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**“A Study to Assess The perception towards Tobacco  
Consumption And Its Usage Among The Auto Rickshaw Drivers Of  
Udupi District, Karnataka”**

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## "ABSTRACT

A research study entitled "A study to assess the perception towards tobacco consumption and its usage among the auto rickshaw drivers of Udupi District, Karnataka" was carried out by Mr. Shakeel Mohan in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science in Nursing at Manipal College of Nursing, Manipal, MAHE, Manipal.

The objectives of the study were to assess the perception towards tobacco consumption among the auto rickshaw drivers as measured by rating scale on perception towards tobacco consumption, to determine the usage of tobacco products among the auto rickshaw drivers as measured by tobacco usage questionnaire.

A quantitative approach and cross-sectional survey design was adopted for the study. The survey was conducted among 161 auto rickshaw drivers who were between 20 and 60 years of age group from selected auto rickshaw stands of Manipal using purposive sampling technique. The conceptual framework for the study was adopted from Irwin, Rosenstock's health belief model.

Administrative permission and ethical clearance from Institutional Research Committee Manipal College of Nursing MAHE Manipal (IRC No 233/2019), Dean, Manipal College of Nursing MAHE, Institutional Ethical Committee of Kasturba Hospital Manipal (IEC No 963/2019), Auto rickshaw Union leader Manipal were obtained prior to the commencement of the study.

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CTRI registration (CTRI /2020/03/024218) was obtained. The data were collected from 2nd May to 10th May 2020.

Data were collected using Screening tool, Background Proforma, Tobacco Usage Questionnaire and Rating scale on Perception towards Tobacco Consumption.

The content validity of the tools was established by giving the tools to seven experts and modifications were made based on the suggestions. All the tools were pre-tested and reliability was established. The reliability of the tobacco usage questionnaire was established by Test and retest method ( $r= 0.99$ ). The reliability of the rating scale on perception towards tobacco consumption was established using Cronbach's alpha and found reliable ( $r=0.87$ ). Pilot study was done and the study was found to be feasible.

The main study was conducted at Manipal town in different auto rickshaw stands. Data were collected using self-administered questionnaire. Data were analysed using SPSS version 16. The study revealed that most of the 92 (57.1%) auto rickshaw drivers belonged to the age of <40 years and 64 (39.8%) had higher primary level of education. Majority of the auto rickshaw drivers 104 (64.6%) belonged to Hindu religion and 88 (54.7 %) were non-vegetarians. Most of the auto rickshaw drivers 135 (84.6%) were married and residing in urban area 90 (55.9%). Most of the auto drivers 76 (47.2%) were from nuclear and joint family respectively and 67 (46.1%) had income between Rs.10,000 and 15,000 per month. Majority 136 (84.5%)

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family members of the auto rickshaw drivers were not using any type of tobacco products and 97 (60.2%) had 15 years of experience in driving auto rickshaw.

The study results showed that majority 99 (61.5%) of the auto rickshaw drivers were using smoking tobacco products like bidi, cigarette, hookah; 38 (23.6%) were consuming smokeless tobacco products like tobacco leaf, khaini, kharra and 24 (14.9%) were using both smoking and smokeless tobacco products. Among 62 smokeless tobacco users, 34 (21.1%) auto-rickshaw drivers liked chewing tobacco products in smokeless form. Among 123 (76.4%) smoking tobacco users, 56 (34.8%) of them preferred using manufactured cigarettes (Bristol, Wills). Majority of them 118 (73.3%) were daily tobacco users. Most of the auto-rickshaw drivers 76 (47.2%) started using tobacco products since adolescence and 42 (26.1%) were using tobacco products for five to nine years. Majority of auto rickshaw drivers 83 (51.6%) did not use any type of tobacco products in the work area, not used any type of tobacco products before going to sleep 124 (77%) and did not wake up in night for consuming tobacco products 148 (91.9%). Most of the 42 (26.1%) auto rickshaw driver's had taken tobacco products due to work stress whereas, 15 (9.3%) admitted that its due to the peer pressure; 91 (57%) auto rickshaw drivers were not interested to quit smoking or smokeless tobacco products, whereas only 70 (43%) were interested to quit the tobacco products. Majority of them had higher score is the overall mean value  $139.81 \pm 11.45$  which shows that majority of them perceive tobacco consumption as hazardous for health. Higher the score for the perception on tobacco usage, the auto rickshaw drivers perceive that tobacco consumption as hazardous to health; whereas lower score suggests they doesn't perceive tobacco consumption as hazardous to health.

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The study population was limited to only selected auto rickshaw stands. Hence, the study findings can be generalized to the particular auto rickshaw stands. The data was collected by self-administered questionnaires and not observed directly. This limits the generalization of the study. Also, there was discrepancy in the sample size due to Covid-19 pandemic.

The study findings conclude stating that auto rickshaw drivers in spite of knowing the hazardous effect of tobacco, used different forms of tobacco products (smoking and smokeless). Only a few of drivers were willing to quit the tobacco products. Thus, intervention programs to control tobacco consumption should be planned by the health care professionals and strict enforcement of tobacco control policy is critical to address the tobacco-related morbidity and mortality."