Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) represent the world’s leading cause of death and collectively kill 18 million women each year. As part of the “Insights from 10,000 Women on the Impact of NCDs” survey conducted by Arogya World, 1,000 women in India were surveyed on mobile phones from March 5-30, 2014.

### NCDs Burden Majority of Households

#### NCDs Affect Everyday Lives

- Of the women surveyed in India, 86% say someone in their household suffers from an NCD – heart disease, diabetes, cancer, or chronic lung disease. This is notably higher than the global norm of 62%. \(^1\)
- Over 3 in 5 women have had to provide care for a household member suffering from NCDs.
- Even though a quarter of Indian women do not work for pay, 37% of the women surveyed had to quit their jobs in order to care for a household member suffering from NCDs.

### NCD Testing is Severely Lacking

#### Women Do Not Receive Regular Health Exams

- Only 41% of Indian women have been examined by a medical professional in the past year. This percentage lags behind the global norm (62%).
- Almost a third of Indian women have not seen a doctor in over 2 years.

### Waiting Times and Cost are the Biggest Limiting Factors to Healthcare Access

- Long waiting time is the biggest deterrent to women (29%) visiting a medical professional in India.
- The health facilities being too far away (26%), not having enough money (24%), and not having transportation (20%) were other major factors preventing healthcare access.

### Financial Burden High Because Women Pay for Healthcare Out of Pocket

- 3 in 5 Indian women report that treating NCDs has resulted in a financial burden for the household, with 19% mentioning it creates a major financial burden.
- 3 in 10 women spend more than a quarter of the household income on NCD treatment.
- Only 20% of women are able to cover healthcare payment via government healthcare or free clinics.
- Almost half of Indian women surveyed pay the doctor out of pocket and 14% must borrow money from friends or family to cover healthcare expenses. 1 in 4 women stated that not having enough money was the biggest obstacle to receiving medical treatment.

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\(^1\) The global norm is representative of the 10-country aggregate from Arogya’s “Insights from 10,000 Women on the Impact of NCDs” survey.
Health Concerns of Indian Women

Women Are Not Eating Healthy Food

- Only half of Indian women report eating healthy foods, compared to the global average of 72%.
- Having an unhealthy diet (21%) and being overweight (21%) are the household healthcare issues Indian women are most concerned about.
- More Indian women report eating from restaurants, street food, or take out food (77%) than the global norm (70%). Almost 1 in 5 women eat out at least three times per week.
- Cost was the biggest barrier to healthy eating (24%).

Thinking about healthy foods, which do you agree with?

- Healthy foods are too expensive (24%)
- Healthy foods spoil quickly (16%)
- Healthy foods are too hard to prepare/cook (18%)
- I eat healthy foods (72%)

Time and Lack of Motivation Are the Biggest Barriers to Regular Exercise

- 1 in 5 Indian women report not getting enough exercise is the healthcare issue they are most concerned about. And, only a quarter of Indian women report exercising regularly.
- More Indian women ride bicycles for 10 minutes 2 days a week (27%) than the global norm (15%).
- However, rates of exercising and playing sports (32%), walking (52%), and conducting strenuous household chores (25%) are lower than average.
- Not having sufficient time for exercise (28%) is by far the biggest obstacle Indian women encounter. Other significant deterring factors include a lack of motivation (13%), no place to exercise (13%), and physical difficulties (11%).

Smoking Levels Are Higher than Average

- Almost 4 in 10 Indian women (37%) surveyed report smoking tobacco products such as cigarettes, cigars, pipes, bidis, or hookah at least occasionally. Globally, the average is 26%.
- 1 in 10 women ranked smoking as their biggest household concern and 80% demonstrated concern about children seeing smoking advertisements.