

Socioeconomic factors associate with smoking among rural adult population in Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia

ABSTRACT

Background:Smoking is the single most important cause of death. The use of tobacco in cigarettes among smokers is the leading cause of premature mortality and morbidity. **Objective:** The aim of the study is to determine socioeconomic factors associated with smoking among rural adult population in Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia. **Methods:** A cross sectional study was carried out from 1,136 respondents by using a questionnaire which was pre-tested, and face to face interview was conducted. The questionnaire was divided into 5 separate sections which were socio-demographics characteristics, tobacco use patterns, peers and family influences, knowledge related to smoking and perception on anti-smoking programme. A multistage random sampling method was used to obtain the sample size. The target population was from District of Jempol, a rural District in state of Negeri Sembilan. **Result:** Out of 1,136 eligible respondents, a total of 998 respondents have participated in this study which made the response rate 87.85 percent. The findings showed that 45.3% of the respondents were smoker. The age range of respondents was between 45 and 64 years old. 51.8% are male, married (64.6%), and with education level of secondary school (47.9%) and majority of them were Malay (95.6%) and Muslim (95.9%). Main occupation is lorry drivers (41.3%), and 96.1% of the respondents with income between RM1000-1999 (96.1%).The findings showed that the followings are important factors influencing smoking behavior among respondents: friend influence ($\beta= 4.347$, P-value= 0.001), employment status ($\beta= 3.574$, P-value= 0.001), family member ($\beta= 2.123$, P-value= 0.001), income ($\beta= 2.066$, P-value= 0.011), advertisement ($\beta= 1.452$, P-value= 0.001), marital status ($\beta= 1.050$, P-value= 0.001), education level ($\beta= -0.549$, P-value= 0.036) and knowledge ($\beta= -2.759$, P-value= 0.001).Social factors are more important than economic factors. **Conclusion:** The study concluded that both social and economics factor play important role influencing respondents smoking behavior and social factors play more important role.

Keyword: Smoking; Socioeconomic factors; Adult; Rural