

CANCER AMONG RURAL MEN DUE TO USE OF TOBACCO – A FCM ANALYSIS

W.B. Vasantha Kandasamy, K. Nirmala and R. Nallasamy

Howard K.Koh, Christine Kannler and Alan G.Geller have studied about tobacco related cancers in the United States of America. They claim that tobacco and tobacco smoke contains at least 4000 chemicals of which 55 are known carcinogens identified by the International Agency for Research Cancer. In this paper we have investigated the relation between use of tobacco and cancer of tongue, salivary gland, pharynx, larynx and lungs of 121 male patients from rural areas who belong to an economically poor status. Of these 121 male patients, 36 suffer from tongue cancer, 8 from salivary gland cancer, 24 from pharynx cancer, 40 from lung cancer and 13 from larynx cancer.

All the 121 of them had used tobacco both as cigar and spit tobacco. Of the 121, 60 of them acknowledged that they had used tobacco and smokeless tobacco. These men were agricultural coolies from the near by villages of Thanjavur; and they were taking treatment from the Thanjavur Medical College Hospital. The use of tobacco by them is social and psychological problem. We use Fuzzy Cognitive Maps (FCMs) to study the cancer among these men.

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e-mail: vasanthakandasamy@gmail.com

web: http://mat.iitm.ac.in/wbv/public_html/home.htm

The main conclusions derived from our analysis are;

- a. The habit of smoking induces ETS and consumption of alcohol and lung cancer. Throat cancer and cancer related to stomach are also caused.
- b. Spit tobacco causes cancer of oral cavity, throat and mouth.
- c. However there is no relation between a person who smokes and uses spit tobacco.

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