

## Global Adult Tobacco Survey 2016-17

The Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare released the full report for round-2 of Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS 2) India 2016-17 on June 6, 2018. Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS), Mumbai was the nodal implementing agency for GATS 2.

GATS 2 reveals that 28.6 percent (266.8 million) adults in India, aged 15 and above, currently use tobacco in some form.

According to GATS 2, khaini - a tobacco, lime mixture - is the most commonly used tobacco product in India and this is used by every ninth adult (11.2%). The next most commonly used tobacco product is bidi, smoked by 7.7% of adult Indians. In use, gutka - a tobacco, lime, areca nut mixture - ranks the third (6.8%) and betel quid with tobacco ranks the fourth (5.8%).

GATS further states that in most countries across the world, tobacco use is synonymous with cigarette smoking. In contrast, the forms of tobacco use in India are multiple. Broadly, these forms can be classified into two types - smoking tobacco and smokeless tobacco. Smoking tobacco includes products like bidi, manufactured cigarette, hand-rolled cigarette, pipe, cigar, hukkah, water-pipe, chutta, dhumti and chillum.

Smokeless tobacco is available courtesy products like betel quid with tobacco, khaini, gutka and paan masala with tobacco; these are all consumed by chewing. Other smokeless tobacco products, such as mishri, gul, bajjar and gudakhu, are applied to teeth and gums, while snuff is inhaled.

Underlining the economic aspects of tobacco in India, the report states, “The economic aspects of tobacco use has multiple dimensions, as a number of stakeholders are involved in it. India is one of the largest tobacco producing countries and tobacco is an important commercial crop. It contributes \$900 million in the form of foreign exchange and \$3.4 billion in the form of excise levied on manufactured tobacco. Tobacco farming provides employment to 36 million people.”

### Methodology

GATS 2 was a household survey of persons aged 15 years or older. GATS 2 was carried out in all the 30 states of India and in the two union territories of Chandigarh and Puducherry from August 2016 to February 2017.

The analysis of GATS 2 is based on a total of 74,037 completed interviews, among which 33,772 were with men and 40,265 were with women. The survey provides the present level of all indicators related to tobacco use and its various dimensions at the national and state levels.

GATS 2 was designed, much like GATS 1, to collect data on tobacco use and its aspects. Additionally, it also sought to collect data on electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) - a product that has recently appeared in the market.

