

# Review of: "Signboards prohibiting tobacco sale within 100 yards of educational institutes: The appraisal of prohibition compliance and on-ground status of the COTPA Act, 2003 in Chanakyapuri Division of New Delhi Revenue District, the administrative precinct of India."

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This manuscript examines the levels of compliance in application of COTPA Act signboards in 62 educational institutions in New Delhi. A mapping observational methodology was used to identify if signs had been erected within 100 yards of schools with GPS coordinates and photographs taken, while vendors selling tobacco products were identified. Study findings identified low compliance - only 27 of 62 educational institutes had signboards located in conspicuous places outside of premises, with sub-optimal enforcement of vendors selling tobacco products within the stipulated areas of schools. The study conforms to other signage studies conducted in precincts of India which identified varying levels of compliance in the correct placement of signs and enforcement of tobacco sales regulations. Recommendations include stronger regulations of cigarettes and tobacco products in New Delhi and an increase in the seriousness of consequences for tobacco sales to minors considered. Additionally, educational institutions should be regularly checked for compliance. Given the numerous other COTPA signage studies conducted with similar findings and recommendations, the scientific value of this manuscript is low. If accepted, minor amendments should also be done to improve English grammar.