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A Study on Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) Compliance in Urban Shimoga, Karnataka

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ABSTRACT

Background: According to Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS-2), conducted by the Institute of population Sciences, Mumbai and Tata Institute of Social Sciences on behalf of Health and Family welfare department reported that 28.6% of adults use tobacco in any form. India has amended its legislation against tobacco in 2003 and implemented its strongest legislation as COTPA 2003 (Cigarette and other Tobacco Products Act 2003). The main aim of the study was to assess compliance to prohibition of smoking and other provisions under COTPA in Shivamogga town. **Materials and methods:** Descriptive cross sectional study was conducted using purposive sampling. Total sample size was 200, observation was made and information was collected about sections 6a, 7,8and 9 of COTPA 2003 (Cigarette and Other Tobacco products Act 2003), to assess its level of compliance and implementation. **Results:** The compliance rate was found very poor in the public places visited. Nearly half (48.58%) of the shops had violated the section 6a of COTPA ACT by keeping tobacco products prominently visible. Health warning (HW) was present in 94% of the tobacco products packs, and it was according to law. **Conclusion:** The Compliance to Cigarette and other products Acts, related section 6a is very poor in our town whereas the same is better with Section 7, 8, 9.

Key Words: Smoking, COTPA Act, compliance, Cigarette