

**FAMILY CLOSENESS AND YOUTH SMOKING:
A CASE STUDY IN UiTM SHAH ALAM**



**RESEARCH MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE (RMI)
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA
40450 SHAH ALAM, SELANGOR
MALAYSIA**

BY

**NUR HUDA BT ABDUL WAHAB
JAMALIAH BT MHD KHALILI
SABARIAH BT YUSOF**

AUGUST 2011

Contents

- 1. Letter of Report Submissioniii
- 2. Letter of Offer (Research Grant)..... iv
- 3. Acknowledgements v
- 4. Enhanced Research Title and Objectives vi
- 5. Report..... 1
 - 5.1 Proposed Executive Summary 1
 - 5.2 Enhanced Executive Summary 2
 - 5.3 Introduction..... 3
 - 5.4 Brief Literature Review 6
 - 5.5 Methodology 9
 - 5.6 Results and Discussion 11
 - 5.7 Conclusion and Recommendation 17
 - 5.8 References/Bibliography 19
- 6. Research Outcomes 22
- 7. Appendix 23

3. Acknowledgements

Praise to Allah SWT for all His Mercy and Blessing that had enabled this research to be completed.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to many individuals and groups for their kind support and special attention. We are also highly indebted to the following respected individual and organization, for their constant supervision and encouragement in completing this project.

Research Management Institute
(Universiti Teknologi MARA, Shah Alam)

Prof. Dr. Hj. Noormala Dato' Amir Ishak
(Dean of Faculty of Business Management, UiTM Shah Alam)

Tuan Hj Zainusham bin Yusof
*(Head of ICT Unit, Curriculum Development Center,
Ministry of Education, Malaysia)*

and

all respondents, namely the Malaysian citizen students of UiTM Shah Alam
from various faculties (Nov 2008 – July 2009)

5.2 Enhanced Executive Summary

This paper attempts to examine the relationship between youths who are smokers and closeness to their families. Family closeness was measured from two dimensions, namely family cohesion and family religious affiliation. Data were collected using a survey questionnaire distributed to Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) students in Shah Alam. Pearson correlation test was used to examine the significant association between youth smoking status and family cohesion variables, as well as family religious variables. Results show that there is a significant association between smoking status of respondents and closeness to family. Respondents who are not close to the family are more likely to be smokers. This can be observed from the negative correlation between smoking status and family cohesion at 99% significant level, which is $-.218$. Religious affiliation also shows negative relationship for the Muslims and non-Muslims which are $-.109$ and $-.453$ at 90% significant level. The correlation tests indicated that the closer the relationship between family members, the less probability that the respondents will smoke. These research findings suggest that to reduce youth smoking, greater emphasis should be given to the strengthening of family ties programs. This could be done through the involvement in children activities at the early child age. Family institutions should always be improved in order to build up or maintain good relationships among family members.

Keywords: Youth smoking, family closeness, smoking status, family structure

5.3 Introduction

The issue of human development is always related to family closeness. According to Rutter (1983), many children from divorced families were found to have more behavioral problems, less social competence and more psychological suffering, compared to children from close knit families. This could result in social problems such as smoking, vandalism, drug abuse, crime and several indecent behaviors, as the children reach the age of youth.

A report from National Poison Center, USM (PenawaRacun, bilangan 52, Mac 2004), showed that 14 per cent of the world youth are smokers. In Malaysia, 8 per cent of 4.6 million smokers are mainly from youths. This statistics also showed that almost 50-60 youths start smoking everyday. Research also showed that smoking rate among the Malays are the highest at 27.2 per cent, while Chinese and Indian at 16.7 per cent and 15.6 per cent respectively. This was reported by bernama.com dated 22 September 2005.

Research done by Ministry of Health, Malaysia found that smoking prevalence caused 10,000 death per year. On average, every stick smoked will shorten one's life by 5 minutes. Malaysia faces total loss of RM20 billion a year to bear treatment cost and loss of productivity as a result of smoking. According to Utusan Online dated 25th September 2006, Malaysian citizen spent about RM3 billion a day or RM90 million a month to buy cigarette. A survey on smoking prevalence in Malaysia was conducted in 1996 by the Ministry of Health. It surveyed 32,991 people over the age of 18 and found a total smoking prevalence of 24.8%. Smoking rates amongst men were found to be 49.2% compared to women's 3.5%. Another survey by Haniza and Suraya (1996) found that Malaysian smokers consume an average of 13.3 cigarettes per day, with over 60% reporting to smoke over 10 cigarettes per day.

In 2003, Global Youth Tobacco survey said 25.3% of youths in Malaysia were tobacco users, with more than half of adult Malaysian were male smokers. According to data obtained from Euromonitor 2008,