PREVALENCE OF TOBACCO RELATED CANCERS AMONG RURAL MEN USING FCM

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 on Cancer. In this paper we have investigated the relation between use of tobacco and cancers 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 suffer 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 (The term spit tobacco is used for both snuff and chewing of tobacco as it requires continual expectoration. We also use the term for the snuff and chewing tobacco as smokeless tobacco). Of the 121, 60 of them acknowledged that they had used tobacco and snuff. These men were agricultural coolies from the near-by villages of Tanjore; they were taking treatment from the Tanjore
Medical College Hospital. The use of tobacco by them is social and psychological problem as there is no rhyme or reason for using tobacco products we are at the outset justified in using Fuzzy Cognitive Maps (FCMs) to analyse it. Now using FCM we analyse the types of cancer they suffer due to use of tobacco. Also we analyse the cause for using smokeless tobacco and cigars. The smokeless tobacco is mainly used as an addiction to keep themselves dazed and free from hunger (due to poverty they cannot afford even a square meal a day) and do the work mechanically without any problem. On the other hand the agricultural coolies who use cigars do it as a masculine identification and they are mostly persons with all bad habits. Further from our study we suggest that these persons must be tested for other types of cancer also. For these cases were reported to suffer only from one type of cancer but it may be most likely they may certainly suffer from more than one type of cancer. So it is suggested that they are scanned for all the tobacco related cancers though only they suffer from one of them. Further the tobacco related cancer can be completely eradicated by banning the use of tobacco.