

# Metabolic Syndrome and Its Associated Risk Factors and Morbidities Among Young Adults in Bhubaneswar: A Cross-Sectional Study

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DOI: 10.55489/njcm.160320254776

## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Metabolic syndrome is a combination of risk factors that increase the possibility of non-communicable diseases.

**Methods:** In this study, young adults, between the age of 18-35 years, were screened for signs and symptoms of MetS. The prevalence was estimated, various risk factors and morbidities were assessed.

**Results:** Out of 500 young adults, 69% were students and 30% were having jobs. 68% were sedentary, 6% were addicted to either/or alcohol and smoking. 55% preferred to eat fast food daily. 49% did less than 10 hours of physical activity per week. 47% slept for less than 6 hours and 38% of the young adults spent about 8-12 hours on internet. There is a significant difference in age group, literacy status, life style across the gender. Eating habits, fast food intake, physical activity, duration of sleep, BMI and waist circumference were significant risk factors. Hypertension, diabetes, cholesterol levels, low HDL-C and triglycerides contributed to development of MetS. Non-vegetarian eating habits, weekly fast-food intake, spending 8-12 hours online and sleeping less than 4-6 hours were high risk factors for developing Mets.

**Conclusion:** High prevalence, 25.4% (127) of MetS was observed among the young adults in this region.

**Keywords:** Metabolic Syndrome; risk factors; morbidities; young adults; Bhubaneswar

## ARTICLE INFO

**Financial Support:** None declared

**Conflict of Interest:** The authors have declared that no conflict of interests exists.

**Received:** 16-10-2024, **Accepted:** 07-02-2025, **Published:** 01-03-2025

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**How to cite this article:** Dash M, Sadangi S, Barik BS, Barik M, Hussain NA, Hussain T, Pati S. Metabolic Syndrome and Its Associated Risk Factors and Morbidities Among Young Adults in Bhubaneswar: A Cross-Sectional Study. Natl J Community Med 2025;16(3):261-270. DOI: 10.55489/njcm.160320254776

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www.njcmindia.com | pISSN: 0976-3325 | eISSN: 2229-6816 | Published by Medsci Publications

## INTRODUCTION

Metabolic syndrome (MetS) is a severe condition that affects about 23 percent of adults. Worldwide, Indians are more prone for MetS and Diabetes than any other population.<sup>1-3</sup> As standards of living have improved in India, more and more people are adopting western dietary patterns unsuitable for our climate and habitat, leading a sedentary manner of living and are susceptible to psycho-social stress. This has caused an unparalleled increase of MetS to epidemic dimensions over past decades in our country. MetS is a combination of adverse conditions that increase the possibility of emerging chronic diseases namely type 2 diabetes, dyslipidemia, cardiovascular disease, stroke, hepatic steatosis and other circulatory disorders.<sup>4-7</sup> MetS is a group of metabolic disorders that includes central obesity, hypertension, hyperglycemia and dyslipidemia and promotes the progress of cardiovascular diseases and type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM).

Many conventions were proposed for diagnosis of MetS by distinct organizations like WHO (World Health Organization), the NCEP-ATP III, the AHA/NHLBI and IDF during 1998-2009. The latest measure was introduced by IDF; AHA/NHLBI; WHF; IAS; and IASO in 2009 due to the deliberations and disputes on definition of MetS. These include >130/85 mm Hg or more of blood pressure, >150 mg/dl of triglyceride levels, >100 mg/dl of fasting blood glucose levels and <40 mg/dl (men) or <50 mg/dl (women) of high-density lipoprotein level (HDL) and >35 inches and >40 inches for women and men of waist circumference, respectively. Being overweight and/or obese, physically inactive, certain genetic factors and ageing are some of the basic risk factors of MetS.<sup>8,9</sup> Preceding by the middle adulthood stage, young adult stage is the most active and productive stage in life which is an ideal period for prevention of long term impact of MetS and its future morbidities including retinopathy, neuropathy, nephropathy and cardio vascular diseases.<sup>10,11</sup> With the incidence rate, severity and interplay of reduced insulin secretion in young adults, onset of MetS and diabetes are the emerging public health concerns in the present era.<sup>12-15</sup> MetS is escalating and prior glimpses of disease are evident in adolescents and young adults. Certain studies suggest that a substantial numeral of adolescents previously carry more than one risk factors for Met-S. Susceptibility to MetS risk factors in childhood and adolescence is correlated with disease progression in adulthood. Studies are, therefore, required to document the prevalence of MetS, Pre-diabetes and Diabetes among a population of young adults and then evaluate different prevention strategies. In this study, young adults, between the age of 18-35 years, either studying or working in various educational Institutes of Bhubaneswar were enrolled and screened for signs and symptoms of MetS, hypertension, obesity, pre-diabetes and Diabetes. They were pursuing advanced

courses like post-graduation or Ph.D. or working as project staff. This involves desk job and they spend a lot of time sitting throughout the day. The prevalence was estimated and various socio-demographic, physical, behavioral, biochemical risk factors and morbidities were assessed and they were advised for adopting healthy life style.

## METHODOLOGY

**Ethics approval:** Institutional Human Ethics Committee has reviewed and approved the detailed plan of study. Socio-demographic, behavioral, physical and biochemical data were documented after obtaining informed written consent using organized query. Blood samples were collected for screening from those eager to be registered in the study.

**Study procedure:** This comprehensive-rational trans-regional study was carried out during June,2021 to Dec.,2021 among young adults, either studying or working in various educational Institutes of Bhubaneswar. Sample size was calculated based on a population of 2000 employees using margin of error of 3.8%, as per study published earlier.<sup>16</sup> For a final sample size of 500 young adults, an extra 2% was included to adjust for non-responsive and missing data. In all, 540 young adults were enrolled in the study. Information on age, gender, marital and literacy status, occupation, life style, habits, physical activity, eating preferences, frequency of fast-food consumption, duration of sleep, time spent on internet, record of chronic diseases, family history and health check-up were collected. Complications at the time of interview were documented as well.

**Data collection:** Height and weight of the participants were measured upon removal of footwear and other accessories. Measuring tape was used for determining the waist circumference in a state of relaxation after expiration. Physical activity was assessed across three different spheres namely work, travel and during relaxation time as per the Global Physical Activity Questionnaire (GPAQ, WHO).<sup>17</sup>

**Biochemical measurements:** Every individual was subjected to biochemical tests and Blood pressure and Blood Glucose were used for measuring, respectively. For lipid profile, 5 ml of venous blood samples were collected from young adults after 10-12 hours fasting and serum was tested for various investigations.

### Operational definitions

**Metabolic syndrome:** Metabolic syndrome was defined using updated NCEP/ATP-III (National Cholesterol Education Program/Adult Treatment Panel-III) guidelines with modified waist circumference for Indians and IDF (International Diabetes Federation) criteria.<sup>3</sup>

**Hypertension:** Individuals were categorized as hypertensive if diagnosed by a physician and/or taking

anti-hypertensive drugs with a mean blood pressure of  $\geq 140$  mmHg /  $\geq 90$  mmHg.

**Pre-diabetes and diabetes:** Individuals were categorized as having pre-diabetes if diagnosed by a physician and/or taking anti-diabetic drugs with FBG levels of  $>110$ mg/dl and  $<126$ mg/dl for pre-diabetes and FBG levels of  $>126$ mg/dl for diabetes.

**Dyslipidemia:** Individuals were categorized as having dyslipidemia if serum triglyceride and cholesterol levels were  $\geq 200$  mg/dl ( $\geq 1.7$  mmol/l) and lipoprotein levels (HDL)  $<40$  mg/dl (men) or  $<50$  mg/dl (women).

**Body mass index (BMI):** Individuals with a BMI  $<25$  were considered to have normal weight while those with BMI  $\geq 25$  were considered overweight and Obesity was defined as BMI  $\geq 30$ .<sup>3</sup>

**Statistical Analysis:** IBM SPSS version, 25 was used for analysis of the results. Prevalence is reported with 95% confidence intervals with reference to the design effect. Pearson Chi-Square ( $\chi^2$ ) test, binary and multiple logistic regressions, crude odds ratios (cOR) and adjusted odds ratios (aOR) were used to determine the correlation between MetS and other dynamic features like demographic profile and risk factors. The IBM SPSS Statistics software guide's recommended methods produced the VIF results. For analytical significance,  $p < 0.05$  was chosen as the cut-off value.

**Approval of Institutional Ethical Committee:** Institutional Human Ethics Committee of ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India has reviewed and approved the detailed plan of study vide ICMR-RMRCB/IHEC-2020/037.

## RESULTS

In this study, 500 young adults, either studying or

working in various educational Institutes of Bhubaneswar were screened for Metabolic Syndrome and associated risk factors. The gender wise distribution of socio-demographic profile of the young adults is depicted in Table 1. Out of 500, 64% were females and 35% were males. The mean age of the participants was  $23.4 \pm 10.5$ . 69% of the participants in this study were students and 30% were having jobs. Among them, 68% were sedentary and 32% were active. There is a significant difference in age group, literacy status and life style across the gender but occupation and family history were not significant. The gender wise distribution of anthropometric characteristics and risk factors for various NCDs is depicted in Table 2. While 6% of the study participants consumed alcohol, smoked and/or chewed tobacco, yet only 73% were not having any addictive habits. While 67% of young adults were non-vegetarians, about 55% of them preferred to eat fast food daily whereas 31% preferred fast food every week. Majority, i.e., 38% of the young adults spent about 8-12 hours online while 25% spent more than 12 hours online. While 49% of the young adults did less than 10 hours of physical activity per week, 27% of them worked for 10-12 hours per week. Maximum, i.e., 47% slept for less than 6 hours.

While 23% were overweight and 13% were obese. 66% of the females and 52% of the males had wider waist circumference. The mean  $\pm$ SD waist circumference is 89.2% and this is a significant factor for MetS as per IDF (International Diabetes Federation) guidelines. Thus, eating habits, fast food intake, less physical activity, lesser duration of sleep, BMI and waist circumference were significantly different across gender whereas habits and time spent online had no influence on the metabolic syndrome among young adults.

The gender wise distribution of clinical profiles of the young adults is depicted in Table 3.

**Table 1: The gender-wise distribution of socio-demographic profile of young adults**

Parameters	Total (n = 500) (%)	Males (n = 176) (%)	Females (n = 324) (%)	p-value
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>				
18 - 23	39 (7.8)	19 (10.79)	20 (6.17)	0.031*
24 - 29	328 (65.6)	103 (58.52)	225 (69.44)	
30 - 35	133 (26.6)	54 (30.68)	79 (24.38)	
<b>Age Mean <math>\pm</math> SD</b>	23.46 $\pm$ 10.51	22.12 $\pm$ 12.05	23.37 $\pm$ 11.54	0.031#
<b>Literacy Status</b>				0.0001*
Secondary	31 (6.2)	21 (11.93)	10 (3.08)	
Graduation	212 (42.4)	77 (43.75)	135 (41.67)	
Above Graduation	257 (51.4)	78 (44.31)	179 (55.24)	
<b>Lifestyle</b>				0.002*
Active	159 (31.8)	71 (40.34)	88 (27.16)	
Sedentary	341 (68.2)	105 (59.65)	236 (72.83)	
<b>Profession</b>				0.559*
Student	349 (69.8)	124 (70.45)	225 (69.44)	
Job	151 (30.2)	52 (29.54)	99 (30.56)	
<b>Familial History</b>				0.370*
Yes	211 (42.2)	79 (44.88)	132 (40.74)	
No	289 (57.8)	97 (55.11)	192 (59.26)	

\*Chi-square test applied; #t test applied

**Table 2: The gender-wise distribution of risk factors among young adults**

Parameters	Total (n = 500) (%)	Males (n = 176) (%)	Females (n = 324) (%)	p-value
<b>Habits</b>				
Smoking	18 (3.6)	10 (5.68)	8 (2.46)	0.06
Alcohol	86 (17.2)	37 (21.02)	49 (15.12)	
All	31 (6.2)	12 (6.81)	19 (5.86)	
None	365 (73)	117 (66.47)	248 (76.54)	
<b>Eating Habits</b>				
Vegetarian	163 (32.6)	43 (24.43)	120 (37.03)	0.004
Non-vegetarian	337 (67.4)	133 (75.56)	204 (62.96)	
<b>Fast Food Intake</b>				
Daily	257 (55.8)	90 (51.13)	164 (50.61)	0.046
Weekly	159 (31.8)	56 (31.81)	103 (31.79)	
Monthly	36 (7.2)	13 (7.38)	26 (8.02)	
Occasionally	48 (9.6)	17 (9.65)	31 (9.56)	
<b>Time Spent on Internet</b>				
Up to 4 Hours	51 (10.2)	19 (10.79)	32 (9.87)	0.149
4-8 Hours	129 (25.8)	47 (26.70)	82 (25.30)	
8-12 Hours	193 (38.6)	79 (44.88)	114 (35.18)	
≥12 Hours	127 (25.4)	31 (17.61)	96 (29.60)	
<b>Physical Activity</b>				
≥10 Hours/week	249 (49.8)	79 (44.88)	170 (52.46)	0.022
10-12 Hours/week	137 (27.4)	51 (28.97)	86 (26.54)	
≥12 Hours/week	114 (22.8)	46 (26.13)	68 (20.98)	
<b>Duration of Sleep</b>				
≤6 Hours	235 (47)	103 (58.52)	132 (40.74)	0.001
6-8 Hours	119 (23.8)	41 (23.29)	78 (24.07)	
≥8 Hours	146 (29.2)	32 (18.18)	114 (35.18)	
<b>BMI</b>				
Underweight	29 (5.8)	11 (6.25)	18 (5.55)	0.006
Normal weight	285 (57)	103 (58.52)	182 (56.17)	
Overweight	117 (23.4)	44 (25)	73 (22.53)	
Obesity	69 (13.8)	18 (10.22)	51 (15.74)	
<b>Waist Circumference Mean ± SD</b>				
≤90 cm for males, ≤80 cm for females	89.20 ± 16.42	80.50 ± 13.89	93.56 ± 12.40	0.037
>90 cm for males, >80 cm for females	310 (62)	93 (52.84)	217 (66.97)	0.001
	190 (38)	83 (47.15)	107 (33.02)	

**Table 3: The gender-wise distribution of clinical profile among young adults**

Parameters	Total (n = 500) (%)	Males (n = 176) (%)	Females (n = 324) (%)	p-value
<b>Hypertension</b>				
Yes	126 (25.2)	33 (18.75)	93 (28.70)	0.014
No	374 (74.8)	143 (81.25)	231 (71.29)	
<b>Diabetes</b>				
Yes	11 (2.2)	8 (4.54)	3 (0.92)	0.001
No	489 (97.8)	168 (95.45)	321 (99.08)	
<b>Total Cholesterol Level</b>				
Yes	157 (31.4)	73 (41.47)	97 (29.93)	0.003
No	343 (68.6)	103 (58.52)	227 (70.07)	
<b>Low HDL-C (mg/dl)</b>				
Yes	108 (21.6)	41 (23.29)	67 (20.67)	0.039
No	392 (78.4)	135 (76.70)	257 (79.32)	
<b>Triglycerides</b>				
Yes	135 (27)	57 (32.38)	78 (24.07)	0.045
No	365 (73)	119 (67.61)	246 (75.93)	
<b>HDL-C (mg/dl)</b>				
Mean ± SD	33.10 ± 15.27	36.24 ± 13.55	33.44 ± 16.44	0.508
<b>Diastolic Blood Pressure</b>				
Mean ± SD	75.80 ± 18.38	75.74 ± 10.72	75.83 ± 10.72	0.203
<b>Systolic Blood Pressure</b>				
Mean ± SD	119.26 ± 13.88	119.23 ± 13.90	119.26 ± 13.92	0.02
<b>Glycemia</b>				
Mean ± SD	102.43 ± 12.83	102.44 ± 12.86	102.35 ± 12.80	0.001

Twenty-five percent of the young adults were having hypertension. 2% were having diabetes and 31% were having high cholesterol levels. The serum levels

of triglycerides were high among 27% of young adults. The mean HDL-C was 33.10±15.2, Systolic BP was 119.2±13.8 and Diastolic BP was 75.8±18.3. The

mean Blood glucose levels were  $102.4 \pm 12.8$  among the participants. Thus, hypertension, diabetes, total cholesterol levels, low HDL-C and triglycerides were significant risk factors across gender. The mean  $\pm$ SD for Systolic Blood pressure was 0.020 and Glycemia was 0.001. The Diastolic blood pressure and HDL-C did not seem to influence the MetS.

Table 4 depicts the prevalence of MetS and its components by age groups. In all, 14% of the young adults in the age group, 30-35 years, 8% in the age group 24-29 years and 2% in the age group 18-23 years were having MetS. Thus, the prevalence of MetS is 25.4% and the difference across age groups is statistically significant. Increased waist circumference (WC) was observed in the age group, 24-29 years among 25% each of the males and females indicating abdominal obesity. Further, among 176 men and 324 women, raised WC, raised triglycerides (TG), HDL-C, blood glucose levels (BG) and blood pressure (BP) were observed in the age group, 30-35 years. Thus, increased WC, TG, HDL-C, BG and BP all of which together contribute to MetS were significant risk factors among the study participants. The prevalence of MetS in males is 27.2% (48) and statistically significant (p-value = 0.042). The prevalence of low HDL-C, raised BG and raised BP shows a significant difference in the 30-35 years age group among males. The prevalence of MetS in females is 24.3% but not statistically significant. There is a significant difference in the prevalence of raised WC, raised TG levels, low HDL-C, raised BG, raised BP in the 30-35 years group in females. Table 5 shows the crude odds ratio and odds ratios (Exp(B)), confidence intervals and p-values of risk factors of MetS. Participants addicted to alcohol, smoking and/or chewing tobacco, had higher risk of MetS. With regards to eating habits, non-vegetarians have an increased risk of MetS. Longer sleep duration ( $\geq 8$  hours) is associated with reduced odds of MetS. Moderate to high physical activity seems protective against MetS but did not

show a significant association. This analysis reveals multiple risk factors contributing to MetS with alcohol consumption, BMI, physical activity and dietary habits playing significant roles.

Participants with BMI  $\geq 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>, waist circumference  $\geq 90$  cm for males and  $\geq 80$ cm for females, those who practice moderate intensity physical activity, those with hypertension, diabetes, Low HDL-Cholesterol shows a potential higher risk of MetS. Those with non-vegetarian eating habits and weekly fast food intake habits possess high risk of developing MetS. Those who spent 8-12 hours online and those who slept less than 4-6 hours also have shown a greater risk of MetS.

In men, the risk of MetS was higher among those who consumed alcohol, smoked and/or chewed tobacco than female, with 8-12 hours' time spending online and among those having hypertension or diabetes.

In women, the risk of MetS was higher among BMI  $\geq 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>, those with moderate physical activity, and those having hypertension, non-vegetarian eating habits, waist circumference or Low HDL-cholesterol, respectively and were statistically significant.

In the multi-variate analyses, all risk factors that were statistically significant and related to MetS as per univariate analyses were depicted in Table 6. The VIF (Variance Inflation Factor) is also reported for each variable, indicating multi-collinearity. The multi-variable model found four risk variables for MetS in the whole study: Hypertension, diabetes, BMI  $\geq 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> and 10-12 hours of physical activity. Habits, alcohol consumption, hypertension, low HDL-C, more time spent online, waist circumference, diabetes, less duration of sleep, frequent fast-food intake and eating habits have a higher risk of MetS. The "Backward Wald" technique produced the close model across all three multi-variable evaluations.

**Table 4: The prevalence of Metabolic Syndrome & its components by age groups**

Characteristics of overall sample (n = 500)	Age Group (Years)			p-value
	18 - 23 yrs (n = 39) (7.8%)	24 - 29 yrs (n = 328) (65.6%)	30 - 35 yrs (n = 133) (26.6%)	
<b>Overall MetS Individuals (127)</b>	14 (2.8%)	41 (8.2%)	72 (14.4%)	0.001
<b>Men (n = 176)</b>				
<b>MetS (48)</b>	5 (2.8)	14 (7.9)	29 (16.4)	0.042
Raised WC	4 (2.27)	45 (25.56)	44 (25)	0.733
Raised TG	2 (1.13)	19 (10.79)	36 (20.45)	0.101
Low HDL-c	2 (1.13)	16 (9.09)	23 (13.06)	0.048
Raised Glucose	1 (0.56)	16 (9.09)	24 (13.63)	0.003
Raised SBP	15 (8.52)	32 (18.18)	44 (25)	0.002
Raised DBP	11 (6.25)	33 (18.75)	40 (22.72)	0.091
<b>Women (n = 324)</b>				
<b>MetS (79)</b>	9 (2.7)	27 (8.3)	43 (13.27)	0.127
Raised WC	38 (11.72)	87 (26.85)	92 (28.39)	0.023
Raised TG	4 (1.23)	33 (10.18)	41 (12.65)	0.045
Low HDL-c	3 (0.92)	21 (6.48)	43 (13.27)	0.037
Raised Glucose	4 (1.23)	14 (4.32)	32 (9.87)	0.005
Raised SBP	5 (1.54)	30 (9.25)	41 (12.65)	0.002
Raised DBP	3 (0.92)	34 (10.49)	45 (13.88)	0.075

Met-S - Metabolic syndrome

**Table 5: The risk factors associated with MetS by Pearson Chi-Square and Binary Logistic Regression**

Risk Factors	MetS in all Sample (n = 500)	cOR (95% CI)	MetS in Men (n = 176)	cOR (95% CI)	MetS in Women (n = 324)	cOR (95% CI)
<b>Gender</b>						
Men	48(9.6)	1.16 (0.77 - 1.77)	-	-	-	-
Women	79(15.8)	1	-	-	-	-
<b>Habits</b>						
No	55(11)	1	15	1	40	1
Yes	47(9.4)	3.01 (1.91 - 4.75)	29	6.57 (3.12 - 13.84)	18	1.61 (0.86 - 3.02)
<b>Alcohol</b>						
No	43(8.6)	1	20	1	23	1
Yes	32(6.4)	0.19 (0.11 - 0.33)	17	0.18 (0.08 - 0.41)	15	0.21 (0.10 - 0.44)
<b>Smoking</b>						
No	7(1.4)	1	2	1	5	1
Yes	6(1.2)	0.02 (0.008 - 0.10)	3	0.02 (0.004 - 0.19)	3	0.02 (0.005 - 0.14)
<b>All</b>						
No	5(1)	1	2	1	3	1
Yes	9(1.8)	0.02 (0.008 - 0.08)	5	0.02 (0.003 - 0.13)	4	0.03 (0.006 - 0.16)
<b>BMI</b>						
≤ 30	76(15.2)	1	35	1	41	1
≥ 30	32(6.4)	4.04 (2.37 - 6.89)	9	3.51 (1.30 - 9.53)	23	4.65 (2.44 - 8.85)
<b>Waist Circumference</b>						
≤ 90 cm for males, ≤80 cm for females	48(9.6)	1	21	1	27	1
≥ 90 cm for males, ≥80 cm for females	67(13.4)	2.97 (1.94 - 4.56)	24	1.39 (0.71 - 2.75)	43	4.73 (2.70 - 8.26)
<b>Physical Activity (Hours/week)</b>						
≤ 10	48(9.6)	1	17	1	31	1
10-12	39(7.8)	1.67 (1.03 - 2.72)	15	1.52 (0.68 - 3.40)	24	1.74 (0.94 - 3.12)
≥ 12	35(7)	1.86 (1.12 - 3.10)	14	1.60 (0.70 - 3.64)	21	2.00 (1.05 - 3.82)
<b>Hypertension</b>						
Absent	71(14.2)	1	30	1	41	1
Present	41(8.2)	2.06 (1.30 - 3.24)	12	2.15 (0.95 - 4.87)	29	2.10 (1.21 - 3.65)
<b>Diabetes</b>						
Absent	108(21.6)	1	36	1	72	1
Present	6(1.2)	3.53 (1.12 - 11.16)	4	3.67 (0.87 - 15.36)	2	1.73 (0.15 - 19.34)
<b>Low HDL-C</b>						
Absent	54(10.8)	1	22	1	32	1
Present	62(12.4)	8.44 (5.23 - 13.6)	23	6.56 (3.05 - 14.14)	39	9.79 (5.32 - 18.03)
<b>Eating Habits</b>						
Vegetarian	41(8.2)	1	12	1	29	1
Non-Vegetarian	186(37.2)	3.67 (2.42 - 5.54)	69	2.79 (1.32 - 5.89)	117	4.22 (2.50 - 6.97)
<b>Fast Food Intake</b>						
Daily	53(10.6)	1	22	1	31	1
Weekly	38(7.6)	1.16 (0.72 - 1.86)	16	1.12 (0.53 - 2.36)	22	1.18 (0.64 - 2.18)
Monthly	8(1.6)	1.34 (0.57 - 3.16)	3	1.94 (0.43 - 8.76)	5	1.19 (0.41 - 3.46)
Occasionally	8(1.6)	0.77 (0.34 - 1.74)	4	0.92 (0.28 - 3.09)	4	0.66 (0.21 - 2.03)
<b>Time Spent on Internet (Hours)</b>						
Up to 4 hours	34(6.8)	1	15	1	19	1
4-8	38(7.6)	1.05 (0.63 - 1.76)	11	0.55 (0.23 - 1.30)	27	1.55 (0.81 - 2.99)
8-12	39(7.8)	1.90 (1.12 - 3.23)	14	2.80 (1.12 - 6.97)	25	1.76 (0.90 - 3.44)
<b>Duration of Sleep (Hours)</b>						
≤ 6	62(12.4)	1	25	1	37	1
6-8	21(4.2)	0.60 (0.34 - 1.04)	9	0.88 (0.37 - 2.09)	12	0.47 (0.23 - 0.96)
≥ 8	13(2.6)	0.27 (0.14 - 0.52)	3	0.32 (0.09 - 1.15)	10	0.25 (0.12 - 0.52)

Met-S – Metabolic syndrome; cOR – Crude/unadjusted Odds Ratio; CI- Confidence interval

## DISCUSSION

In our study, 500 young adults (18-35 years) including 64% females and 36% males studying and/or working in various educational institutes of Bhubaneswar were screened for MetS. Out of 500 young adults, 22% were having pre-diabetes, 2% were having Diabetes, 20% were having pre-hypertension,

10% were having hypertension, 13% were obese and 4% were having dyslipidemia. Prevalence of Metabolic Syndrome in all the participants was 25.4% [27.2% (48) in males and 24.3% (79) in females]. Majority, i.e., 65% of young adults were in the age range, 24-29 years. While 44% of the participants were students, only 30% were having jobs. Among the participants, 68% were sedentary.

**Table 6: The risk factors associated with MetS in overall sample by multiple logistic regression**

Risk Factors	B	SE	Wald	Exp(B)	95% CI	P-Value	VIF
<b>Habits</b>							
No (Ref)	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	3.84
Yes	-1.60	0.50	10.24	4.95	2.2 – 9.1	0.023	
<b>Alcohol Drinker</b>							
No (Ref)	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	1.96
Yes	-1.60	0.30	28.40	3.90	1.6 – 15.3	0.030	
<b>Smoker</b>							
No (Ref)	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	2.12
Yes	-1.70	0.60	8.00	5.47	0.7 – 3.5	0.060	
<b>All</b>							
No (Ref)	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	2.00
Yes	-1.40	0.60	5.29	4.05	1.1 – 4.3	0.120	
<b>BMI</b>							
No (Ref)	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	2.72
Yes	-1.30	0.50	6.76	3.66	1.7 – 5.5	0.006	
<b>Physical Activity</b>							
≤10 (Ref)	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	4.76
10-12	-0.60	0.50	1.44	1.82	0.9 – 4.1	0.017	
≥12	-0.50	0.50	1.00	1.64	0.4 – 3.4	0.123	
<b>Hypertension</b>							
No (Ref)	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	1.19
Yes	-0.72	0.50	2.07	2.05	0.8 – 3.9	0.023	
<b>Low HDL-C</b>							
No (Ref)	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	7.69
Yes	-2.13	0.50	18.14	8.41	3.3 – 11.1	0.030	
<b>Time Spent on Internet</b>							
Up to 4 hours (Ref)	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	1.06
4-8	-0.50	0.50	1.00	1.04	1.1 – 3.3	0.116	
8-12	-0.64	0.50	1.63	1.89	1.6 – 8.1	0.144	
<b>Waist Circumference</b>							
≤ 90 cm for males, ≤ 80 cm for females (Ref)	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	2.12
≥ 90 cm for males, ≥ 80 cm for females	-1.08	0.50	4.66	2.94	0.6 – 9.3	0.030	
<b>Diabetes</b>							
No (Ref)	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	1.19
Yes	-1.26	0.50	6.35	3.52	1.4 – 12.6	0.001	
<b>Duration of Sleep</b>							
≤ 6 (Ref)	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	1.06
6-8	-0.51	0.50	1.04	1.66	0.6 – 2.1	0.001	
≥ 8	-1.30	0.50	6.76	3.66	0.1 – 1.4	0.007	
<b>Fast Food Intake</b>							
Daily (Ref)	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	1.17
Weekly	-0.89	0.50	3.16	1.33	0.9 – 3.1	0.041	
Monthly	-0.66	0.50	1.74	1.29	0.6 – 2.7	0.010	
Occasionally	-0.51	0.50	1.04	1.21	0.5 – 2.1	0.001	
<b>Eating Habits</b>							
Vegetarian (Ref)	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	2.07
Non-Vegetarian	-1.30	0.50	6.76	1.30	2.2 – 7.4	0.001	

Exp(B) gives adjusted odd ratio (aOR). VIF (Variance Inflation Factor). Ref (reference category). Logistic Regression Analysis

A sedentary lifestyle involves little or no physical activity. Usually, students spend a lot of time in studies indirectly being sedentary. In all, hypertension was present among 25% of the young adults and 2% were having diabetes. Extended sitting hours, 8 to 12 hours or more a day, and inactivity due to desk job are proven risk factors that lead to more hospitalization, heart disease, cancer and early death, even if one exercises regularly. Several studies have reported that sedentary lifestyle has a significant effect on the development of various NCDs like obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, some types of cancer and early death in this age group.<sup>18-20</sup> Metabolism and the ability to control blood sugar levels, blood

pressure and lipolysis are reduced due to prolonged periods of inactivity. 6% of the study participants consumed either alcohol or smoked and/or chewed tobacco. Betel leaf chewing is quite common among the young, adults and old people of this State as it is grown in abundance and easily available. Majority of young adults were non-vegetarians and about 55% each of the study participants preferred to eat fast food daily whereas 31% preferred fast food every week. Frequent consumption of alcohol and fast-food leads to the rise of many chronic diseases like obesity, cardiovascular diseases due to the excess fat, carbohydrates, processed sugar and high salt content found in junk food and alcoholic drinks.<sup>21-24</sup> There

seems to be a direct correlation between consumption of junk food and obesity rates. There is a tendency among young people to eat excessively in one sitting and having satiated with junk food generally avoid eating nutritious foods, fruits or vegetables. Further, 49% of the young adults did less than 10 hours of physical activity per week. Physical activity is important for all age groups for maintaining good health and lack of exercise contributes to all components of MetS, i.e., increased weight, high blood pressure, hyperglycemia, hyperlipidemia, etc.<sup>25-28</sup> Maximum, i.e., 47% slept for less than 6 hours and 23% of the participants slept for about 6-8 hours. Among the participants who slept less than 6-8 hours, 43% were having pre-hypertension, 50% hypertension, 43% had pre-diabetes, 44% had diabetes and 51% were overweight. Among those who slept for more than 8 hours, 47% had pre-diabetes and 40% were obese. Generally, about 7 to 9 hours of sleep per night has been recommended for adults. Irregular and less sleep hours escalate the risk of several conditions like obesity, diabetes, heart disease, obstructive sleep apnea and decrease the life expectancy.<sup>29</sup> When continued over a period of long time, blood pressure rises damaging vital organs like heart, arteries and kidneys. It may cause stroke, loss of vision, declined creativity, attentiveness, mood swings, twitchy eyes, reproductive problems, eating disorders, weight gain, anxiety, stress, increased risk of road traffic injuries, etc. Majority, i.e., 38% of the young adults spent about 8-12 hours in online activities whereas 25% spent 4-8 hours online. Spending time on the laptop, mobile or internet means being glued to the screen which indirectly means spending time on the desk without any activity for prolonged hours. There has been a rise in online activities to meet our daily requirements including studying, job, shopping, entertainment, games, consultation, travel, interviews, meetings, ordering food, paying bills, bank transactions, etc. These have eased various tasks requiring our time and effort. As such usage of mobile, desktop, laptop including smart phones and tablets have increased enormously consuming a larger part of our time. Another study has shown that prolonged time on the internet can raise the risk of hypertension. Longer internet usage has been linked with risks like anxiety, depression, addiction, obesity and social isolation.<sup>30</sup> Sleep disruption and insomnia result from digital eye strain caused by screens of computers, smart phones and televisions, which emit blue light. The analysis indicates significant differences in the incidence of MetS and its constituents across age groups, particularly in men. Raised waist circumference, low HDL-C, raised BG and BP are more prevalent in older age groups. These findings suggest an age-related increase in the risk of developing MetS and its components, particularly after the age of 30 years. Men show significant differences in MetS prevalence across age bracket, whereas in women, some components like raised WC, TG, and low HDL-C are more significantly different across age groups. These observations emphasize the significance of

targeted interventions to prevent and manage MetS, especially in older age groups, with attention to both gender-specific and age-related risk factors.

Several studies in different regions of India have reported the prevalence of MetS ranging from 4% to 41%.<sup>31-46</sup> Together, these studies reported that the prominent risk factors were abdominal obesity, sedentary life style, hypercholesterolemia particularly raised TG levels and high socio-economic status and female gender for MetS but they have not advocated prevention strategies. These studies reported that young adults are at risk of several diseases due to their preference of eating fast foods, spending a longer time online, exercising less and irregular sleep hours. The risk of MetS and CVDs are high among the young adults, sharing similar lifestyle and habits, beginning in the early years.<sup>47,48</sup> These adverse conditions are more detrimental when they occur together with other and are preventable by change in lifestyle. The vital benefactors of cardiovascular affliction and fatality are certain adaptable risk quotient, such as high blood pressure, smoking, diabetes, obesity, dyslipidemia, anxiety, inadequate diet and less physical activity. Therefore, increasing awareness of the cluster of risk factors and measures to prevent them comprehensively need to be stressed in prevention strategies among young adults, in particular and in Odisha, in general.

## STRENGTHS AND CONSTRAINTS

There were definite strengths and few constraints of this study. Since this is an observational study, no causal inferences can be drawn. Screening young adults, at regular intervals, will help in identifying those at risk of developing MetS. Fasting blood glucose was used to detect pre-diabetes and diabetes by a glucometer due to logistic constraints.

## CONCLUSION

This study is the first one conducted in this State among young adults. Therefore, follow-up researches are required to identify the various risk factors and mediators on the causal pathway in this population for control and prevention. High prevalence of MetS amongst the young adults emphasizes the need for safeguarding and management of non-communicable diseases.

**Authors' contributions:** Manaswini Dash and Satavisha Sadangi were involved in the collection of socio-demographic and clinical profile of young adults enrolled in the study. Braja Sundar Barik was involved in compilation of the data. Minaketan Barik was involved in laboratory analysis. Nadeem Hussain was involved in the statistical analysis of the data. Dr. Tahziba Hussain conceptualized the idea, designed the study, wrote and edited the article throughout all



stages. Dr. Sanghamitra Pati, Director facilitated the study by providing all necessary support.

**Acknowledgements:** We thank all the young adults who enrolled themselves for this study.

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