

**TOBACCO USE AMONG WORKING AGE GROUP IN
URBAN AREA OF LEYMYETHNA TOWNSHIP
AYEYARWADDY REGION**

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ABSTRACT

A cross-sectional descriptive study was carried out in the urban area of the Leymyethna Township, Ayeyarwaddy Region to study the tobacco use status of the people in the township. This study was carried out from September to November, 2013. A total of 285 persons between the ages of 15 to 64 years were included.

Fifty four percent of the respondents had low knowledge score and 46.0% had high knowledge score. However, 73.7% had knowledge on common tobacco related health problems such as respiratory diseases including pneumonitis, asthma, etc. More than half of the respondents (56.5%) had the knowledge on common diseases related to smokeless tobacco use as they mentioned oral diseases like oral ulcers, oral cancers and throat cancers. Regarding the knowledge on the tobacco control law, the respondents had satisfactory knowledge only on the fact that school buildings and hospitals environments are designated as smoke free areas showing 76.6% and 72.9% respectively. The main sources of information on health and tobacco control law came from the media followed by the health talks and health education. Majority of the respondents (77.2%) had positive attitude and only (22.8%) had negative attitude towards tobacco use and tobacco control law. Among the current tobacco use status of the respondents, 66 (50.0%) were current smokers, 106 (80.0%) were current smokeless tobacco users and 40 (30.0%) were current users of both smoking and smokeless tobacco. The factors influencing the tobacco use status were found to be the paternal smoking status and that of friends while only the betel chewing status of friends influenced the current betel chewing status of respondents. Age and sex also had the significant association with the tobacco use status of the respondents.

From these findings, it was concluded that most of the respondents had satisfactory knowledge regarding the tobacco related health hazards and they also had positive attitude towards tobacco control law and control activities. However, it was found that the high levels of knowledge and attitude were not related to tobacco use status.