

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR TOBACCO USERS IN INDIA

By

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## **ABSTRACT**

Tobacco consumption in multiple forms presents an emerging, significant and growing threat to the health of Indian adolescents, especially those who are from low socio-economic communities. According to the world health organisation (WHO), Tobacco is the Second most important cause of death in the world. It is currently estimated to be responsible for about 5million deaths each year worldwide. In India it is responsible for 8 lakh deaths per year. One way to circumvent this problem is to ensure that households have access to formal health insurance. However, Health insurance penetration in India is very low. Thus, the main objective of this paper is to understand the propensity of health insurance for tobacco users In India. We try to find out the role of household asset, occupation, socioeconomic characteristics, and education in explaining the use of health insurance in India. The national Family health survey-3(2005-06) data has been used for the study. The major finding of this study is as follows: Firstly, Households' assets exert a positive and significant effect on the use of health insurance. Richest households are more likely to use health insurance than poorer households. Secondly, education of household head is important in determining the use of health insurance in India. The likelihood of using health insurance of a household increases with the increase in the education of the household head. Thirdly, demographic profiles of households exert little or no effect on the probability of a household using health insurance.