

## **Extended Abstract**

### **Analysis of Tobacco Control Policy with System Approach: Smokeless World for Young People in Turkey**

#### **Introduction**

In this study, tobacco control policy which apply in Turkey to reduce and prevent youth tobacco use in the 13-15 age group is analyzed based on System Approach. In the study; it is claimed that elements of tobacco control policy need to be well analyzed and changes over time in the relationship between policy elements and outcomes should be monitored for reduce and prevent to youth tobacco use in the group of 13-15 age. When the number of young people using tobacco and the number of young people who want to start using tobacco products are taken into consideration, it is seen that the study deals with the problem related to a significant part of the society.

In this study, which is prepared for the purpose of contribute to the effective execution of Turkey's tobacco control policy and contribute reducing the harm that tobacco use causes to individuals, families and society, firstly methodology of the study is explained. Then which model is used in the research is explained and tobacco control policy in Turkey is analyzed in the framework of system approach one of which is to reduce and prevent young people tobacco use in the 13-15 age group. Following this analysis, the findings of the research are discussed and a general evaluation of the study is made.

#### **Methods**

In order to produce answers to the above-mentioned questions of the study, strategy documents, activity reports, media reports on policy formulation and implementation process, news, announcements and activity reports published by national and international non-governmental organizations, which are among the policy stakeholders, as well as other research reports, related legislation and scientific publications have been scrupulously examined. In addition, many national and international books, journals and official statistics were reviewed and compared. In addition to this, many domestic and foreign publications were screened for analysis of application examples in other countries.

#### **Discussion**

In Turkey, the percentage of smokers' young people aged 13-15 years has been reducing between 2003 and 2017 years. This positive change shows that tobacco control policy has positive results in reducing and preventing smoking among young

people in the 13-15 age group. In this case, it can be said that increasing tax rates, especially in cigarette products, is effective for reducing and preventing cigarette use. The proportion of those currently using a tobacco product and those who smoke wrapped cigarettes or other tobacco products tends to increase between the 13-15 age group between 2003 and 2017 years. This proves that the downward trend is only for cigarette use between the ages of 13-15. In addition, it is observed that the prevalence of frequent smoking among men in the 13-15 age group has started to increase between 2003 and 2017 years. The increasing of the percentage of men who are currently using a tobacco product and of men who are smoking wrapped cigarettes or other tobacco products is remarkable too.

The rate of men who use other tobacco products in the 13-15 age group in Turkey is rank first in Europe and third in the World. The rate of nargile use in this age group in Turkey is rank the 4<sup>th</sup> in Europe and 10<sup>th</sup> in the world. These data show that the measures in the tobacco control policy related to the use of hookah, wrapped cigarettes and other tobacco products haven't got enough effect for young people in the 13-15 age group.

## **Results**

Results of this study show that Turkey's tobacco control policy has produced successful results in reducing cigarettes use in youth in the 13-15 age group but there are some deficiencies in reducing and preventing the use of other tobacco products among young people in this age group. In addition, it was determined in this study that efforts about prevent the access of young people in the 13-15 age group to tobacco products and efforts to help them quit to smoking were inadequate. In addition, this analysis shows that the tools used to prevent these young people from being negatively affected by tobacco industry representatives are insufficient too. Results of this study show that for reduce and prevent to youth tobacco use in the group of 13-15 age in Turkey, elements of tobacco control policy need to be well analyzed and changes over time in the relationship between policy elements and outcomes should be monitored.