%)	35(15.7%)	228(50.0%)	0.000
	No	85(48.5%)	90(51.4%)	175(38.4%)	
	Don't know	36(72.0%)	14(28.0%)	50(11.0%)	
4.	Do you think this habit makes you to		( 1,1,1,1)		
	lose habit?				
	Yes	109(60.8%)	70(39.1%)	179(39.3%)	0.007
	No	128(75.7%)	41(24.2%)	169(37.1%)	
	Don't know	77(73.3%)	28(26.6%)	105(23.0%)	
5.	Do you think this habit is harmful to	77(70.070)	20(20.070)	100(20.070)	
٥.	your health?				
	Yes	241(65.4%)	127(34.6%)	368(80.7%)	0.001
	No	45(84.9%)	8(15.1%)	53(11.6%)	0.001
	Don't know	28(87.5%)	4(12.5%)	32(7.0%)	
6.	Do you believe that if someone	20(07.370)	1(12.570)	32(7.070)	
0.	smoking or chewing tobacco, it will be				
	hard stop?	242(68.3%)	112(31.7%)	354(77.6%)	0.578
	Yes	40(75.4%)	13(24.6%)	53(11.6%)	0.570
	No	32(69.5%)	14(30.5%)	46(10.1%)	
	Don't know	32(0).370)	14(30.370)	40(10.170)	
7.	Do you believe that using smokeless				
/.	to bacco for a year or two, provided				
	that you stop using it after that, is safe?				
	Yes	164(76.9%)	49(23.1%)	213(46.7%)	0.002
	No	91(65.4%)	48(34.6%)	139(30.5%)	0.002
	Don't know	59(58.4%)	42(41.6%)	101(22.1%)	
8.	Does smoking cigarettes make people	J)(JU.T/0)	72(71.070)	101(22.170)	
ο.	feel more or less at ease during parties,				
	celebrations, or other social events?				
	Yes	172(75.4%)	56(24.6%)	228(50.0%)	0.000
	No	78(62.4%)	47(37.6%)	125(27.4%)	0.000
	Don't know	64(64.0%)	36(36.0%)	100(21.9%)	
9.	Do you think boys/girls who smoke	04(04.070)	30(30.070)	100(21.970)	
7.	cigarettes/use other tobacco				
	products have more or less friends?				
	Yes	138(75.8%)	44(24.2%)	182(39.9%)	0.0
	No	117(70.9%)	48(29.1%)		0.0
		, ,	` ,	165(36.3%)	
10	Don't know	59(55.6%)	47(44.2%)	106(23.2%)	
10.	Do you think smoke from another				
	people's cigarette is harmful to you?	225(62.00()	126(26 10/)	252(77.00/)	0.000
	Yes	225(63.9%) 56(91.8%)	126(36.1%) 5(8.2%)	352(77.0%) 61(13.4%)	0.000
	No				

354(77.6%) believe that if someone starts smoking or chewing tobacco, it will be hard to stop. 213(46.7%) Participants believe that smoking or using smokeless tobacco is safe for a year or two as long as you stop using it after that. 228(50%) participants felt that smoking cigarettes make people feel more or less at ease during parties, celebrations, or other social events. 352(77%) participants think that smoke from another peoples 'cigarette is harmful.

#### 4. Discussion

In the present study, the number of male students 314(69.2%) and female students 139(30.7%). Similar to 9 [9] and that shows of 50.7% male students and 48.2% are female students among medical students. Out of 453 students, 213(47%) were pharmacy 126(27.8%) were engineering, 207(20.53%) were Nursing 114 (25.2%). In present study, 389 (38.59%) of the total participants were studying 1st year, 119(46.3%) were studying 2<sup>nd</sup> year, 120 (26.5%) were studying 3<sup>rd</sup> year, 106(23.4%) were studying 4th year, 87(19.2%) were studying 5<sup>th</sup> year and 21(4.6%) studying. Study done by <sup>12</sup> among nursing students of three-year course of the university of Palermo shows 89(29.57%) were studying 1st year, 98(32.5%) were studying 2<sup>nd</sup> year, 114(37.87%) were studying 3<sup>rd</sup> year (27). Study was done by<sup>9</sup> among under graduate students of Bangladesh show result out of 260 respondents 70(26.9%) were smokers and 190(73.1%) were nonsmokers. In present study 338 participants (74.6%) Smoking discolours the tongue and teeth. According to a study by, <sup>13</sup> the frequency and length of tobacco use determine whether smokers' teeth develop brown, yellow, dark brown, or black stains. And 83% were aware of stained teeth and tongue. In present study, out of 453 students 265 (58.5%) had positive attitude towards on ill effect 142 (31.5%) were had negative attitude, towards ill effects of tobacco. Study done by<sup>10</sup> students in Nay Pyi Taw, reports of 10 (14.08%) were had high attitude level and 61 (85.92%) were had low attitude level.in present study attitude score among college student shows statistically significant value. Out of 453 students, 228 (50%) of the students believed that smoking makes them more beautiful. 39.3% of the students were certain that smoking can result in weight loss.

Study done by<sup>5</sup> among Adolescents of Mangalore city shows result that Smoking, according to 14% of participants, this habit enhances their appearance. 270(58.8%) had positive perception 117(25.12%) had negative perception. In present study perception among college student were statistically significant.

#### 5. Conclusion

This study on college students' knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions of tobacco use reveals a strong awareness of its harmful effects, with 74.39% displaying good knowledge. Additionally, 58.5% and 58.8% demonstrated positive attitudes and perceptions, respectively, towards tobacco's ill effects. Despite this awareness, some students continue to use tobacco, indicating a gap between knowledge and practice. Ongoing research on tobacco's prevalence and health impacts among youth is essential. Multi-level strategies, combining

education and Policies like the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act and creating smoke-free environments can significantly reduce tobacco use among college students and promote a tobacco-free future.

## 6. Conflict of Interest

Authors declare no conflict of interest.

## 7. Source of Funding

None.

Ethical No: IEC/AH&RC/AC/06/2024.

# 8. Acknowledgement

We are extremely grateful to our guide for his guidance and support and all the participants for cooperation for smooth carryout of the study also thank our team members for their valuable support and patience throughout the study. Also, last but not the least AH & RC for approving and allowing to conduct the study.

#### Reference

- Nivethitha R, Leelavathi L. Awareness on ill effects of tobacco usage among tobacco users. J Adv Pharm Technol Res. 2022;13(1):S217-22.
- Rozi S, Butt ZA, Akhtar S. Correlates of cigarette smoking among male college students in Karachi, Pakistan. BMC Public Health. 2007; 7:312.
- Rangey PS, Sheth MS, Khan A. Awareness about effects of tobacco and use in college students of Ahmedabad, India: A cross-sectional questionnaire-based survey. Tobacco Prevention & Cessation. 2018;
- Sagar, Sandra and Gupta, Y, Knowledge, attitude, and awareness of tobacco among tobacco users in South Indian population -A questionnaire-based study. 2020 Oct. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/344851055\_Knowledge\_ attitude\_and\_awareness\_of\_tobacco\_among\_tobacco\_users\_in\_So uth Indian population A questionnaire-based study
- George, Rajani Mary; Thomas, Teenu. Perceptions and Practice of Tobacco Use among Adolescents of Mangalore city. J Indian Assoc Pub Health Dent. 2018;16(3):242-5.
- Szymański J, Ostrowska A, Pinkas J, Giermaziak W, Krzych-Fałta E, Jankowski M. Awareness of Tobacco-Related Diseases among Adults in Poland: A 2022 Nationwide Cross-Sectional Survey. Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2022; 19(9):5702.
- Nagarajappa R, Daryani H, Sharda AJ, Asawa K, Batra M, Sanadhya S, Ramesh G. Knowledge and attitude towards smoking among Indian students of dentistry. *Int Dent J.* 2013; 63(5):244-8.
- Dawood OT, Rashan MA, Hassali MA, Saleem F. Knowledge and perception about health risks of cigarette smoking among Iraqi smokers. J Pharm Bio Allied Sci. 2016;8(2):146.
- Alwhaibi A, Wajid S, Alenezi A, Salami Y, Alhaydan I, Samreen S, Alhossan A, Al-Arifi MN. Prevalence of Smoking and Beliefs and Attitude Toward Smoking Habit and Smoking Cessation Methods Among Pharmacy Students: A Cross-Sectional Study in Saudi Arabia. Front Public Health. 2022;10:816101.
- Singh, Shilpi and Dagrus, Kapil and Kariya, Pratik and Bargale, Seema and Shah, Shreyas. Knowledge and attitude regarding ill

- effects of smoking among college students. Eur J Dent Ther Res. 2015;(4):259-65.
- Anam, M. R., Shamsi, T., Al Amin, A., Ahmed, N., Hasan, M. T., & Gupta, P. K. S. Knowledge, attitudes and practices relating to tobacco smoking in undergraduate students in a selected university of Bangladesh. *Int J Commun Med Pub Health*. 2022;9(4):1637–42.
- Provenzano S, Santangelo OE, Grigis D, Giordano D, Firenze A. Smoking behavior among nursing students: attitudes toward smoking cessation. *J Prev Med Hyg.* 2019;60(3):E203-10
- Kottke TE, Battista RN, DeFriese GH, Brekke ML. Attributes of successful smoking cessation interventions in medical practice. A meta-analysis of 39 controlled trials. *JAMA*. 1988;259(19):2883-9.
- Htin Aung Myint MN, Yamamoto E, Ko MH, Khaing M, Reyer JA, Hamajima N. Knowledge, attitude, and usage pattern of tobacco among high school students in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. Nagoya J Med Sci. 2019;81(1):65-79.
- Sychareun V, Hansana V, Choummanivong M, Nathavong S, Chaleunvong K, Durham J. Cross-sectional survey: smoking among medical, pharmacy, dental and nursing students, University of Health Sciences, Lao PDR. BMJ Open. 2013;3(8):e003042.

Cite this article: Sushmitha SM, Swamy K, Gowda SD, Krishna J. Knowledge attitude and perception on ill effects of tobacco usage among college students. *Indian J Pharma*Pharmacol. 2025;12(1):54-60.