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## CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE

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**Effective use of Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 to protect minors from the tobacco use: A case Study from Punjab****Rakesh K Gupta**

Department of Health &amp; Family Welfare, India

**Objectives:** In COPD patients, inhalers misuse is a common problem in real life. The objective is to evaluate if the patients' beliefs about inhaled medication are associated with inhaler technique.

**Background:** Government of India has passed Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act 2015 (JJ Act) which has become enforceable from January 15, 2016 across whole of India. According to Section 77 of this Act says that, "Whoever gives, or causes to be given, to any child any intoxicating liquor or any narcotic drug or tobacco products or psychotropic substance, except on the order of a duly qualified medical practitioner, shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to a fine which may extend up to one lakh rupees".

**Methods:** A complaint was received by the State Tobacco Control cell, Punjab regarding the sale of Tobacco products to minor in Jalandhar district of Punjab on 30th May 2017. A meeting was held to constitute a special team for the enforcement drive on 31st May 2017. A decoy customer was identified to nab the violator.

**Results:** On 31st May 2017, Tobacco Vendor was hauled under Juvenile Justice Act for selling cigarettes to a minor (decoy). FIR was lodged against the vendor under section 77 of Juvenile Justice Act.

**Conclusion:** Strict implementation of Juvenile Justice Act will definitely reduce the tobacco usage among children. Strong interdepartmental co-ordination, regular enforcements drives, Awareness activities are the reinforcers in deterring young children and youth from initiation and also motivate current users to quit.

**Biography**

Rakesh K Gupta is the Deputy Director, Non-Communicable Diseases, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Punjab. He has expertise in managing National Non-Communicable Diseases Programs especially Blindness Control/Tobacco Control Programs and has professional experience of 33 years in service.

rakesh60.mahajan@gmail.com

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