

### **Gender as a factor in disparities in betel quid/*Areca* use**

Smokeless tobacco has significantly increased among women aged 25-64 years between 2008 and 2014.

> Prakash C. Gupta

From my observations at most Indian gatherings if quid with/without betel nut is being passed out women and men both chew it. Even kids are encouraged to try it.

I've also noticed where there is a group of men, the gutka is also chewed and that seems to be encouraged just mostly among men. Gutka seems to be more of a masculine and peer pressure here in the US, from what I have witnessed within my largely Gujarati community within the younger age groups starting around 20.

These are just based on my personal experience.

> Parul Patel