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**Original article:**

**Prevalence of tobacco use among school going adolescents of**

**Guwahati city, Assam**

**Madhurjya Baruah, Kanika K Baruah, Jutika Ojah, Rupali Baruah**

Department of Community Medicine, Gauhati Medical College and Hospital, Guwahati-781032, Assam, India.

Corresponding author: Madhuriya Baruah

**Abstract:**

**Background:** The use of tobacco among adolescents is increasing in developing countries day by day. It is estimated that around 5500 adolescents in India start using tobacco everyday, which attributes to nearly 12 million morbidities each year.

**Materials and methods:** This cross sectional study was conducted in the Government Higher Secondary schools of Guwahati city, Assam. The study was carried out from March to August’2015 among Adolescent school children, from 14-19 years of age, studying in the 9th to 12th standard.The sample size was calculated out to be around 387 by taking the prevalence of tobacco use 31.5%[6], relative error of 15% with 95% confidence interval by using the formula (n=4pq/L2).

**Results:** Among them, 77.61% reported of using ‘Gutkha’ products and 19.4% were smoking cigarettes. For majority of students (62.69%), the age of initiation was >15 years with mean age of 15.6 years and 32.8% of students admitted of using tobacco products daily. Table 4 shows the association of tobacco use with different socio-demographic variables among the current users. It is found that tobacco use is significantly associated with educational standard, type of family and caste.

**Conclusion:** The high prevalence of Tobacco use among the students demands an urgent need for awareness raising campaign to increase their knowledge about health hazards of tobacco. Health education should be made a mandatory part of school curriculum and the school authority should be strict to ban the street vendors selling tobacco products near the school premises. Parents and guardians also have a definite role to play in prevention of development of such risk habits.

**Key words**: Tobacco use, Adolescents, School