

Review of: "Correlates of Nicotine Dependence Among Current Cigarette Smokers in Nigeria"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this article on a very important topic that needs more such discussions. Use of tobacco has over the past few decades shifted towards middle-income and low-income countries. So, while the EU and Western societies are showing progressively lesser use of tobacco and its consequent effects, the same is gradually impacting other societies. The authors have rightfully chosen to understand the reasons for nicotine dependence among smokers in the studied community. A few questions remain:

1. Have the authors followed any sampling methodology for the participants that is grossly skewed towards a predominance of males? Would this study then be applicable to the community comprising the reference population?
2. The definitions or explanations of internalising and externalising problems need to be included in the methodology of the manuscript and removed from the discussion.
3. There are certain findings which almost make for a foregone conclusion after decades of studies on the harmful effects of tobacco in scientific studies, such as those who are heavy smokers would show more nicotine dependence; the older patients have higher odds of moderate or high levels of nicotine dependence, probably because they started smoking early in life when adverse effects of tobacco smoke were not well-known; a higher proportion of males in the study has likely been seen as a higher proportion of males who are nicotine dependent; those who perceive cigarettes as harmless have more odds to have nicotine dependence. If such studies have not been conducted in the community where the sample population is sourced from, then there is merit and applicability in the study.
4. The authors may well compare their findings in a detailed manner with numerous such studies in the scientific literature in the discussion part of the manuscript. This would help readers to make comparisons with their own communities and apply the lessons of this study fruitfully.