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STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS TOWARD SMOKING

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ABSTRACT

Many studies have indicated that the young adults (18-24 years) were not fully aware of health consequences of cigarette smoking. The objective of the study is to determine the perception of students towards smoking and their awareness to the effects of smoking to smoker and non-smoker. This study will also examine the factors that influence smoker to smoke. A study was carried out in UiTMSamarahan targeting on the degree students from different courses. This study comprises 200 students from several faculties and courses of UiTMSamarahan. The anonymous question contains information on demographic characteristics, smoking habits and smoking related risk perception. Data was analysed by both descriptive and inferential statistics including the help of SPSS software. The study reveals that the smokers and non-smokers students are aware of the risks of cigarette smoking and its health consequences. From this study also, researchers able to find several factors that influence smoker to smoke. Thus there is a need to promote more effective anti-smoking message focusing effects of each cigarette they smoke since they are aware but not take it serious on the effects.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF STUDY

Cigarette smoking has always been the single greatest preventable cause of disease and death in the United States since many years ago (Ryan et. al., 2008).

Tobacco is the single most preventable cause of death in the world today. This year, tobacco will kill more than five million people – more than tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and malaria combined. By 2030, the death toll will exceed eight million a year; unless urgent action is taken tobacco could kill one billion people during this century. Tobacco is the only legal consumer product that can harm everyone exposed to it – and it kills up to half of those who use it as intended and yet, tobacco use is common throughout the world due to low prices, aggressive and widespread marketing, lack of awareness about its dangers, and inconsistent public policies against its use (WHO, 2008)

The habit of cigarette smoking has spread throughout the world as a major source of morbidity and mortality, is a serious public health problem (Khader and Alsadi, 2008). In a research made by Musmar (2012), there is an overall of 52.7% of the students in An-Najal National University smoke cigarettes. In another study made on Jordan University of Science and Technology, the students that smoke cigarette is as high as 80% out of 712 students that participated in the research (Khader and Alsadi, 2008).

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides a review of the literature review on effects of smoking towards smoker and non-smoker and factors that motivate students towards smoking. This chapter will also provide conceptual framework and hypotheses that have been developed.

2.2 EFFECTS OF SMOKING

Canadian Council for Tobacco Control (2001) stated that general effects of smoking towards both smokers and non-smokers are cardiovascular, cancer, respiratory disease, peptic ulcer disease, tooth decay, gum disease, aging problem and impotence. Schmidt (2013) supported that generally, smoking could affect both smoker and non-smoker by having smelly hair, less oxygen to the brain, bad skin, cough and colds, less oxygen to lungs and increase heart rate and blood pressure. Passive smoking is linked with cancer, heart disease, respiratory illness and is the leading source of indoor airpollution. In the United States, passive smoking has been linked to the deaths of at least 53 000 non-smokers each year, about one non-smoker for each eight smokers that tobacco kills (Caroline M Fichtenberg, 2002). Smoking is responsible for several diseases, such as cancer, long-term (chronic) respiratory diseases, and heart disease, as well as premature death. Over 440,000 people in the USA and 100,000 in the UK die because of smoking each year. \$92 billion is lost each year from lost productivity resulting from