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Research

Impact of Smokeless Tobacco use among the women's health in the selected old town of Bangladesh

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Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of this cross-sectional study was to find out the impact of Smokeless Tobacco (SLT) use among the women's health in the selected old town of Bangladesh. Methods: About 105 women using Smokeless Tobacco (SLT) were collected by a structured pretested face to face questionnaire under purposive sampling technique during April to June 2012. Data were presented in graphical and tabular pattern whereas analysis was done by SPSS (statistical package for the social sciences) version-17. Results: Among the 105 respondents, majority 63% were housewives and only 1.9% was service holder. The duration of using smokeless tobacco (SLT) with betel leaf was 48.4% who were using Sadapata for more than 10 years. In addition, 36.6%, 52.6%, 38.8% smokeless tobacco (SLT) uses Zarda, gul and khaini for 5 years. The reason behind using smokeless tobacco (SLT) was stated as fun by 40% respondents. Almost 68.6 % respondents think smokeless tobacco (SLT) do not cause any harm in the oral cavity while only 31.4 % stated smokeless tobacco (SLT) cause harm in the oral cavity. There was significant association between occupation and regular use of smokeless tobacco (SLT) (p < 0.05). Finally, among the smokeless tobacco (SLT)-Zarda was mostly used by the women which is harmful for general health and oral health. Conclusion: Finally considering the harmful impact with its consequences smokeless tobacco (SLT) use which was unfortunately unknown and unaware by the general population mostly women. It was reflected in my research about 63% user were housewives. So, it is necessary to implement a very strong comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system both national and international region to stop the use of smokeless tobacco by involving government, nongovernment policy makers immediately. Now it is the time to realize in a true sense by our local political personnel and government to make emergency step and making network system so that we can make slogan Banning of Smokeless Tobacco (SLT) at national and international level around the world.

Keywords: Smokeless Tobacco (SLT), Zarda, Gul, Sadapata, Khaini, Betel leaf

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Introduction

Postpartum According to the status of Bangladesh, which is one of the poorest countries of the world with various health hazards. Both young and older populations are the most vulnerable group in the world. To improve country health status their participation is required. Smokeless tobacco consumption considered the greatest single health hazard for mankind. High incidence of oral cancer in poor country could be an effect of this cultural habit of

chewing smokeless tobacco such as loose-leaf, pouch, or snuff, gull, jardah, but unfortunately, the majority of Bangladeshi people are unaware of the health risks of these social habits. Smokeless tobacco is strongly associated with periodontal tissue destruction and is considered a risk factor for: Periodontitis, Tooth loss, Hypertension, Elevated serum cholesterol, Coronary heart diseases, Stroke, Lung cancer, Gangrene. All of these factors increase the cost of the family environment leading to hamper in community as well as national level [1].

The prevalence of use of smokeless tobacco varies widely across countries and regions, with particularly high rates of consumption in some areas of South-East Asia. For example, in Bangladesh and India, levels of use of smokeless tobacco surpass cigarette smoking [2]. In Sweden, use of smokeless tobacco is also common, and in 2010 was about 10 times higher than the rest of Europe [3].In contrast, use of these products in Australia is very low; results from the 2013 National Drug Strategy Household Survey showed that only 0.3 - 0.4% of Australians aged 14 years or older reported using chewing tobacco, snus, or snuff in the past 12 months [4]. However, prevalence of use among some minority groups is much higher. A 2014 survey of South Asian residents in Sydney found rates of having ever used smokeless tobacco products, using it more than 100 times, and current use at 72.1%, 65.9%, and 17.1%, respectively [5]. Chewing tobacco is also used in some Indigenous communities, particularly in Central Australia. Aboriginal Australians may chew commercially available tobaccos mixed with ash from certain trees, or native tobaccos (pituri) [6]. The health effects of using smokeless tobacco, and the wider public health impact, are a source of debate among the tobacco control community and healthcare professionals. Many smokeless tobacco products contain high concentrations of nicotine and deliver comparable daily systemic doses to those obtained from cigarette smoking; therefore, use of smokeless tobacco can be as addictive as smoking cigarettes.

Smokeless tobacco also contains several known carcinogens, with levels varying based on product characteristics including tobacco type, additives, alkalinity, and processing methods. Exclusive smokeless tobacco users can be exposed to even higher levels of nicotine and toxicants than exclusive cigarette smokers. Plant materials such as areca nut or tonka bean, along with other additives, are frequently present in smokeless tobacco products and may also be carcinogenic and have other detrimental health outcomes [5-8]. According to the National Cancer Institute and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report, 2014 summarized the available evidence on the health effects of use of smokeless tobacco, drawing the following conclusions: The associations between smokeless tobacco use and adverse health effects differ by type of product. Smokeless tobacco products cause addiction, precancerous oral lesions, and cancer of the oral cavity, oesophagus, and pancreas, as well as adverse reproductive developmental effects including stillbirth, pre-term birth, and low birth weight. The evidence suggests that some, but not all, smokeless tobacco products are associated with increased risk of fatal ischemic heart disease, fatal stroke, and type 2 diabetes; more studies are needed to clarify any causal associations. There is insufficient evidence to assess whether smokeless tobacco products are associated with increased risks of lung cancer, cervical cancer, and hypertension. A 2016 systematic review and meta-analysis similarly concluded that there is an association between ever use of smokeless tobacco and risk of fatal ischemic heart disease and stroke. It is also important to note that—in comparison with the extensive research linking smoking with adverse health outcomes—evidence on the health effects of smokeless tobacco is far less comprehensive. Information on dose-response relationships, prevalence estimates, and confounding variables are often sparse, while the novelty of some products may not allow for a full understanding of long-term risks. Comprehensive monitoring of use of smokeless tobacco and its shortand long-term effects on health outcomes are required, particularly in regions with high prevalence [8-9]. Despite the high prevalence of smokeless tobacco (SLT) use among adults in Bangladesh, smokeless tobacco (SLT) was not included in the Tobacco Control Law till 2013. Information on SLT use among Bangladeshi people is inadequate for policymaking and implementing effective control measures. Evidence suggests that in Bangladesh, SLTs range from unprocessed to processed or manufactured products including SadaPata, Zarda, Gul, and Khoinee. Over 27% of Bangladeshi adults aged 15 years and older use SLT in one form or another. SLT use is associated with age, sex, education, and socioeconomic status. SLT consumption has reportedly been associated with increased prevalence of heart diseases, stroke, and oral cancer and led to around 320,000 disability adjusted life years lost in Bangladesh in 2010. No cessation service is available for SLT users in public facilities. Compared to cigarettes, taxation on SLT remains low in Bangladesh. The amendment made in Tobacco Control Law in 2013 requires graphic health warnings to cover 50% of SLT packaging, ban on advertisement of SLT products, and restriction to sale to minors. However, implementation of the law is weak. As the use of SLT is culturally accepted in Bangladesh, culturally appropriate public awareness program is required to curb SLT use along with increased tax and cessation services [10]. The main purpose of the study was to find out the impact of Smokeless Tobacco (SLT) use among the women's health in the selected old town of Bangladesh.

Method

This is a descriptive type of cross-sectional study on the impact of Smokeless Tobacco (SLT) use among the women's health in the selected old town of Bangladesh. The study was conducted in a selected old town named Wari. Wari is a place where most of the people especially women use Smokeless tobacco (SLT) and tobacco products in Dhaka city. For availability of good number of study population this area was selected purposively as the site of data collection because there was time constraint. Study population was women who are resident in Wari, old town of Bangladesh. The study was carried out from April 2012 to June 2012. Data collection was done on the first two weeks of May 2012, tabulation and data analysis was done during 3rd and 4th week of the month. Due to time constrain and limited facilities sample size was 105 who were women living in old town of Bangladesh. A purposive sampling technique was used to get a total of 105 respondents. Inclusion Criteria: The respondent will be women using any form of Smokeless Tobacco (SLT) from a household irrespective of age living in old Dhaka. Voluntary participation. Exclusion Criteria: Women living in old Dhaka using any form of smoked tobacco was excluded. A structured questionnaire was development based on the objective, contents, and variables of the study. Extensive literature review was done before the development of the primary data collection tools. It was finalized after modification and correction based on the finding of questionnaire pretesting and finalized in both Bengali and in English. Data were collected by using the questionnaire through face-to-face interviews with the respondents. Questionnaire like a socio-demographic variable, Information about smokeless tobacco use and Oral hygienic practice. Before filling the questionnaire, the purpose of the study was explained. Collected data was cleaned and edited by the investigator himself. The data were processed manually tabulated and analyzed based on the objectives of the study. Data analyzed by using statistical package for social science (SPSS)-version 17. The result was calculated with help of an electronic calculator. Data was presented in tubular, forms analyzed, and the table and graph followed interpretation of results.

Results

Table 1. Distribution of the respondents by their occupation				
		n=105		
Occupation	Frequency	Percent		
Service holder	5	1.9		
Businesswomen	20	19		
Housewives	77	62.9		
Day labourer	3	16.2		
Total	105	100		

Table 1 shows distribution of the respondents by their occupation whereas out of 105 respondents maximum 62.9% were the housewives and only 1.9% were service holder. On the other hand, businesswomen and day laborer

represent very close to each other those were subsquently 19% and 16.2%.

Table 2. Distribution of the respondents by duration of using Smokeless Tobacco (SLT) with betel leaf (Sadapata, Zarda, Gul, Khaini)

n=31, 82, 19, 49

Characteristics	Frequency	Percent	
Sadapata (>10 years)	15	48.4	
Zarda (< 5 years)	30	36.6	
Gul (5 years)	10	52.6	
Khaini (5 years)	19	38.8	

Table 2 represent the distribution of the respondents by the duration of using Smokeless Tobacco (SLT) with betel leaf (Sadapata, Zarda, Gul, Khaini) where as 48.4% using sadapata, 36.6% using zarda, 52.6% using gul and 38.8% using khaini from respectively both more than 10 years and within 5 years.

Table 3. Distribution of the respondents by reasons behind using Smokeless Tobacco (SLT)

n=105

		H=105
Reasons behind using Smokeless Tobacco (SLT)	Frequency	Percent
For addiction or habituation	39	37.1
For fun	42	40
For relief from tiredness	2	1.9
For relief from tension	2	1.9
For relief from toothache	20	19
Total	105	100

Table 3 revealed that the reasons behind using smokeless tobacco was stated as fun by 40 % respondents, as addiction or habituation by 37.1% respondents, as relief from toothache by 19% and as relief from tiredness & relief from tension by 1.9%.

Table 4. Distribution of the respondent's opinion cause of any harm in the oral cavity by Smokeless Tobacco (SLT) use

n=105

Opinion cause of any harm in the oral cavity by Smokeless Tobacco (SLT) use	Frequency	Percent
Yes	33	31.4
No	72	68.6
Total	105	100

Table 4 shows that out of 105 respondents, almost 68.6 % think smokeless tobacco do not cause any harm in the oral cavity while only 31.4 % stated smokeless tobacco cause harm in the oral cavity.

Table 5. Relationship between occupation and regular use of Smokeless Tobacco (SLT)					
					n=105
Occupation	Regular use of smokeless tobacco				
	Yes		N	0	Total
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	
Housewives	45	66.2	21	31.8	66
Others (businesswomen, day					
laborer, service holder)	33	84.6	6	15.4	39
Total	78	74.3	27	25.7	105

 $\chi 2 = 3.466$; p < 0.05

Table 5 shows the distribution of the respondents by occupation and regular use of smokeless tobacco. Among the housewives 66.2 % uses Smokeless Tobacco (SLT) regularly and whereas in 84.6% of others groups (businesswomen, day laborer, and service holder) uses smokeless tobacco regularly. Study results show there was a significant association between occupation and regular use of Smokeless tobacco (SLT).

Discussion

This cross-sectional descriptive study was carried out to find out the impact of Smokeless Tobacco (SLT) use among the women's health in the selected old town of Bangladesh. Total 105 respondents were interviewed and were selected purposively. As the old town in Bangladesh is a density populated and congested area and due to limited facilities, they do not give enough preference about their improvement on socio-economic status. By profession out of 105% respondent's shows that 63% were housewives, 19%were businesswomen, 16.2 % were day laborer and only 1.9 % was service holder.

The finding is near about similar to the study conducted by Jalil MA. A study on prevalence of tobacco consumption habits among the rural people in a selected Thana of Gazipur district. Dissertation, NIPSOM 1997, showed that tobacco consumption habits were highly prevalent in low monthly family income group and most common among the housewives (40%) [11].

In this study found that out of 105 respondents, the reasons behind using smokeless tobacco were stated as fun by 40 % respondents, as addiction or habituation by 37.1% respondents, as relief from toothache by 19% and as relief from tiredness & relief from tension by1.9% Above finding is not similar to the study conducted by Jalil MA. Prevalence of tobacco consumption habits among the rural people in a selected Thana of Gazipur district, Dissertation, NIPSOM 1997 showed that about 49% respondents were motivated by friends to start tobacco consumption habits, 28.7% due to family influence and 20.5% of the respondents started due to curiosity [11]. My opinion is peoples living in old Dhaka are culturally and traditionally habituated to use smokeless tobacco while in others areas in Bangladesh peoples living in Gazipur district are not so. Above finding is near about like the study conducted by M Ahmed et al. Out of 719 students, 22% were current smokers and the rest 78% were non-smokers. Half of the students reportedly mentioned that they started smoking due to peer pressure followed by curiosity (34%) to avoid anxiety and tension (28%), feeling of maturity (14%), symbol of manliness (9%), unhappy family environment (8.2%), However 24.5% of the respondents mentioned that they started smoking without any reason [14]. In this study according to the type of smokeless tobacco use 45.3 % used Zarda, 10.5 % used gul, 17.1 % used SadaPata, and 27.2 % used Khaini. About 38.7% respondents were using SadaPata five times and above per day.

About 48.4% respondents were using SadaPata for more than 10 years. The study conducted by Mahiuddin MA. A study on tobacco consumption habits among the workers of a bidi (bin) factory in Bangladesh revealed that out of 275 workers interviewed 74.55% were found to be as tobacco consumers. Among them 86.83% were smoked biri / Cigarette. 40% were chewed pan with tobacco and 12.20% used gul [12]. My opinion is in old Dhaka peoples uses smokeless tobacco as like as fun and entertainment to the others from the ancient period to till date mostly Zarda, Khaini, Gul, and SadaPata while the workers of a bidi (bin) factory in Bangladesh are not so. In this study about 68.6 % respondents think smokeless tobacco do not cause harm in the oral cavity while only 31.4 % stated smokeless tobacco cause harm in the oral cavity.

Among them one third (30.3%) answered ulcer occurs in them out due to smokeless tobacco use, 27.3% thought that it causes stain in the teeth, 12.1 % think that it causes loss of appetite and 27.3 % think that it causes stain in the teeth & loss of appetite. It was also found that nearly 79.9% of adult American men thought tobacco snuff increase the risk of cancer whereas 83.8% adult American men considered chewing tobacco increases cancer risk. Among those who chew tobacco leaves, 71.5% knew the risk associated with it as compared to those who did not chew tobacco [13, 14, 15]. The finding is near about same with this study. According to the relationship between occupation and regular use of smokeless tobacco, among the housewives 66.2 % uses smokeless tobacco regularly and whereas in 84.6% of others group (businesswomen, day laborer and service holder) uses smokeless tobacco regularly. There was significant association between occupation and regular use of smokeless tobacco (p < 0.05). Above finding is nearly similar to the study conducted by Jalil MA. Prevalence of tobacco consumption habits among the rural people in a selected Thana of Gazipur district, Dissertation, NIPSOM 1997 showed that the prevalence rate of tobacco consumption among the study population was 36.14%. Tobacco consumption habits were highly prevalent in low monthly family income group and most common among the housewives (40%) [11].

Though there were very limited study was conducted on Smokeless tobacco (SLT). For this reason, more and more research need to be performed in order to help the researcher to give more information as well as discussion needs to be addressed about this problem in the matter.

Conclusion

This Smokeless Tobacco (SLT) constitutes more than 50% of tobacco use among men and women in Bangladesh yet less received attention in tobacco control policies and action because of perceived less harmful effects than smoking and sociocultural aspect in Bangladesh. According to Tamak Birodhi Nari Jote -TABINAJ report on Anti-Tobacco Alliance report, 2016-Bangladesh has one of the highest rates of smokeless tobacco use in the world with 28 million users. It is mostly used among adults (27.2%). Rates among women (27.9%) are slightly higher than among men (26.4%).

Furthermore, Control of the use of Smokeless tobacco (SLT) products has not been focused enough as a priority at national and international level. On global scenario, there are about 300 million SLT users in 70 countries, among them 89% are in India. India and Bangladesh make up 80% of the smokeless tobacco users of the world. The Tobacco control movement is more concentrated on "smoke-Free" rather than 'tobacco free' which may include both smoke and smokeless products [16].

By observing this scenario Tabinaj (1st Women Allaiance againt Tobacco) launched 6th March, 2011 in Bangladesh was affiliated with UBINIG (Policy Research for Development Alternative), a research organization engaged in conducting intensive research on tobacco cultivation and its impact on food production since 2006 with support from International Development and Research Centre (IDRC), Canada.

Finally considering the harmful impact with its consequences smokeless tobacco (SLT) use which was unfortunately unknown and unaware by the general population mostly women. It was reflected in my research about

63% of users were housewives. So, it is necessary to implement a very strong comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system both national and international region to stop the use of smokeless tobacco by involving government, non-government policy makers immediately. Now it is the time to realize in a true sense by our local political personnel and government to make emergency step and making network system so that we can make slogan Banning of Smokeless Tobacco (SLT) at national and international level around the world.

Recommendation

Based on the findings of the present study, following recommendations were made for the prevention of smokeless tobacco consumption habits.

- 1. Anti-smokeless tobacco health education should be regarded as part of general health education programme.
- 2. To make laws prohibiting the sale of smokeless tobacco to children and adolescent.
- 3. Mass media should be involved to address the injurious use of smokeless tobacco on oral health which though known but obscure to general population.
- 4. Systematic community-oriented oral health promotion programmes are needed for better control of oral diseases and hazards smokeless tobacco to be taught in all educational institution, religious centers to increase health awareness.
- 5. A prevention oriented oral health care policy, indeed, more advantageous than the curative approach. Health education related to oral health in the educational institutions may provide effective settings for oral health education programmes.
- 6. Research should be continued into the factors which influences smokeless tobacco using behaviour to determine mere appropriate in health education.

DECLARATIONS

Research Ethical Approval

Ethical permission for carried out the study was taken from local ethical committee (ethical review committee of NIPSOM) in due time. Written informed consent was taken from positive respondent with maintaining their full autonomy. All relevant documents including questionnaires were preserved under control of investigator. No individual information was supplied.

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Author's contribution

Authors personally try to aware the respondent about the negative impact of Smokeless Tobacco (SLT) by representing different health educational methods and media after the interviewing procedure. In addition, he also provides PowerPoint presentations to the Sapporo Dental College & Hospital department faculty and the students about this research thoroughly.

Completing Interest

The author has an interest in future to do more research work on (Smokeless Tobacco) SLT.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

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