

Betel quid/Areca use in nations outside of south Asia

The population of immigrants from India alone was estimated to be over 2 million in 2013 and the total Asian immigrant population at approximately 13 million, and those estimates are for only the first generation immigrants. These people all come from lands of betel quid use, and many have brought that world with them. My experience with Parul, her family, and friends last weekend educated me as to how real and ongoing this problem is for many Indian people and that, as in Asia, many do not even perceive it as a problem but just part of their normal world here as it was in India. Clare visited the local Indian store here in Gainesville and took pictures of items on the shelves that would account for everything you might want to make betel quids. Gutka is not sold openly but likely available to people who are trusted. I attach a couple of reprints on the ready availability of these products in Asian stores, including Chinese as well as Indian groceries.

I think virtually every immigrant from India, Southeast Asia Indonesia and the Philippines is aware of betel quid, and its presence in the Indian and Chinese grocery stores indicates that a substantial fraction use it in one form or another.

We are organizing a survey to try to get some actual numbers
>Roger Papke

Roger you are right. I have seen in Fremont, California Indian grocery stores Pan Parag being sold. Not only that the Indian TV channels advertises Pan Masaala. I have brought it to the attention of Mitch Zeller, FDA that the Indian Channel of Sony TV has such glamorous advertisements of Pan masala being regularly broadcasted which I am sure all the South East Asian population watches.

There are huge misconceptions and harmful beliefs that people have on the use of SLT in all forms. All these beliefs have traveled all over the world along with this population. So there is an added problem that makes it worse because of not knowing that the tobacco/betel quid is fatal.
> Mira B Aghi

There are reports of US labs that show that areca nut samples sold in US are containing serious adulteration. It is much easier to enforce there. Imagine, the havoc being caused in countries where lax regulation leads to all such misbranding and adulteration.
> Irene M. Tami-Maury

We know enough about AN's health effect. We also know that manufacturers world over are using harmful additives illegally. We all have some or the other existing laws under which these products can be regulated/prohibited. The physician community needs to build bridges with appropriate regulators. It is time to show them what we see. It is time to make them understand the grave consequences of their inaction.

A motivated regulator may do what all doctors of US and Canada put together can not do.
>Pankaj Chaturvedi