

# Prevalence and Determinants of Smoking Behavior of Secondary School Teachers in Bangladesh

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## ABSTRACT

<b>Introduction</b>	Nicotine dependence typically started from adolescents. It is identified as an increasing public health problem. Despite established country's tobacco control law, cigarette smoking by the young people and the magnitude of nicotine dependence among the school personnel is alarming. The objectives is to determine the smoking prevalence and to examine the determinants of smoking behaviour among the secondary school teachers in Bangladesh.
<b>Methods</b>	A two-stage cluster sample was used with a selection of schools on probability proportional to enrolment size followed by stratified random sampling of government and private schools and then all the teachers present on the day of survey were purposively selected for the study. The 66-item questionnaire which includes smoking behavior, knowledge, attitude, second-hand smoking, tobacco free school policy, cessation, media advertisement and curriculum related topics was used. Seven additional questions were included to assess the socio-demographic characteristics of the teachers. Data analysis was performed using SPSS 17 software. A total of 60 schools were selected in which school response rate was 98.3%. An anonymous self-administered questionnaire was filled in by all teachers present at the day of survey. The sample consisted of 559 with response rate was 99.5%.
<b>Results</b>	The prevalence of smoking was 17% (95% CI: 14, 20.4). About half of the teachers (48.4%) smoke daily followed by 25.3% smokes 1-2 days in last 30 days. The mean duration smoking was 13.7(95% CI: 11.6, 15.9) years. Logistic regression analysis revealed that male teachers smokes 37.46(95% CI: 5.078, 276.432) times higher than the female counterpart. The graduate teachers were 2.179(95% 1.209, 3.926) times likely to be more smoked than master's degree teachers. Smoking by friends appeared to be the strongest predictor for teachers smoking behaviour (OR 4.789, 95% CI: 1.757, 13.050). However, no statistically significant association was found between type of school, second-hand smoking and curriculum related factors and smoking behaviour of the teachers ( $p>0.05$ ).
<b>Conclusions</b>	Smoking prevalence among the teachers is high in Bangladesh. Effective smoking prevention program should take into account within the dominant socio-environmental influence to reduce smoking behaviour. The school curriculum items had a less impact in preventing smoking behaviour.