

3rd International Conference on **Epidemiology & Public Health**

August 04-06, 2015 Valencia, Spain

Prevalence of tobacco use among school children in rural part of Rajasthan, India

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Adolescents are the most vulnerable population to initiate tobacco use. It is now well established that most of the adult users of tobacco start tobacco use in childhood or adolescence. There has been a perceptible fall in smoking in the developed countries after realisation of its harmful effects. In India, tobacco consumption is responsible for half of all the cancers in women, in addition to being a risk factor for cardiovascular diseases and chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases. Data on tobacco use was collected from 2500 students of age group 10 to 19 years studying in 20 rural government schools of Rajasthan India, during November 2014 – March 2015. Any kind of tobacco use was found in 338 (13.52%) students; chewable tobacco use was found in 200 (8.0%) students; smoking was found in 275 (11.0%) students; and both smoking as well as tobacco chewing was found in 186 (7.44%) students. The findings of the study suggest that an agenda for effective interventions to control tobacco use among school children in rural parts of Rajasthan should be initiated. There is a need for periodical surveys using more consistent definitions of tobacco use and eliciting information on different types of tobacco consumed.

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Infections and air travel: Making public health action-orientated information quickly accessible through the AIRSAN Bibliography

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The EU-funded AIRSAN Project, amongst other objectives, aims to facilitate the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) in EU Member-States as well as the EU-Decision 1082/EC/2013 on serious cross-border threats to health. Many organizations (e.g. WHO, IATA, ICAO) have developed useful documents to support the management of a health related threat or disruption on board of an aircraft and at airports. We aimed to list these documents, so that their content becomes quickly accessible. We created a searchable Excel-based list, the 'AIRSAN Bibliography'. Documents issued by international organizations about public health in the aviation sector were included. Furthermore, the AIRSAN Bibliography contains structural data regarding each document, e.g. issuing organizations, year of publishing, published language. We defined 33 IHR relevant keywords, e.g. emergency planning, training, isolation. Two scientists reviewed the documents and systematically indexed all pages including information on the keywords. To allow a distinction between more or less detailed text passages, we assigned a score (indicating the level of detail) to each keyword specific page. The AIRSAN Bibliography includes 48 documents, issued by 8 international organizations. Its practical use can be illustrated by the following example: an emergency plan needs to be developed or revised. The search for the keyword "emergency planning" lists 21 documents, with references to pages that contain keyword specific information. 11 of the 21 documents enclose information of the highest level of detail. Available guidance documents and recommendations related to suspected or identified cases of zoonotic influenza, tuberculosis and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome travelling by air, are included in the Bibliography. 2 The AIRSAN Bibliography makes public health action-orientated information in the aviation sector quickly accessible for practical use. We have loaded the AIRSAN Bibliography onto the project website (www.airsan.eu). Easy open access to international documents will support the implementation of the IHR as well as the EU-Decision 1082/EC/2013 and contributes to better inter-sectoral collaboration. To ensure sustainability, the AIRSAN Bibliography will be regularly updated. In 2015 we will include guidance documents and recommendations regarding Ebola virus disease based on the recent outbreak in West Africa.

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