

GLOBAL YOUTH TOBACCO SURVEY (GYTS)

2010



National Tobacco
Control Committee



Ministry of Health
Sultanate of Oman



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GLOBAL YOUTH TOBACCO SURVEY (GYTS)

2010

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Preface

It gives me great pleasure to present to you the report of the third cycle of the Global Youth Tobacco Survey which was conducted in Oman in 2010. This survey is considered as part of the surveillance system that is repeated in most countries to monitor the progress of tobacco control in adolescents and youth.

Tobacco is one of the leading preventable causes of death in the world. Tobacco control actions could prevent young people from starting to use it, help current users to quit and protect non-smokers from exposure to secondhand smoke. It could also help in the reduction of the economic burden of diseases related to tobacco use.

The Sultanate of Oman became a signatory to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in 2005 after the Royal Decree 20/2005. This Convention was developed in response to the globalization of the tobacco epidemic and is an evidence-based treaty that reaffirms the right of all people to the highest standard of health. The Convention represents a milestone for the promotion of public health and provides new legal dimensions for international health cooperation.

The most important achievements accomplished by the Sultanate in the field of tobacco control include banning smoking in enclosed public places, increase taxes on imported tobacco products and prohibition of selling and importing of smokeless tobacco products to Oman.

All these achievements would not have been possible without the active, sincere and dedicated efforts of a large number of partners including ministries, organizations and individuals of the National Tobacco Control Committee.

The technical support of the World Health Organization and the Centre for Disease and Control (CDC) in USA in conducting this survey is highly appreciated and acknowledged. Many appreciations are due to Department of Noncommunicable Disease Surveillance and Control and all the field research teams for the efforts made to implement this survey. Finally, this survey would have not been possible without the cooperation and help of the Ministry of Education as well as schools and students who participated in it.

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List of Abbreviations

CDC	Center for Disease Control and Prevention
EMR	Eastern Mediterranean Region of the World Health Organization
ETS	Environmental Tobacco Smoke
FCTC	Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
GYTS	Global Youth Tobacco Survey
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOH	Ministry of Health
NCDSC	Non-Communicable Diseases Surveillance and Control
OSH	Office on Smoking and Health

Executive Summary

The Oman Global Youth Tobacco Survey (Oman-GYTS) aims to monitor trends of tobacco use among young people in Oman periodically. It describes knowledge, attitudes and behavior of youth regarding tobacco use in its many forms including shisha and smokeless tobacco, exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS), tobacco industry advertisements as well as counter-tobacco advertisements. In addition, it attempts to gauge the extent to which youth receive health education regarding tobacco control in schools.

A two stage cluster sampling was employed across all government administered schools throughout the Sultanate. A total of 1722 students were invited to participate and 1620 of them completed the survey. A self-administered standardized multiple choice questionnaire was distributed to all students and answer sheets were collected at the end of 45 minutes. The overall response rate was 94.1%.

Overall, two in ten students aged (13-15) ever used any type of tobacco whether cigarettes , shisha or smokeless tobacco with more significant for the boys (32%).Also, the result shows that one in ten ever use cigarettes even one or two puffs with significant for boys more than girls. Moreover, there were 8.3% of student ever smoked shisha and 10.5% ever used smokeless tobacco.

This survey shows there was a decline in overall current tobacco user's indicators compared to 2007 survey. Overall 1.8% of students aged 13-15 years were current cigarettes smokers, 1.5% were current shisha smokers and 1.6% were current smokeless tobacco users.

About one third of students (32.0%) aged 13-15 years have ever initiated smoking cigarettes before age of 10 years. Also, more than one third of students (35.1%) aged 13 – 15 years have ever initiated smoking water pipe (shisha) before age of 10 years.

Overall, one in ten (9.5%) of students aged 13 – 15 years from never cigarettes smokers and about half current smokers (46.2%) had exposed to passive smokes at home. Also, the same percentages were exposed to the passive smoking in public places. The important point is that 75% of students expressed their support to ban cigarettes and shisha smoking in public places.

Six in ten students aged 13 to 15 years saw pro-tobacco messages in newspapers and magazines. In addition, one in ten students (10.5%) had object with a cigarettes brand logo in it and (7%) of students had offered free cigarettes by tobacco company.

The GYTS of Oman clearly illustrates the urgent action to curb this epidemic, through comprehensive national tobacco control legislation and continuation of the ongoing health education campaigns with focus on protection young people from smoking and generation awareness among their parents.

Introduction

Tobacco use is considered one of the most preventable causes of death in the world today and it is implicated as an important factor contributing to morbidity and mortality all over the world. The World Health Organization (WHO) attributes 5 million deaths a year to tobacco use and this figure is expected to rise about 10 million by the year 2020. It is estimated that 70% of these deaths will occur in developing countries. In many countries, studies have revealed that most people start using tobacco in their teens with the median age of smoking being less than 15 years. Recent trends even indicate an earlier age of initiation among children and adolescents and thus contributing to an increasing smoking prevalence for this vulnerable group. If these patterns continue, tobacco will result in the death of 250 million children and adolescent alive today, many of whom live in the developing countries.

The WHO, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), and the Office on Smoking and Health (OSH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) established international programs and initiatives in order to combat tobacco use. Despite these efforts, tobacco companies still control markets and youths are their main target. Therefore, primary intervention strategies should be directed toward children and young people.

Background on tobacco use in Oman

The tobacco use in Oman became widely spread especially among adolescents and youth with openness of the country on world markets.

Simultaneously, tobacco control has become one of the Ministry of Health's (MOH) priorities in Oman. A national multi-sectoral committee was established in 1994 and re-formulated in 1997, by a Ministerial Decree, under the chairmanship of H.E. Undersecretary of Health Affairs and its executive office being the department of Non- Communicable Diseases Surveillance and Control.

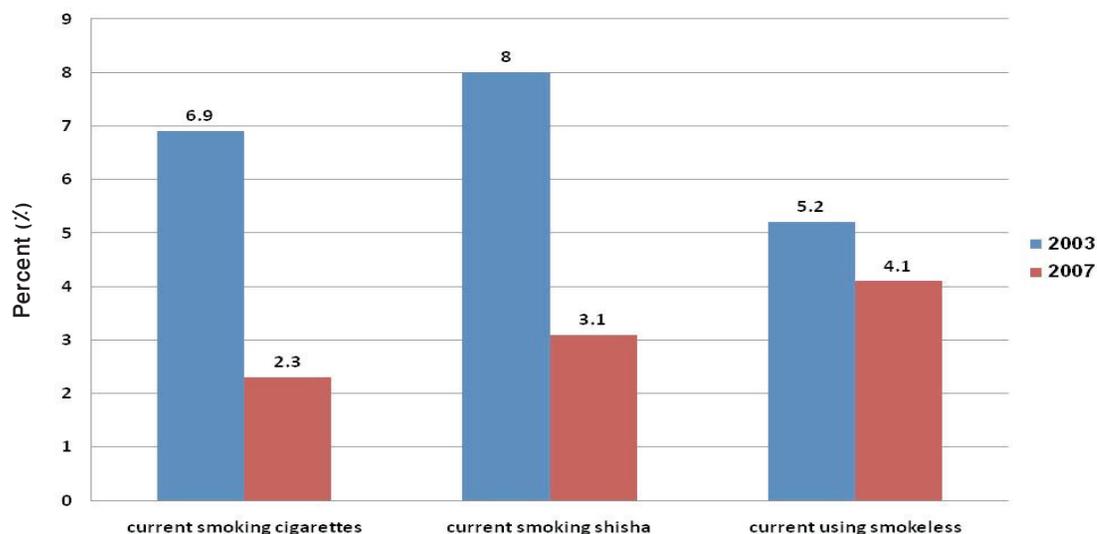
The National Committee has been instrumental in laying the foundation for tobacco control. The Sultanate has achieved a lot which can be summarized in the following:

- Oman became a signatory to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) in 2005 after the royal decree approval no 20/2005.
- Obtaining a total smoking ban in all Governmental offices and buildings through the Ministers Cabinet, including all health and educational institutions.
- Banning smoking in public transportation
- Banning tobacco advertisement in TV and Radio media (with no official minister decree)
- Banning sponsorship of all sports and art and cultural events by the tobacco industry. (with no official minister decree)
- Prohibition of sales to minors below (18 years) and single sticks
- Periodic increase of taxes on imported tobacco (currently 100%)
- Not providing soft loans and technical support to any tobacco farmer (though tobacco cultivation is extremely limited in Oman)
- Regularly monitoring the activities of the tobacco companies locally and internationally.
- Prohibition of importing of smokeless tobacco.
- Prohibition of cigarette and Shisha smoking in closed places.
- pictorial health warnings on tobacco products packs

In the MOH seventh five years plan (2006 – 2010), an educational tobacco control program was implemented in governmental schools in cooperation with MOE.

Ministry of Health and its partners conduct epidemiological studies on prevalence of tobacco use in Oman. The most important surveys conducted which targeted the adolescents and youth are Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) among school children 13-15 years (2003, 2007) and a KAP Survey on lifestyle among students in universities, colleges and other high educational institutes (2008). These surveys recommend implementation of more health education programs and more restrict legislations for tobacco control.

Figure1 shows the changes in the prevalence of tobacco use over both periods 2003 and 2007. The percentage of current cigarette smokers decreased from (6.9%) to (2.3%). Also the percentage of current shisha smokers falls down from (8%) to (3.1%). Moreover, the current using smokeless tobacco dropped from (5.2%) to (4.1%). Generally, all current tobacco users in 2007 were less compared to 2003.

Figure (1): Prevalence of tobacco use among 13-15 years in Oman 2003, 2007**Table (1): Smokers and users of other tobacco products among students in universities and high education institutions – Oman 2008**

Tobacco Used	Sex	% Practice (95% CI)	Days during the month preceding the survey Mean (95% CI)	Cigarettes per day (hours) Mean (95% CI)
Current Cigarette smokers	Total	9.9% (7.7% - 12.7)	20.8 (18.9 – 22.6)	11.3 (9.8 – 12.7)
	Males	17.4% (13.8% - 21.8)	21.7 (20.0 – 22.5)	11.6 (10.0 – 13.2)
	Females	1.5% (0.8% - 2.9)	8.0 (4.5 – 11.4)	5.9 (2.9 – 8.8)
Current Shisha smokers	Total	7.7% (4.9% - 11.9)	8.2 (5.5 – 11.0)	Not included in university student survey 2008
	Males	13.2% (8.6% - 19.9)	8.5 (5.6 – 11.3)	
	Females	1.2% (0.5% - 2.8)	5.2 (0.3 – 10.0)	
Current users of smokeless tobacco	Total	3.9% (2.1% - 7)	10.8 (8.9 – 12.7)	Not included in university student survey 2008
	Males	7% (3.9% - 12.2)	11.2 (9.2 – 13.2)	
	Females	0.4% (0.2% - 0.9)	6.2 (1.8 – 10.7)	

This survey shows (9.9%) of university students were current cigarettes smokers .Also, (7.7%) of university students were current shisha smokers and 3.9% current smokeless users. In general, males were significantly more current tobacco users than females. The provenance of this survey was reflecting the GYTS – 2003 result among students aged (13-15) years.

Objectives of Global Youth Tobacco Survey

The Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) is a school based tobacco survey which focuses on adolescents' age 13–15 years. It is designed to gather information about smoking prevalence, knowledge, attitudes and behaviors related to tobacco use, media and advertising in addition to prevention activities in schools' curriculum. It also provides information on where tobacco products are obtained and used by this group of youth.

The GYTS also addresses the following issues, which could be used to monitor the FCTC implementation:

1. Determine the level of tobacco use.
2. Estimate the age of initiation of cigarettes use.
3. Estimate the levels of susceptibility to become a cigarette smoker.
4. Estimate the exposure to tobacco advertising.
5. Identify key intervening variables such as attitudes and beliefs norms with regard to tobacco use among people, which can be used in prevention programs.
6. Assess the extent to which major prevention programs are reaching school-based populations and establish the subjective opinions of these populations regarding such intervention.

Methods

The GYTS in Oman is a cross-sectional school based survey, which employed a two-stage cluster sampling design to produce a nationally representative sample of students in grades 8-10 in governmental schools. The final sample selected is a “self-weighting” sample meaning that each student has an equal probability or chance to be selected to perform the survey.

Study design and sampling

Stage 1: Selection of schools

A list of governmental schools eligible to participate in the survey was collected in coordination with Ministry of Education (MOE). Private schools were excluded because of the small number of students' population in age 13-15 years in these schools and the need of further precautions and permission to conduct the survey.

The list of eligible schools was forwarded to CDC to draw the sample. The sample was selected with a probability proportional to enrollment size. This means that large schools (with more

students) were more likely to be selected than small ones. A total of 50 schools were selected with no replacement or substitution allowed for schools that did not agree to participate. Due to the low students' population in Al-Wusta region, it was not included in the sample. Table 2 shows the frequency distribution of study sample by regions

Table (2): Frequency distribution of study sample by regions, Oman 2010

Region	Schools	Invite student
AD Dhahira	4	125
AD Dakhilya	8	237
Dhofar	4	116
Muscat	7	288
North Batinah	11	410
North Sharqiah	4	202
South Batinah	7	180
South Sharqiah	3	103
AL Buraymi	1	32
Musandam	1	29
Total	50	1722

Stage 2: Selection of classes and students

This stage consisted of systematic equal probability sampling (with a random start) of classes from each school that participated in the survey. All classes in each selected school were included in the sampling frame. All students in the selected classes were eligible to participate in the survey.

A weighting factor was applied to each student's record to reflect the varying probabilities of selection and adjust for non-response patterns. SUDAAN and EPINFO Programs were used to compute the estimates and (95%) confidence intervals around the estimates. The weight used for estimation is given by:

$$W = W1 * W2 * F1 * F2 * F3 * F4$$

Where:

W1 = the inverse of the probability of selecting the schools.

W2 = the inverse of the probability of selecting the classes within the school.

F1= a school level non-response adjustment factor calculated by school size category.

F2= a classroom level non-response factor calculated for each school.

F3= a student level non-response adjustment factor calculated by class.

F4 = a post stratified adjustment factor calculated by gender and grade.

Study questionnaire

The Omani version of the GYTS questionnaire consisted of 78 questions. It was a self-administrated type that consisted of core component and an optional component. The core component allowed for comparison between other countries that have performed GYTS. The optional questionnaire allow for specific issues according to the situation in Oman. The questionnaire was translated in Arabic and reviewed by the Technical Office in the MOE.

Data collection

Survey procedures were designed to protect students' privacy by allowing for anonymous and voluntary procedures.

- A one-day training workshop was conducted in the capital Muscat in April 2010. It aimed to standardize the research methodology. A guidebook was prepared in Arabic and distributed to all research administrators.
- A survey team was established in each of the ten regions. It consisted of the school health in-charge as head of the team and 2-3 school health nurses. Each team member was assigned to specific schools and was responsible for delivery and collection of all survey documentations. All necessary materials and copies of papers, envelopes, pens and pencils were offered to the survey administration according to their duties and needs.
- Permission to enter the schools and run the survey procedures was granted through an official letter to all educational regions and schools in co-ordination with MOE.

Data collection completed in two weeks time. The research coordinator reviewed the packages of answer sheets, header sheets (containing class code and school code), classroom level forms and school level forms. This was done to establish quality data management throughout the data gathering process. All these packages were collected and sent to CDC for data entry.

Analysis

Analysis was done using EPINFO, a soft ware package that accounted for the complex sampling design and weighing factors in the data set, to calculate standard errors and prevalence estimates. Statistical differences included in this report were determined by comparing the range of 95% confidence interval (95% CI) for the estimates. If the ranges for the (95%) CI did not overlap the difference were statistically significant.

Results

Table (3): illustrates the percentage of study subjects by school grade and gender.

Gender		Age group			Grade		
Boys	Girls	< 12yrs	13- 15 yrs	> 16 yrs	8 th	9 th	10 th
45.7%	54.3%	9%	62.3%	28.5%	24%	42.8%	33.2%

Table (3) shows that the targeted age group (13-15) constituted (62.3%) from total students; girls (54.3%) were more than boys (45.7%) and (42.8%) were in grade 9

1. Tobacco use:

1.1 All tobacco products use:

Table (4): Prevalence (%) of any tobacco products use among students, GYTS Oman 2010

Age group	Gender	Ever use any tobacco products	Current use any tobacco products*
13-15 years	Boys	31.9% (24.0-39.6)	**4.9% (1.7-8.1)
	Girls	15.0% (11.4-18.6)	**1.7% (0.4-3.0)
	Total	22.2% (18.0-26.5)	3.3% (1.6-5.0)
All age groups	Boys	40.1% (32.4-47.7)	**13.4% (7.4-19.4)
	Girls	17.5% (13.9-21.1)	**3.0% (1.1-4.9)
	Total	29.7% (23.7-35.8)	9.2% (5.0-13.5)

*Students who use tobacco at least one day during the past 30 days

Figures in brackets are 95% confidence intervals

** The number of respondents in this cell less than 35

Table (4) shows that one in five (22.2%) of students in age 13-15 years and nearly three in ten of students in all ages had ever used any tobacco products. Boys are more likely to have this practice than girls with significant that boys try to use any type of tobacco more than females.

Overall (3.3%) of students in age 13-15 years and (9.2%) of students in all ages are currently users of any tobacco products. Boys were significantly higher than girls in having this practice.

1.2 Cigarette Smoking

Table (5): Prevalence (%) of cigarette smoking among students, GYTS Oman 2010

Age group	Gender	Ever smoked cigarette	Current smokers*	First tried smoking at age less than 10	Never smokers susceptible to initiating smoking within a year
13-15 years	Boys	16.4% (10.2- 25.3)	3.1% (1.3-7.1)	27.7% (14.2-47.1)	19.2% (14.7-24.7)
	Girls	5.3% (3.3-8.3)	0.6% (0.2 – 1.9)	37.3%** (22.9-54.4)	9.5% (6.6-13.6)
	Total	10.2% (7.3 – 14.0)	1.8% (0.9 – 4)	32.0% (20.4-46.3)	13.2% (10.1-17.1)
All age groups	Boys	22.3% (15.3-31.3)	7.0% (3.9- 12.1)	29.5% (19.5-41.9)	24.2% (19.8-29.1)
	Girls	6.2% (4.2-9.0)	1.1% (0.5-2.5)	45.6%** (31.0-61.1)	10.9% (8.1-14.5)
	Total	14.9% (10.3 – 21.1)	4.5% (2.5 – 8.2)	34.0% (24.7-44.7)	17.1% (14.4-20.4)

*Students who use tobacco at least one day during the past 30 days

** Number of respondents (n) in this cell is less than 35

Figures in brackets are 95% confidence intervals

Table 5 shows that one in ten (10.2%) students aged 13- 15 years had ever smoked cigarettes. Boys (16.4%) were significantly more likely than girls (5.3%) to have had ever smoked cigarettes even one or two puffs. Also about one third (32.0%) of students in age 13-15 years had ever initiated smoking before age of 10 and 1.8% of students aged 13- 15 years smoked cigarettes during the past 30 days (current smokers).

Overall 14.9% of students in all age groups had ever smoked cigarettes. Boys (22.3%) were significantly more likely than girls (6.2%) to have had ever smoked cigarettes even one or two puffs. Overall about one third (34.0%) of all students had ever initiated smoking before age of 10 and about one in twenty (4.5%) of students smoked cigarettes during the past 30 days (current smokers).

However, 17.1% of never smokers in all ages and 13.2% of never smokers in age 13-15 years indicated that they are likely to initiate smoking next year . Boys (24.2% & 19.2%) were significantly more likely than girls (10.9% & 9.5%) to initiate smoking next year.

1.3 Waterpipe (Shisha) Use

Table (6): Prevalence (%) of water pipe (shisha) Use among students, GYTS Oman 2010

Age group	Gender	Ever smoked water pipe	Currently using water pipe*	First tried shisha at age less than 10	Have most of his friends use water pipe	Never smokers susceptible to initiating water pipe use within a year
13-15 years	Boys	9.7% (6.1-15.0)	2.0% (0.8-5.0)	46.3%** (14.8-27.8)	1.5% (0.6- 3.3)	12.7 (6.8-18.6)
	Girls	7.0% (4.9-10.0)	0.9% (0.4-2.2)	17.2%** (0.0-54.9)	0.2% (0.0 – 1.5)	6.8** (4.0-9.5)
	Total	8.3% (6.4-10.8)	1.5% (0.8-2.7)	35.1%** (28.6-41.6)	0.8% (0.4 – 1.6)	9.2 (6.2-12.3)
All age groups	Boys	19.4% (15.3 -24.4)	5.3% (3.5-8.1)	35.7%** (17.8-53.5)	4.1% (2.7 – 6.2)	17.0 (12.6-21.3)
	Girls	8.7% (6.9-11.0)	2.0%** (1.0-4.0)	57.0%** (26.4- 87.6)	1.6% (0.8 – 3.2)	8.8 (5.9-11.6)
	Total	14.5% (11.5-18.2)	4.3% (2.9-6.4)	37.4% (24.1-50.7)	3.2% (2.1 – 4.8)	12.8 (9.9-15.8)

*Students who use water pipe at least one day during the past 30 days

** Number of respondents (n) in this cell is less than 35

Figures in brackets are 95% confidence intervals

Table 6 shows that (8.3%) of students in age 13-15 years stated that they have ever used water pipe (shisha) whereas more than two thirds from them started before age of 10. Moreover, (1.5%) of them are currently used it with no significant difference between boys and girls. Around (1%) only of students aged 13-15 years had most their friends use water pipes (shisha).

Overall (14.5%) of all students said that they have ever used water pipe (shisha) whereas (4.3%) are currently using it. Boys (19.4%) are more likely than girls (8.7%) to have ever used water pipe. Nearly four in ten (37.4%) of all students who had ever used water pipes, initiated this habit before

age of 10 years. About (3.2%) of all students have had most of their friends use water pipes. In contrast, (9.2%) aged 13-15 years and around 13% in all age groups of never smokers' shisha thought that they may initiate using it within a year. Boys (17%) are more likely to initiate this habit than girls (8.8%).

1.4 Smokeless (chewing) Tobacco Use

Table (7): Prevalence (%) of smokeless tobacco use among students, GYTS Oman 2010

Age group	Gender	Ever used smokeless tobacco	Currently using smokeless tobacco*	First tried smokeless tobacco at age less than 10	Never use smokeless tobacco susceptible to initiating use within a year
13-15 years	Boys	15.1% (10.2-19.9)	2.5% (1.2-5.3)	43.8** (19.8-67.8)	10.5** (6.2-14.8)
	Girls	7.3% (4.9-9.8)	0.9% (0.4 – 2.2)	77.1** (50.4-100.0)	5.9** (3.3-8.4)
	Total	10.5% (7.9-13.1)	1.6% (0.9 – 2.9)	54.7** (32.5-77.0)	8.1 (5.3-10.9)
All age groups	Boys	22.8% (17.5-28.0)	7.8 (4.5 – 13.1)	35.2** (26.4-44.1)	15.2 (10.3-20.2)
	Girls	8.2% (5.8-10.7)	1.7% (0.8 -3.7)	76.8** (53.8-99.7)	7.6 (4.6-10.6)
	Total	16.1% (12.4-19.8)	5.4% (3.2 – 8.8)	42.4 (34.8-50.0)	11.7 (8.7-14.7)

*Students who use smokeless tobacco at least one day during the past 30 days

** Number of respondents (n) in this cell is less than 35

Figures in brackets are 95% confidence intervals

Table (7) shows the prevalence of smokeless tobacco usage among students. One in ten (10.5%) of students aged (13-15) years stated that they have ever used smokeless tobacco whereas (1.6%) are currently using it. Boys students (15.1%) are more likely than girls students (7.3%) to have had ever used smokeless tobacco. More than half (54.7%) of ever used smokeless tobacco used it before age of ten.

Overall (16.1%) of all students stated that they have ever used smokeless tobacco. Boys (22.8%) are more likely than girls (8.2%) to have ever used smokeless tobacco. Overall (5.4%) of all students stated that they are using smokeless tobacco in the past 30 days (current users). Boys (7.8%) are more likely than girls (1.7%) to have this habit. Nearly four in ten students (42.4%), who have ever used smokeless tobacco, initiated this habit before age of 10 years. About (8.1%) of student aged (13-15) years and (11.7%) of all students who never used smokeless tobacco, indicated that they are likely to initiate smoking next year.

2. School and Tobacco

Table (8): Percentage of students who were taught dangers of smoking and discussed why people of their age use tobacco, GYTS Oman 2010

Age group	Gender	Taught dangers of smoking	Taught why people of their age use tobacco
13-15 years	Boys	61.8% (55.1 – 68.5)	46.1% (37.1 -55.0)
	Girls	72.6% (66.9 – 78.3)	61.8% (56.7 -66.9)
	Total	68.3% (64.4 -72.3)	55.6% (50.3 – 60.9)
All age groups	Boys	64.2% (60.3 – 68.2)	54.3% (48.0 – 60.5)
	Girls	70.5% (65.2 – 75.8)	62.0% (57.0 – 67.1)
	Total	66.7% (63.6 – 69.8)	57.9% (54.1 – 61.8)

Figures in brackets are 95% confidence intervals

Table (8) indicates that over two- thirds of students in age 13-15 years old were taught in schools about the dangers of smoking, and about 55.6% had discussed the reasons why people in their age smoke with girls (61.8%) are more likely than boys (46.1%) to have this discussion. About (66.7%) of all students were taught in schools about the dangers of smoking, and more than half of them had discussed the reasons why people in their age smoke with no significant difference between boys and girls.

3. Cessation

3.1 Cessation of smoking cigarettes:

Table (9): Percentage of current cigarettes smokers who want to quit, current smokers who tried to quit, and current smokers who received help to quit, GYTS Oman 2010

Age group	Gender	who want to quit	who tried to quit	who received help to quit
13-15 years	Boys	44.2%** (15.6 – 77.3)	58.9%** (17.5 – 90.6)	78.8%** (49.9 – 93.3)
	Girls	46.3%** (4.5 – 94.1)	100%**	100%**
	Total	48.6%** (21.0 – 77.1)	61.7%** (22.7 – 89.9)	86.6%** (60.8 – 96.4)
All age groups	Boys	75.1%** (40.6 – 93.0)	75.7%** (48.8 – 91.0)	85.4%** (67.7 – 94.2)
	Girls	65.3%** (21.5 – 92.8)	85.8%** (38.4 – 98.3)	75.5%** (39.6 – 93.6)
	Total	75.6%** (47.9 – 91.2)	75.3%** (52.9- 89.2)	85.8% (74.4 – 92.6)

** Number of respondents (n) in this cell is less than 35

Table 9 shows that nearly one in two (48.6%) of students aged 13-15 years old who are currently smoke cigarettes stated that they currently desire to stop smoking. Nearly six in ten (61.7%) tried to stop smoking during the last year but failed. Overall (86.6%) of current smokers in age 13-15 years received help to stop smoking.

Nearly three-fourths (75.6%) of all students who are currently smoke cigarettes stated that they currently desire to stop smoking. A similar percentage (75.3%) tried to stop smoking during the past years but failed. Overall, 85.8% of current smokers received help to stop smoking.

3.2 Cessation of waterpipe (shisha) use:

Table (10): Percentage of current waterpipe (shisha) users who want to quit, who tried to quit and who received help to quit, GYTS Oman 2010

Age group	Gender	who want to quit	Percent who tried to quit in the past year	who received help to quit
13-15 years	Boys	0.0%**	39.4%** (14.0 – 72.3)	57.2%** (18.1-96.3)
	Girls	0.0%**	29.0%** (3.2 – 83.6)	100.0%**
	Total	29.5%** (0.0-60.1)	38.5%** (14.1 – 70.6)	73.4%** (33.4- 100.0)
All age groups	Boys	76.0%** (71.0-81.0)	66.7%** (32.3 – 89.4)	91.5%** (87.1-95.9)
	Girls	31.2%** (21.6-40.8)	30.5%** (6.9 – 72.4)	84.8%** (66.3-100.0)
	Total	68.5%** (61.1-75.5)	57.7%** (34.6 – 77.9)	85.2%** (75.7-94.8)

** Number of respondents (n) in this cell is less than 35
Figures in brackets are 95% confidence intervals

Nearly one-third (29.5%) of current shisha smokers aged (13-15) years want to quit now. Around four in ten (38.5%) of students aged 13-15 years old who are currently smoke water pipes (shisha) stated that they tried to stop using during the past years but failed. However, three in four (73.4%) had received a help to quit (see table 10).

Nearly seven in ten (68.5%) of all students who are current shisha smokers want to quit now. Also, around six in ten (57.7%) of all students who are currently use water pipes (shisha) stated that they tried to stop using during the last year but failed. (85.2%) of current shisha smokers had receive a help to quit.

3.3: Cessation with help

Table (11): Percentage of ever smokers who received help to quit smoking, from program or professional, friends or family member, GYTS Oman 2010

Age group	Gender	who received help from program / professional	who received help from a friend	who received help from a family member
13-15 years	Boys	44.1%** (24.3 – 65.9)	32.0%** (17.5 – 90.6)	0.0%**
	Girls	25.7%** (7.8 – 58.5)	22.9%** (6.0 – 57.9)	18.0%** (5.4 – 45.8)
	Total	33.7% (18.6 – 53.0)	30.3% (15.7 – 50.4)	7.3% (2.0 – 23.8)
All age groups	Boys	42.5% (27.8 – 58.7)	23.6% (13.1 – 38.7)	9.3% (3.3 – 23.3)
	Girls	23.0%** (9.4 – 46.4)	29.9%** (14.1 – 52.6)	18.8%** (8.3 – 37.2)
	Total	38.7% (26.6 – 52.3)	24.6% (15.3- 37.1)	11.7% (6.0 – 21.5)

** Number of respondents (n) in this cell is less than 35

Figures in brackets are 95% confidence intervals

Table (11) shows that nearly one third (33.7%) of students aged 13- 15 years who ever smokers received help from educational program or professional. A similar percentage (30.3%) stated that they received help from a friend whereas only (7.3%) received help from family member.

Overall, nearly four in ten (38.7%) of all students who ever smokers received help from program or professional. About one fourth (24.6%) stated that they received help from a friend whereas only (11.7%) received help from family member.

4.4 Attitude towards cessation

Table (12): Percentage of current smokers who believe that they can stop cigarettes and shisha smoking when they desire, GYTS Oman 2010

Age group	Gender	believe that they can stop cigarettes smoking when they desire
13-15 years	Boys	0.0
	Girls	0.0
	Total	0.0
All age groups	Boys	28.7% (24.1-33.3)
	Girls	48.5% (17.7- 79.2)
	Total	33.6% (29.0-38.2)

** Number of respondents (n) in this cell is less than 35

Figures in brackets are 95% confidence intervals

Table 12 shows that nearly one third of all students (33.6%) believed that they can stop cigarettes and shisha smoking when they desire with no significant difference between boys and girls.

Table (13): Percentage of students who definitely think that it is safe to smoke for only a year or two as long as they quit after that, GYTS Oman 2010

Age group	Gender	Percentage of students who definitely think that it is safe to smoke for only a year or two as long as they quit after that	
		Never smokers	Current smokers
13-15 years	Boys	28.7% (23.2 – 34.8)	36.7%** (11.8 – 71.5)
	Girls	29.7% (25.9 – 33.9)	0.0
	Total	29.2% (26.2 – 32.5)	25.3%** (9.6 – 52.2)
All age groups	Boys	24.2% (20.4-28.4)	27.1% (14.7 – 44.7)
	Girls	28.3% (25.0 -31.9)	10.9%** (1.3 – 53.4)
	Total	26.0% (23.5 – 28.7)	24.8% (14.4-39.2)

** Number of respondents (n) in this cell is less than 35

Figures in brackets are 95% confidence intervals

Table 13 shows the about one third (29.2%) of never smoker students in age 13- 15 years definitely think that it is safe to smoke for only a year or two as long as they quit after that with no significant difference between boys and girls. While about one fourth (24.8%) of current smoker students in all ages definitely think that it is safe to smoke for only a year or two as long as they quit after that with no significant difference between boys and girls.

5. Environmental tobacco smoke

4.1 Exposure to smoke of others and attitude of banning smoking in public places

Table (14): Percentage of students exposed to smoke at home and in public places and those supporting ban of smoking in public places, GYTS Oman 2010

Age group	Gender	Percent who live in home where others smoke	Percent who are exposed to smoke in places outside their homes	Percent who think smoking cigarettes should be banned in public places	Percent who think smoking water pipe should be banned in public places
13-15 years	Boys	12.9% (9.1- 18.0)	19.2% (13.1-27.3)	66.2% (59.5 -72.3)	70.4% (65.5-75.4)
	Girls	10.9% (7.9 -14.8)	11.9% (9.1 – 15.4)	82.1% (77.6 – 85.8)	81.5% (77.4-85.6)
	Total	11.9% (9.7 – 14.6)	15.0% (11.6 – 19.2)	75.9% (70.4 -80.5)	77.0% (72.9-81.1)
All age groups	Boys	20.0% (16.2- 24.5)	23.9% (18.9 – 29.7)	69.5% (65.1-73.6)	72.0% (68.0-76.1)
	Girls	13.0% (9.5 – 17.5)	14.1% (11.1 – 17.7)	79.7% (75.6-83.3)	81.1% (77.5-84.7)
	Total	16.9% (14.1 – 20.0)	19.5% (15.8 – 23.8)	74.6% (70.9-78.0)	76.1% (72.6-79.6)

Figures in brackets are 95% confidence intervals

Table 14 shows that around (12%) of students in age 13- 15 years and (17%) of students in different age groups live in homes where others smoke with no difference between boys and girls, while (15%) of students in age 13- 15 years and (19.5%) of students in different age groups exposed to smoke from others in places outside their homes.

About three in four of all students supported banning of cigarettes smoking in public places. Approximately, the same percentage supported banning of water pipe (shisha) smoking in public places. Girls are more likely than boys in supporting banning of both cigarettes and shisha smoking.

Table (15): Percentage of students exposed to smoke at home and in public places in the past 7 days by smoking status, GYTS Oman 2010

Age group	Gender	Percent exposed to smoke from others at home		Percent exposed to smoke from others outside their homes	
		Never smoker	Current smokers	Never smoker	Current smokers
13-15 years	Boys	9.8% (6.2 -15.1)	31.7%** (9.1- 68.3)	16.9% (10.6 – 25.9)	44.3%** (14.6-78.7)
	Girls	9.5% (6.6 – 13.6)	61.2%** (11.2 – 95.2)	10.4% (7.9 – 13.7)	32.8%** (3.7 – 86.0)
	Total	9.5% (7.1 – 12.6)	46.2%** (21.0 -73.4)	12.8% (9.3 – 17.4)	44.7%** (20.1- 72.2)
All age groups	Boys	15.0% (10.8 – 20.6)	35.8% (21.5 – 53.2)	18.8% (14.1 – 24.1)	52.0% (35.8 – 67.7)
	Girls	10.7% (7.7 – 14.7)	84.3%** (36.3 – 98.1)	11.5% (9.3 – 14.2)	75.8%** (34.9 – 94.8)
	Total	12.7% (10.1 – 15.9)	45.3% (29.8 – 61.7)	15.0% (12.2 – 18.4)	55.2% (39.7 – 69.8)

** Number of respondents (n) in this cell is less than 35

Figures in brackets are 95% confidence intervals

Table 15 shows that (46.2%) of current smokers in age 13 – 15 years and 45.3% of current smokers in different age groups were more exposed to environmental tobacco smoke at home than those who have never smoked (9.5% and 12.7% respectively) with no significant difference between boys and girls.

Overall, (44.7%) of current smokers in age 13- 15 years and (55.2%) of current smokers in all age groups were more exposed to environmental tobacco use in places outside their homes than those who never smoked (12.8% and 15.0% respectively) with no significant difference between boys and girls.

6 Knowledge and Attitudes:

5.1 Hazards of smoking

Table (16): Percentage of students aware of hazards of smoking by smoking status, GYTS Oman 2010

Age group	Gender	Definitely think that smoking cigarettes is harmful to them		Definitely think that smoking waterpipe is harmful to them		Think that smokeless tobacco is harmful to them	
		Never smoker	Current smokers	Never smoker	Current smokers	Never smoker	Current smokers
13-15 years	Boys	79.8% (74.5-84.2)	38.1%** (16.4-65.8)	92.8% (89.9-95.8)	86.3% ** (86.3-86.3)	86.8% (83-90.5)	65.8%** (55.8-75.8)
	Girls	87.0% (84.3-89.4)	0.0**	94.6% (92.3-96.9)	59.7%** (44.7-74.8)	91.1% (88- 94.1)	100.0**
	Total	84.3% (80.5-87.4)	25.2%** (11.3-47.0)	93.7% (91.8-95.7)	72.4%** (71.9-72.9)	89.0% (86.5-91.6)	77.1%** (75.3-79.0)
All age groups	Boys	71.2% (66.4-75.6)	35.4%** (19.5-55.4)	83.4% (78.6-88.2)	67.2%** (48.3-86.2)	77.2% (72.1-82.3)	60.3%** (48.4-72.3)
	Girls	85.6% (81.8-88.7)	22.0%** (5.8-56.5)	92.6% (89.9-95.4)	40.2%** (17.0-63.3)	88.0% (85.2- 92.9)	51.9%** (33.9- 70.0)
	Total	78.5% (73.5 – 82.8)	29.1%** (17.9-43.6)	87.9% (84.4-91.4)	62.7% (50.0-75.3)	82.6% (78.5-86.7)	55.5% (46.6- 64.4)

** Number of respondents (n) in this cell is less than 35

Figures in brackets are 95% confidence intervals

Table 16 illustrates that nearly four in five of never smokers in all ages, one fourth of current smokers in age 13-15 years and one third of current smokers in all ages definitely think that smoking cigarettes is harmful to their health. Never smoker girls in all ages are more likely to have this attitude than boys of same group.

Nearly nine in ten never smokers in different age groups and two thirds of current smokers in all ages definitely think that smoking water pipe is harmful to them. Never smoker girls are more likely to have this attitude than boys

5.2 Hazards of passive smoking

Table (17): Percentage of students aware of hazards of passive smoking by smoking status, GYTS Oman 2010

Age group	Gender	Definitely think smoke from others is harmful to them			
		Cigarette smoking		Shisha smoking	
		Never smokers	Current smokers	Never smokers	Current smokers
13-15 years	Boys	68.3% (61.3-74.5)	52.8%** (22.4-81.2)	81.7% (76.5 -86.6)	58.5%** (29.8-87.2)
	Girls	75.8% (71.4-79.8)	38.8%** (4.8-88.8)	86.9%** (83.8 – 90.0)	0.0%**
	Total	72.8% (69.0 – 76.3)	43.9%** (21.8-68.8)	84.2% (81.1- 87.2)	39.5%** (9.4 – 69.5)
All age groups	Boys	54.6% (47.9 – 61.1)	41.2%** (27.6 – 56.3)	65.7% (58.5 – 72.8)	38.9%** (28.4- 49.3)
	Girls	73.4% (68.5 – 77.8)	35.6%** (9.9 – 73.5)	85.4% (81.3 – 89.5)	20.4%** (0.0 – 43.1)
	Total	64.3% (58.8 – 69.4)	35.1%** (24.6 – 47.3)	74.7% (68.9 – 80.4)	36.9%** (22.2 – 51.6)

** Number of respondents (n) in this cell is less than 35
Figures in brackets are 95% confidence intervals

Overall, around three in four of never smokers in 13-15 years and more than three in five of never cigarette smokers in all ages definitely thought that smoke from others is harmful to them. Girls are more likely to have this attitude than boys. Also, more than two in five aged 13-15 years and around three in ten of all groups of current smoking cigarettes thought smoke from others is harmful to them.

Nearly four in five of never shisha smokers aged 13-15 and around three in four in different age groups definitely thought that smoke from others is harmful to them with no significant difference between boys and girls in age 13-15 years while girls in all age groups are more likely to have this attitude than boys. Moreover around two in five of current smoking shisha in different groups had same thought.

5.3 Attitudes towards cigarette use

Table (18): Percentage of students who think that cigarettes smokers look more attractive than non - smokers by smoking status, GYTS Oman 2010

Age group	Gender	Think smoking cigarette makes boys look more attractive		Think smoking cigarette makes girls look more attractive		Think that cigarette smoking can increase weight	
		Never smoker	Current smokers	Never smoker	Current smokers	Never smoker	Current smokers
13-15 years	Boys	17.7% (12.5-24.5)	26.7%** (13.1-46.8)	14.0% (9.8 – 19.6)	39.4%** (13.1 – 73.7)	17.8 (12.8-22.8)	0.0**
	Girls	18.3% (14.4- 22.9)	38.8%** (4.8 – 88.8)	9.2% (6.6 – 12.8)	0.0**	15.9 (11.3-20.4)	0.0**
	Total	18.1% (15.1-21.5)	38.1%** (17.6 – 64.1)	11.1% (8.3- 14.5)	42.0%** (16.4 – 72.7)	16.7 (13.0-20.4)	0.0**
All age groups	Boys	22.8% (19.0 – 27.2)	27.4%** (19.3 – 37.3)	20.6% (16.3 – 25.6)	21.2%** (11.0- 36.9)	25.1 (17.5-32.6)	11.1** (7.6-14.6)
	Girls	18.9% (15.1-23.5)	51.5%** (17.3 – 84.4)	9.8% (7.1 – 13.4)	54.8%** (17.6 – 87.3)	15.6 (11.3-19.7)	11.5** (11.5-11.5)
	Total	20.4% (17.9-23.2)	31.4%** (22.9 – 41.3)	15.0 % (11.7 – 19.0)	31.1%** (18.4 – 47.5)	20.0 (15.7-24.4)	14.1** (10.6-17.6)

** Number of respondents (n) in this cell is less than 35

Figures in brackets are 95% confidence intervals

Table 18 shows that nearly one in five of never cigarettes smokers aged 13-15 years (18.1%) and (20.4%) for all students thought that boys who smoke look more attractive. Also, four in ten of current smokers aged 13-15 years and three in ten all aged have same thought.

Around one in ten aged 13-15 years and (15%) of all groups of never smokers cigarettes thought that girls who smoke look more attractive. Boys are more likely to have this thought than girls. Moreover, about four in ten of current smokers aged 13-15 years and three in ten of all groups have same thought that smoking makes girls look more attractive.

In addition, (16.7%) of never smokers aged 13-15 years and (20%) of all groups thought that cigarettes can increase weight and (14.1%) of current smokers have the same thought.

5.4 Attitudes towards waterpipe (shisha) use

Table (19): Percentage of students who think that waterpipes smokers look more attractive than non-smokers and waterpipe smoking can increase weight by smoking status, GYTS Oman 2010

Age group	Gender	Think smoking waterpipes makes boys look more attractive		Think smoking waterpipes makes girls look more attractive		Think that waterpipe smoking can increase weight	
		Never smoker	Current smokers	Never smoker	Current smokers	Never smoker	Current smokers
13-15 years	Boys	14.1% (8.7 – 19.5)	15.7%** (11.4 – 19.9)	12.4% (7.5 – 17.2)	15.7%** (5.8 – 25.6)	15.9% (10.7-21.1)	69.2%** (60.8-77.5)
	Girls	18.1% (14.6 – 21.7)	28.5%** (13.6 – 43.4)	9.8% (6.7 – 12.9)	45.3%** (0.0- 100)	17.9% (13.5-22.2)	28.5%** (0.0-65.9)
	Total	16.6 % (13.8 – 19.4)	27.3%** (26.0 – 28.5)	10.7% (8.0 – 13.5)	34.6%** (0.0 – 85.5)	17.1 (13.5-20.7)	45.3%** (43.0-47.6)
All age groups	Boys	21.4% (17.0 – 25.9)	25.1%** (15.7 – 34.6)	22.3% (17.9 – 26.7)	29.8%** (20.3 – 39.3)	23.1% (16.2-30.0)	27.7%** (18.8-36.6)
	Girls	18.8% (15.8 – 21.8)	27.2%** (0.0- 56.7)	11.7% (8.8 – 14.5)	29.9%** (0.6 – 59.3)	18.1% (13.9-22.3)	16.9%** (2.8-31.1)
	Total	19.8 % (17.2- 22.4)	30.2%** (15.3 – 45.2)	16.6% (13.3 – 19.9)	31.6%** (19.6 – 43.6)	20.5% (16.4-24.7)	27.1%** (16.5-37.7)

** Number of respondents (n) in this cell is less than 35

Figures in brackets are 95% confidence intervals

Table 19 shows that (16.6%) of never shisha smokers and (27.3%) of current shisha smokers aged (13-15) years thought that boys who smoke water pipe look more attractive, with significant that current smokers more thought than never smokers. While nearly one in ten of never smokers and one third of current smokers in the same age group thought that smoking water pipe makes girls look more attractive with no significant difference between boys and girls or between never smokers and current smokers.

Nearly one in five of never smokers and one third of current smokers in all ages thought that boys who smoke water pipe look more attractive while (16.6%) of never smokers and (31.6%) of current smokers thought that smoking water pipe makes girls look attractive with significant difference in never smokers that boys thought more than girls that girls who smokes had more attractive.

Surprisingly, around one in five of never water pipe smokers in both aged (13-15) or in all groups thought that smoking water pipe can increase weight. Also, one in two of current water pipe smokers in age 13-15 years and three in ten of current smokers in all ages thought that smoking water pipe can increase weight.

3 Accessibility and availability of tobacco products:

Table (20): Methods of access to various tobacco products and their availability to students – GYTS, Oman 2010

Age group	Gender	Presence of tobacco stores in school area (half k.m.)	Current cigarette smokers were not refused to purchase it because of their age	Current water pipe smokers were not refused to purchase it because of their age	Current smokeless tobacco use were not refused to purchase it because of their age
13-15 years	Boys	28.1 (20.4-35.7)	100.0**	44.4** (29.1-59.7)	67.8** (67.8-67.8)
	Girls	21.8 (17.1-26.6)	100.0**	0.0**	17.2** (10.6-23.9)
	Total	24.2 (20.4-28.0)	100.0**	36.3** (17.6-54.9)	44.1** (43.2-45.0)
All age groups	Boys	42.2 (32.5-51.9)	84.8** (59.3-95.3)	70.0** (54.5-85.6)	44.8** (31.0-58.6)
	Girls	23.7 (19.0-28.3)	100.0**	30.2** (0.0-65.2)	19.3** (2.0-36.6)
	Total	32.7 (27.0-38.4)	84.9** (63.0-94.9)	64.4** (49.1-82.8)	38.8** (26.9-50.7)

** Number of respondents (n) in this cell is less than 35

Figures in brackets are 95% confidence intervals

Table 20 shows that about one quarter of students aged 13-15 years and one-third of all students indicated that there is a store selling tobacco within half kilometer in the school area. Boys are more likely than girls to indicate that. All current cigarettes smokers aged 13-15 year, more than one-third of current shisha smokers and around one in two current smokeless users were not refused purchasing tobacco despite of their young age.

In general, around (85%) of current cigarettes smokers, (64.4%) of current shisha smokers and nearly (40%) of current smokeless users were not refused purchasing tobacco despite of their young age.

4 Media and advertising:

Table (21): Percentage of students exposed to media and advertisement related to tobacco, GYTS Oman 2010

Age group	Gender	Saw pro- cigarette ads			Had object with a cigarette brand logo	Offered free cigarette from a cigarette representative
		Bill Boards	Newspaper magazine	At events		
13-15 years	Boys	66.3% (61.7-70.8)	55.6% (47.2-63.6)	64.9% (54.7-73.9)	14.9% (10.3-20.9)	8.4%** (5.3-13.0)
	Girls	62.2% (56.1-68.3)	60.2% (54.0-66.0)	58.4% (51.4-65.2)	7.0% (4.5-10.8)	5.7%** (4.5-7.7)
	Total	64.0% (59.8-68.2)	58.2% (54.0-66.0)	61.3% (53.9-68.3)	10.5% (8.1-13.5)	7.3% (5.5-9.7)
All age groups	Boys	73.5% (67.0-80.0)	66.2% (58.5-73.1)	68.4% (60.0-75.7)	30.2% (23.1-38.2)	23.9% (16.8-33.0)
	Girls	65.7% (61.0-70.4)	63.1% (57.7-68.2)	60.3% (54.8-65.6)	10.7% (7.9-14.3)	9.2% (6.5-12.9)
	Total	69.2% (64.5-73.9)	64.1% (59.0-68.3)	64.2% (58.6-69.5)	21.1% (16.6-26.5)	17.0% (12.2-23.2)

** Number of respondents (n) in this cell is less than 35

Figures in brackets are 95% confidence intervals

Table 21 shows that nearly six in ten of students in age 13-15 years saw pro-tobacco messages on billboards (64.0%), newspaper (58.2%) and magazine or at events (61.3%) Those percentages are approximately same for the all groups (69.2%), (64.1) and (64.2%) respectively, with no significant difference between boys and girls.

One in ten of students aged 13-15 years and one in five of all groups had an object with a cigarette brand logo, with significant that all boys had more objects with a cigarette brand logo than girls.

Overall (7.3%) of students aged 13-15 years and (17.0%) of all groups were offered free cigarette from a cigarette representative. Boys are more likely to be offered a free cigarette than girls.

Table (22): Percentage of students exposed to anti- tobacco media messages during the past 30 days, GYTS Oman 2010

Age group	Gender	Saw anti-tobacco messages at sports , community events	Saw anti-smoking media messages	Saw anti-shisha media messages
13-15 years	Boys	80.9% (75.4-85.3)	79.8% (72.7-85.3)	68.8% (63.5-74.0)
	Girls	86.1% (82.0-89.4)	82.3% (77.2-86.5)	67.9% (60.4-75.4)
	Total	83.9% (80.4-86.9)	81.5% (77.4-85.3)	68.4% (63.7-73.1)
All age groups	Boys	83.2% (80.0-85.9)	83.2% (79.2-86.6)	74.1% (70.0-78.1)
	Girls	85.6% (82.6-88.3)	82.9% (79.1-86.2)	68.0% (62.0 – 74.1)
	Total	84.2% (82.1-86.1)	83.1% (80.5-85.4)	71.0% (67.3-74.6)

** Number of respondents (n) in this cell is less than 35

Figures in brackets are (95%) confidence intervals

Table 22 illustrates that nearly eight out of ten students in different age groups saw anti-tobacco messages at sports, community events (84.2%) and anti-smoking media messages (83.1%) while seven out of ten (71.0%) students in different age groups saw anti-shisha media messages with no significant gender difference.

Discussion

The Oman Global Youth Tobacco Survey (Oman- GYTS) 2010 is the third survey of its kind in order to determine the prevalence, knowledge and attitudes of school students in the age group (13-15) years.

The survey showed that 3.3% of the students in the age group 13-15 years are using any type of tobacco. Overall current cigarette smokers were (1.8%), water pipe (shisha) users were 1.5% and smokeless tobacco users were (1.6%).

As all surveys of tobacco use in Oman, there is a wide discrepancy of tobacco use among both genders. The prevalence of overall and current tobacco use is mostly a male habit.

Trend of Tobacco Use in Oman

This survey is the third one in a series of surveys in Oman; the first was conducted in 2003 while the second was conducted in 2007. This series of surveys give opportunity to track changes in tobacco use and other related issues overtime. Moreover by using the same methodology and standard core questionnaire, it enables us to make cross country comparison of prevalence and other related issue concerning tobacco use.

Figure (2): Trend of current cigarette smoking, water pipe (shisha) and smokeless tobacco in 2003, 2007 and 2010, Oman

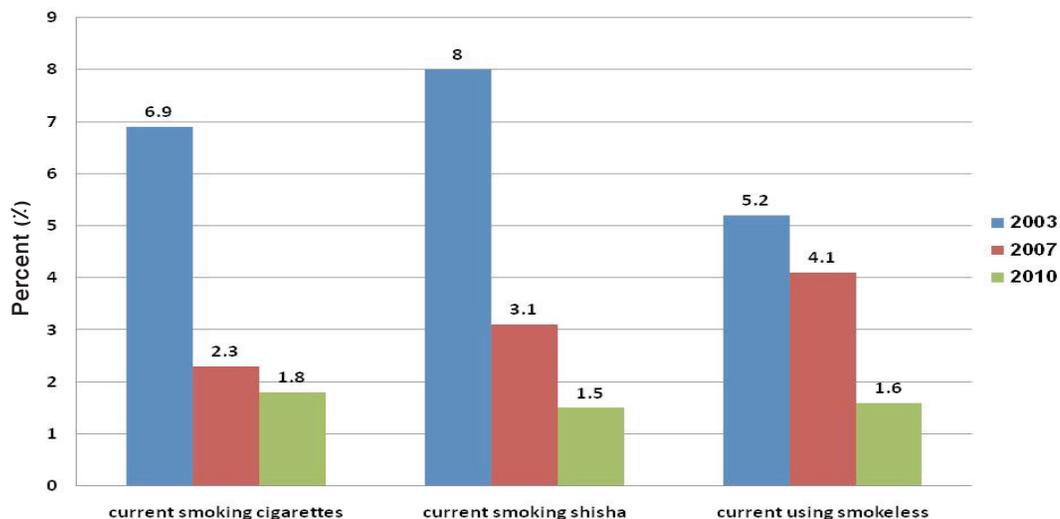


Figure 2 shows the changes in prevalence of tobacco use over the three periods 2003, 2007 and 2010. It shows that the prevalence of current cigarettes smoking has decreased from (6.9%) in 2003 to (2.3%) in 2007 to (1.8%) in 2010. The same is applicable for both water pipe (shisha) and smokeless tobacco use

In general, the decline in all indicators of tobacco use is clearly between 2003 and 2007 with low variable in 2010. The proportion of current smokers of any type of tobacco has decreased from (12.2%) in 2003 to (6.8%) in 2007 and then fell by more than half (3.3%) for the year 2010. It has a roughly similar change between current smoking cigarettes and current smoking shisha, down significantly between the surveys of 2003 and 2007, then decline slightly in 2010 and vice versa for current smokeless tobacco, we find that a slight decline between the surveys of 2003 and 2007 and then decline for more than half of the 2010 survey. This could be a result of different interventions as issuing of the draconian laws like increasing taxes on cigarettes and banning of smoking cigarettes in enclosed public places

Table (23): Percentage of students aged 13-15 years who were taught in any classes about the dangers of smoking, Oman GYTS 2003, 2007 & 2010

Year	Boys	Girls	Total
2003	43.2 (34.9-51.9)	40.9 (33.8-48.4)	42.1 (36.1-48.3)
2007	58.0 (50.9-64.8)	74.5 (63.0-83.3)	66.5 (57.5-74.5)
2010	61.8 (55.1-68.5)	72.6 (66.9-78.3)	68.3 (64.4-72.3)

Table 23 shows that there is increase in percentage of students who were taught in any classes about the dangers of smoking from (42.1%) in 2003 to (66.5%) in 2007 to (68.3%) in 2010. The ministry of health in coordination with ministry of education had implemented an anti-tobacco program to increase awareness and change behaviors of students.

Table (24): Percentage of current smokers who want to quit smoking, Oman GYTS 2003, 2007, 2010

Current cigarettes smokers	Years	Boys	Girls	Total
Want to stop smoking now	2003	80.8 (45.8-95.5)	71.4 (34.2-92.3)	79.3 (48.9-93.3)
	2007	66.1 (38.1-86.1)	0.0	57.8 (30.7-80.9)
	2010	44.2 (15.6-77.3)	46.3 (4.5-94.1)	48.6 (21.0-86.2)
Tried to stop smoking during the last year	2003	75.2 (47.1-91.2)	60.0 (25.9-86.6)	71.9 (51.2-86.2)
	2007	54.3 (26.7-79.5)	73.0 (17.4-97.2)	61.3 (31.3-84.6)
	2010	58.9 (17.5-90.6)	100.0	61.7 (22.7-89.9)

Smoking is dangerous habit; if the smoker goes to addiction it will be so hard to take off from it. Table 24 shows that in 2003 survey, nearly eight in ten students want to stop smoking in that time, but this percentage decreases suddenly to around six in ten in 2007 survey and to five in ten in 2010 survey. The same is applied to who tried to stop smoking during past year of the survey which decreased from (72%) in 2003 to around (62%) in both 2007 and 2010. These issues should be addressed intensively in the health education programs and Ministry of health should have a clear plan to introduce quit smoking services in the health institutions.

Table (25): Percentage of students exposed to smoke at homes or in public places, Oman GYTS 2003, 2007 & 2010

Exposed to smoke	Year	Boys	Girls	Total
At home	2003	24.3 (16.4-34.4)	19.7 (13.8-27.3)	21.2 (16.4-34.4)
	2007	16.7 (12.7-21.8)	11.2 (8.1-15.3)	13.9 (11.2-17.1)
	2010	12.9 (9.1-18.0)	10.9 (7.9-14.8)	11.9 (9.7-14.6)
In places outside their home	2003	42.0 (35.4-48.8)	22.7 (17.5-29.0)	30.0 (25.2-35.3)
	2007	29.8 (24.5-35.8)	25.2 (20.6-30.3)	27.4 (23.4-31.8)
	2010	19.2 (27.3-13.1)	11.9 (15.4-9.1)	15.0 (11.6-19.2)

Exposure to environmental tobacco smoke is harmful to people's health especially young ones. The exposure to smoking inside home drops from (21.2%) in 2003 survey to around 12% in 2007 survey then to nearly (12%) in 2010 survey.

Also, there was slightly decrease of exposed of the smoking outside their homes between 2003 and 2007 survey from (30%) to (27.4%). Moreover, there was a sharp fell to (15% in) 2010 survey. This could be referred to the issuing of a law for banning of smoking cigarettes in enclosed public places.

Table (26): Percentage of students aware of hazards of smoking by smoking status – Oman GYTS 2003, 2007 & 2010

Definitely think smoking cigarettes is harmful to them	Year	Boys	Girls	Total
Never smokers	2003	73.1 (63.9-80.6)	78.3 (71.3-83.9)	76.7 (71.3-81.4)
	2007	76.3 (71.1-80.8)	84.8 (79.6-88.9)	80.5 (75.9-84.5)
	2010	79.8 (74.5-84.2)	87.0 (84.3-89.4)	84.3 (80.5-87.4)
Current smokers	2003	59.7 (37.7-78.4)	**39.7 (13.1-74.2)	56.5 (36.4-74.6)
	2007	**65.5 (49.6-78.5)	**33.3 (4.0-85.6)	**57.0 (39.0-73.4)
	2010	**38.1 (16.4-65.8)	**0.0	**25.2 (11.3-47.0)

** Number of respondents (n) in this cell is less than 35
Figures in brackets are 95% confidence intervals

Health education and awareness programs can serve useful role in tobacco control. So, it is an important to our students to know the accurate face of the tobacco. By comparing results of the three rounds of the survey, Table 26 shows that never smokers who definitely think that smoking cigarettes is harmful to them are increased from (76.7%) in 2003 to (80.5%) in 2007 to 84.3% in 2010. On other hand, the current smokers who have the same thoughts had sharply dropped from approximately (57%) in 2003 and 2007 to (25.2%) in 2010

Table (27): Percentage of students aware of hazards of passive smoking by smoking status and percent who support smoking ban in public places– Oman GYTS 2003, 2007 & 2010

Definitely think smoke from other is harmful to them	Year	Boys	Girls	Total
Never smokers	2003	51.8 (45.2-58.4)	59.0 (53.0-64.8)	56.7 (52.0-61.3)
	2007	62.6 (57.4-67.6)	69.1 (62.1-75.3)	65.8 (61.1-70.1)
	2010	68.3 (61.3-74.5)	75.8 (71.4-76.6)	72.8 (69.0-76.3)
Current smokers	2003	24.7 (7.9-55.6)	33.3** (7.1-76.6)	26.0 (10.1-52.2)
	2007	48.9** (26.6-71.7)	72.3** (35.9-92.4)	55.0** (33.1-75.2)
	2010	52.8** (22.4-81.2)	38.8** (4.8-88.8)	43.9** (21.8-68.8)
Percent who think smoking should be banned in public places	2003	84.5 (79.2-88.7)	90.3 (86.6-93.1)	88.2 (85.0-90.7)
	2007	79.2 (74.3-84.5)	83.4 (76.6-88.5)	81.3 (76.7-85.2)
	2010	66.2 (72.3-59.5)	82.1 (85.8-77.6)	75.9 (70.4-80.5)

Table 27 shows the attitude towards the passive smoking. It shows that the never smokers who think that the passive smokes is harm to them rise slightly from (56.7%) in 2003 to (65.8%) in 2007 to (72.8%) in 2010. It shows also duple increase in current smokers who think that passive smoking is harmful from (26%) in 2003 to (55%) in 2007 survey, but it decreased to (44%) in 2010. Moreover, the percentage of those think smoking should be banned in public places has decreased from 88.2% in 2003 to (81.3%) in 2007 and reached (75%) in 2010.

Table (28): Percentage of students exposed to media and advertisement related to tobacco – Oman GYTS 2003, 2007 & 2010

Statement	During the past month			Have an object with a cigarette brand logo on it
	Saw any anti-smoking messages	Saw any advertisement for cigarettes on billboards	Saw any adv. for cigarettes in newspapers or magazines	
2003				
Boys	76.6 (72.8-80.1)	70.7 (63.9-76.8)	66.5 (60.6-71.9)	11.4 (7.8-16.5)
Girls	71.4 (67.6-74.9)	58.3 (52.5-63.8)	61.7 (56.0-67.1)	8.8 (7.3-10.5)
Total	73.7 (70.8-76.3)	63.1 (58.8-67.2)	63.6 (59.7-67.3)	9.8 (8.0- 12.0)
2007				
Boys	73.0 (69.0-76.7)	59.6 (54.7-64.4)	58.6 (54.5-62.6)	11.9 (9.2-15.3)
Girls	76.9 (68.3-83.8)	69.0 (63.4-74.0)	72.1 (63.9-79.0)	12.5 (9.8-15.9)
Total	75.1 (70.2-79.5)	64.3 (59.2-69.1)	65.4 (59.1-71.3)	12.4 (10.5-14.6)
2010				
Boys	79.8 (72.8-85.3)	66.3 (61.7-70.8)	55.6 (47.2-63.6)	14.9 (10.3-20.9)
Girls	82.3 (77.2-86.5)	62.2 (56.1-68.3)	60.2 (54.0-66.0)	7.0 (4.5-10.8)
Total	81.5 (77.4-85.0)	64.0 (59.8-68.2)	58.2 (54.0 – 62.4)	10.5 (8.1-13.5)

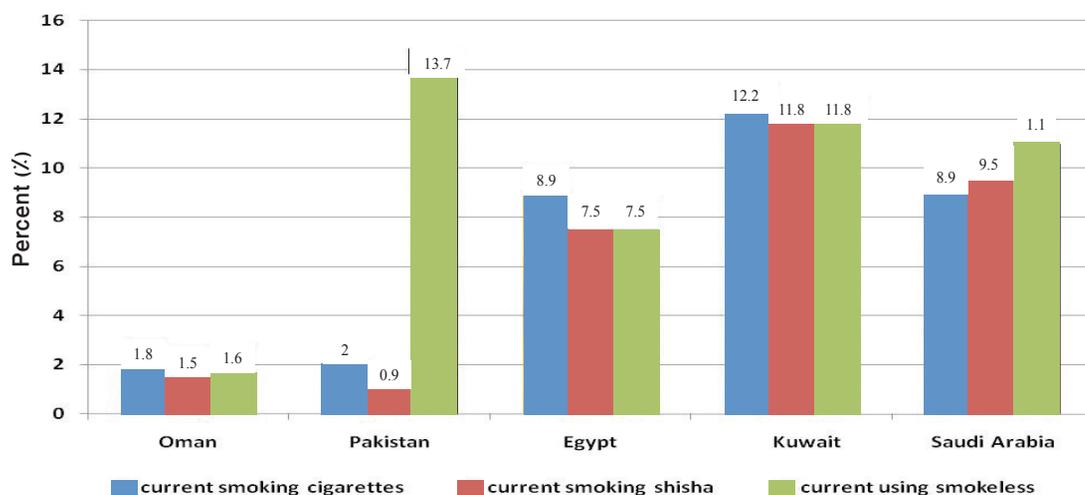
The advertisement is one of the most important methods that tobacco companies rely on to influence the people in general and young people in particular. It usually inspires children and youth that smokers are more attractive. Table 28 shows that although there is a reduction of the percentage of students who saw any advertisement for cigarettes in newspapers or magazines from (65.4%) in 2007 to (58.2%) in 2010 and those had an object with cigarette brand logo on it from (12.4%) in 2007 to (10.5%) in 2010, but still there is a strong evidence for a need for a total ban on tobacco advertisement in Oman.

The table also shows that the percentage of students who saw anti-tobacco messages has increased from (73.7%) in 2003 to (75.1%) in 2007 to (81.5%) in 2010. There is a need to study how effective these messages in changing attitude and behaviors of students.

Comparison of smoking in Oman compared to some EMR member states

The GYTS was conducted in different countries in Eastern Mediterranean Region.(EMR) Figure (3) summaries the GYTS results in Oman compared to other EMRO countries

Figure (3): Percentage of students aged 13-15 yrs who use tobacco in some of EMR member state, GYTS Survey (2009-2010)



It shows that among the five EMR member states, Oman had the lowest prevalence rates in tobacco use except current water pipe (shisha) smoking which was Pakistan was the lowest (0.9%). Oman and Pakistan had approximately same prevalence of current cigarettes and current water pipe (shisha) smoking, but current smokeless tobacco is much higher in Pakistan than Oman

Recommendations

- There is a need for a national legislation on tobacco control based on the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.
- Further increase of tobacco taxes., since the last increase of taxes was in the year 2000
- Introduction of the cessation services in MOH institutions
- Continuation of the ongoing anti-smoking campaigns which focus on protecting young people.
- Banning presence of tobacco shops within half kilometer in school area
- Ban all forms of tobacco advertisement, promotion, and sponsorship in Oman

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GYTS QUESTIONNAIRE – OMAN

GYTS QUESTIONNAIRE – OMAN

THE NEXT TEN QUESTIONS ASK ABOUT YOUR USE OF TOBACCO.

1. Have you ever tried or experimented with cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs?

- a. Yes
- b. No

2. How old were you when you first tried a cigarette?

- a. I have never smoked cigarettes
- b. 7 years old or younger
- c. 8 - 9 years old
- d. 10 - 11 years old
- e. 12 - 13 years old
- f. 14 - 15 years old
- g. 16 years old or older

3. During the past 30 days (one month., on how many days did you smoke cigarettes?

- a. 0 days
- b. 1 or 2 days
- c. 3 to 5 days
- d. 6 to 9 days
- e. 10 to 19 days
- f. 20 to 29 days
- g. All 30 days

4. During the past 30 days (one month., on the days you smoked, how many cigarettes did you usually smoke?

- a. I did not smoke cigarettes during the past 30 days
- b. Less than 1 cigarette per day
- c. 1 cigarette per day
- d. 2 to 5 cigarettes per day
- e. 6 to 10 cigarettes per day
- f. 11 to 20 cigarettes per day
- g. More than 20 cigarettes per day

5. During past 30 days (one month., how did you usually get your own cigarettes? (SELECT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.

- q. I did not smoke cigarettes during

the past 30 days

- b. I bought them in a store, shop or from a street vendor
- c. I gave someone else money to buy them for me
- d. I borrowed them from someone else
- e. I take it without permission
- f. An older person gave them to me
- g. I got them some other way

6. During the past 30 days (one month., what brand of cigarettes did you usually smoke? (SELECT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.

I did not smoke cigarettes during the past 30 days.

No usual brand

Marlboro

Dunhill

Rothmans

L&M

Light

Other

7. How much do you usually pay for a pack of 20 cigarettes?

- a. I don't smoke cigarettes
- b. I don't buy cigarettes, or I don't buy them in packs
- c. 200 Biasa
- d. 300 Biasa
- e. 400 Biasa
- f. 500 Biasa
- g. 600 Biasa
- h. More than 600 Biasa

8. During the past 30 days (one month., did anyone ever refuse to sell you cigarettes because of your age?

- a. I did not try to buy cigarettes during the past 30 days (one month.
- b. Yes, someone refused to sell me cigarettes because of my age
- c. No, my age did not keep me from buying cigarettes

9. Where do you usually smoke cigarettes? (SELECT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.)

- a. I have never smoked cigarettes.
- b. At home
- c. At school
- d. At friend's house
- e. At social events
- f. In closed public places (e.g malls, coffee shops, cinema, etc.
- g. Other

10. Do you have a cigarette or feel like having a cigarette first thing in the morning?

- a. I have never smoked cigarettes.
- b. I'm not smoking now
- c. No
- d. Yes, sometimes
- e. Yes, daily

THE NEXT QUESTIONS ASK ABOUT YOUR USE OF SHISHA.

11. Have you ever tried or experimented with smoking shisha, even once?

- a. Yes
- b. No

12. How old were you when you first tried smoking shisha?

- a. I have never tried smoking shisha
- b. 7 years old or younger
- c. 8 - 9 years old
- d. 10 - 11 years old
- e. 12 - 13 years old
- f. 14 - 15 years old
- g. 16 years old or older

13. During the past 30 days (one month., on how many days did you smoke shisha?

- a. 0 days
- b. 1 to 2 days
- c. 3 to 5 days
- d. 6 to 9 days
- e. 10 to 19 days
- f. 20 to 29 days
- g. All 30 days

14. During the past 30 days (one month., on the days you smoked, how many shisha rocks (hagar. did you usually smoke?

- a. I did not smoke shisha during the past 30 days (one month.
- b. Less than 1 rock (hagar. per day
- c. 1 rock (hagar. per day
- d. 2 to 5 rock (hagar. per day
- e. More than the above

15. Where do you usually smoke shisha? (SELECT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.)

- a. I have never smoked shisha
- b. At home
- c. At a coffee shop
- d. At a restaurant
- e. At a club
- f. Other

16. During the past 30 days (one month., did anyone ever refuse to serve you shisha because of your age?

- a. I did not try to get shisha served to me
- b. Yes, someone refused to serve me shisha because of my age
- c. No, my age did not keep me from being served shisha

THE NEXT QUESTIONS ASK ABOUT YOUR USE OF smokeless tobacco

17. Have you ever tried or experimented with smokeless tobacco, even once?

- c. Yes
- d. No

18. How old were you when you first tried smokeless tobacco?

- a. I have never tried smokeless tobacco
- b. 7 years old or younger
- c. 8 - 9 years old
- d. 10 - 11 years old
- e. 12 - 13 years old
- f. 14 - 15 years old
- g. 16 years old or older

19. During the past 30 days (one month., on how many days did you use smokless tobacco?

- a. 0 days
- b. 1 to 2 days
- c. 3 to 5 days
- d. 6 to 9 days
- e. 10 to 19 days
- f. 20 to 29 days
- g. All 30 days

20. Where do you usually use chewing tobacco, snuff?

- a. I have never used chewing tobacco, snuff
- b. At home
- c. At school
- d. At the club
- e. Public places
- f. Other

21. During the past 30 days (one month., how did you usually get your own chewing tobacco or snuff? (SELECT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.

- a. I did not use chewing tobacco or snuff during the past 30 days
- b. I bought them in a store, shop or from a street vendor
- c. I gave someone else money to buy them for me
- d. I borrowed them from someone else.
- e. I take them without permission
- f. An older person gave them to me.
- g. I got them some other way.

22. During the past 30 days (one month., did anyone ever refuse to sell you chewing tobacco or snuff because of your age?

- a. I don't buy chewing tobacco or snuff
- b. Yes, someone refused to sell me because of my age.
- c. No, my age did not keep me from buying chewing tobacco or snuff

23. During the past 30 days (one month., how much do you think you spent on all tobacco (cigrates, shisha,... ?

- a. I don't use tobacco
- b. I don't buy my tobacco
- c. 6 Omani Rials
- d. 9 Omani Rials
- e. 12 Omani Rials
- f. 15 Omani Rials
- g. 18 Omani Rials
- h. More than 18 Omani Rials

THE NEXT QUESTIONS ASK ABOUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES TOWARD TOBACCO.

24. Do your parents smoke cigarettes?

- a. None
- b. Both
- c. Father only
- d. Mother only
- e. I don't know

25. Do your parents smoke shisha?

- b. None
- c. Both
- d. Father only
- e. Mother only
- f. I don't know

26. Does anyone in your house other than your parents smoke cigarettes?

- a. Yes
- b. No

27. Does anyone in your house other than your parents smoke shisha?

- a. Yes
- b. No

28. Does smoking help people feel more comfortable at celebrations, parties, or in other social gatherings?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. No difference from non-smokers

29. Do you think cigarettes smoking makes boys look more or less attractive?

- a. More attractive
- b. Less attractive
- c. No difference from non-smokers

30. Do you think cigarettes smoking makes girls look more or less attractive?

- a. More attractive
- b. Less attractive
- c. No difference from non-smokers

31. Do you think that cigarettes smoking makes you gain or lose weight?

- a. Gain weight
- b. Lose weight
- c. No difference

32. Do you think shisha smoking makes boys look more or less attractive?

- a. More attractive
- b. Less attractive
- c. No difference from non-smokers

33. Do you think shisha smoking makes girls look more or less attractive?

- a. More attractive
- b. Less attractive
- c. No difference from non-smokers

34. Do you think that shisha smoking makes you gain or lose weight?

- a. Gain weight
- b. Lose weight
- c. No difference

35. Do you think cigarette smoking is harmful to your health?

- a. Definitely not
- b. Probably not
- c. Probably yes
- d. Definitely yes

36. Do you think that smoking shisha harms your health?

- a. Definitely not
- b. Probably not
- c. Probably yes
- d. Definitely yes

37. Do you think that smoking shisha less harmer than smoking cigarettes?

- a. Less harmer
- b. More harmer
- c. Same harmer

38. Do you think that Using smokeless tobacco harms your health?

- a. Definitely not
- b. Probably not
- c. Probably yes
- d. Definitely yes

39. Do any of your closest friends smoke cigarettes?

- a. None of them
- b. Some of them
- c. Most of them
- d. All of them

40. Do any of your closest friends smoke shisha?

- a. None of them
- b. Some of them
- c. Most of them
- d. All of them

41. If one of your best friends offered you a cigarette, would you smoke it?

- a. Definitely not
- b. Probably not
- c. Probably yes
- d. Definitely yes

42. If one of your best friends offered you a shisha, would you smoke it?

- a. Definitely not
- b. Probably not
- c. Probably yes
- d. Definitely yes

43. At any time during the next 12 months do you think you will smoke a cigarette?

- a. Definitely not
- b. Probably not
- c. Probably yes
- d. Definitely yes

44. At any time during the next 12 months do you think you will smoke shisha?

- a. Definitely not
- b. Probably not
- c. Probably yes
- d. Definitely yes

45. At any time during the next 12 months do you think you will use smokeless tobacco?

- a. Definitely not
- b. Probably not
- c. Probably yes
- d. Definitely yes

46. When you see a man smoking what do you think of him? (SELECT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.)

- a. Lacks confidence
- b. Weak
- c. Loser
- d. Successful
- e. Intelligent
- f. Strong

47. When you see a woman smoking, what do you think of her? (SELECT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.)

- a. Lacks confidence
- b. Weak
- c. Loser
- d. Successful
- e. Intelligent
- f. Strong

48. Do you think it is safe to smoke for only a year or two as long as you quit after that?

- a. Definitely not
- b. Probably not
- c. Probably yes
- d. Definitely yes

THE NEXT QUESTIONS ASK ABOUT YOUR EXPOSURE TO OTHER PEOPLE'S SMOKING.

49. Do you think the smoke from other people's cigarettes is harmful to you?

- a. Definitely not
- b. Probably not
- c. Probably yes
- d. Definitely yes

50. Do you think the smoke from other people's shisha is harmful to you?

- a. Definitely not
- b. Probably not
- c. Probably yes
- d. Definitely yes

51. During the past 7 days, in how many days have people smoked (cigarettes or shesha. in your home, in your presence?

- a. 0 day
- b. 1 to 2 days
- c. 3 to 4 days
- d. 5 to 6 days
- e. 7 days

52. During the past 7 days, in how many days have people smoked (cigarettes or shesha. in your presence, in places other than in your home?

- a. 0 day
- b. 1 to 2 days
- c. 3 to 4 days
- d. 5 to 6 days
- e. 7 days

53. Are you in favor of banning smoking cigarettes in public places (such as in restaurants, malls, on playgrounds,....?)

- a. Yes
- b. No

54. Are you in favor of banning shisha smoking in public places (such as in restaurants, malls, on playgrounds,?)

- a. Yes
- b. No

55. Do you want to stop smoking cigarettes now?

- a. I have never smoked cigarettes
- b. I do not smoke cigarettes now
- c. Yes
- d. No

56. Do you want to stop shisha smoking now?

- a. I have never smoked shisha
- b. I do not smoke shisha now
- c. Yes
- d. No

57. During the past year, have you ever tried to stop smoking cigarettes?

- a. I have never smoked cigarettes
- b. I did not smoke cigarettes during the past year
- c. Yes
- d. No

58. Do you think you would be able to stop smoking cigarettes if you wanted to?

- a. I have never smoked cigarettes
- b. I have already stopped smoking cigarettes
- c. Yes
- d. No

59. Do you want to stop smoking shisha now?

- a. I have never smoked shisha
- b. I do not smoke shisha now
- c. Yes
- d. No

60. During the past year, have you ever tried to stop smoking shisha?

- a. I have never smoked shisha
- b. I did not smoke shisha during the past year
- c. Yes
- d. No

61. Have you ever received help or advice to help you stop smoking cigarettes? (SELECT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.)

- a. I have never smoked cigarettes
- b. Yes, from a program or professional
- c. Yes, from a friend
- d. Yes, from a family member
- e. Yes, from both programs or professionals and from friends or family members
- f. No

62. Have you ever received help or advice to help you stop smoking shisha? (SELECT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.)

- a. I have never smoked cigarettes
- b. Yes, from a program or professional
- c. Yes, from a friend
- d. Yes, from a family member
- e. Yes, from both programs or professionals and from friends or family members
- f. No

THE NEXT QUESTIONS ASK ABOUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF MEDIA MESSAGES ABOUT SMOKING.

63. During the past 30 days (one month., how many anti-smoking media messages (e.g., television, radio, billboards, posters, newspapers, magazines, movies. have you seen or heard?

- a. A lot
- b. A few
- c. None

64. During the past 30 days (one month., how many anti- shisha smoking media messages (e.g., television, radio, billboards, posters, newspapers, magazines, movies. have you seen or heard?

- a. A lot
- b. A few
- c. None

65. When you go to sports events, fairs, concerts, community events, or social gatherings, how often do you see anti-smoking messages?

- a. I never go to sports events, fairs, concerts, community events, or social gatherings
- b. A lot
- c. Sometimes
- d. Never

66. When you watch TV, videos, or movies, how often do you see actors smoking?

- a. I never watch TV, videos, or movies
- b. A lot
- c. Sometimes
- d. Never
- e.
- f.

67. Do you have something (t-shirt, pen, backpack, etc.. with a cigarette brand logo on it?

- a. Yes
- b. No

68. During the past 30 days (one month., how many advertisements for cigarettes have you seen at point of sale?

- a. A lot
- b. A few
- c. None

69. During the past 30 days (one month., how many advertisements or promotions for cigarettes have you seen in newspapers or magazines?

- a. A lot
- b. A few
- c. None

70. When you go to sports events, fairs, concerts, or community events, how often do you see advertisements for cigarettes?

- a. I never attend sports events, fairs, concerts, or community events
- b. A lot
- c. Sometimes
- d. Never

71. Has a cigarette representative ever offered you a free cigarette?

- a. Yes
- b. No

72. During past and current school year, were you taught in any of your classes about the dangers of smoking?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure

73. During past and current school year, did you discuss in any of your classes the reasons why people your age smoke?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure

74. Are there any stores selling cigarettes and other tobacco products in your school area (around half k.m..?)

- d. Yes
- e. No
- f. Not sure

THE next QUESTIONS ASK FOR SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT YOURSELF.

75. How old are you?

- a. 11 years old or younger
- b. 12 years old
- c. 13 years old
- d. 14 years old
- e. 15 years old
- f. 16 years old
- g. 17 years old or older

76. What is your sex?

- a. Male
- b. Female

77. In what grade are you?

- a. 8th
- b. 9th
- c. 10th

78. What is your nationality?

- a. Omani
- b. Non Omani

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