

ABSTRACT

This study was cross-sectional study conducted in South Okkalapa Township from September to November 2010 to find out the smoking status among adolescent males, their socio-demographic characteristics and associations between them. In this study 351 samples were randomly selected. Sampling was three stages sampling method and data collection method was face-to-face interview using pretested structured questionnaire. The findings showed that 26.8% of respondents were current smokers, 13.1% were non-current smokers and 50.01% were never smokers. The mean and median ages of respondents were 15.44 ± 2.303 years and 15 years respectively. The mean age at the beginning of smoking among current smokers was 14.9 ± 1.901 years. About 87% of respondents were attending respective school or university at the time of interview and nearly 1 in 4 students were current smokers. More than half of respondents (62.1%) had smoker friends and among them 40.4% were current smokers. Age group, education, current schooling status, occupation, smoking status of fathers, smokers among family members and friends, reading, alcohol drinking, betel chewing and knowledge about “the control of smoking and consumption of tobacco product law” were associated with current smoking status of respondents according to Pearson Chi-square. After stratified analysis with Mantel Haenszel and Woolf method by age groups, fathers’ smoking status, smoking status of friends and alcohol drinking were still associated with current smoking status of respondents among 14-16 and 17+ age groups while betel chewing was associated in all age groups. The adolescent males who had smoker fathers, friends, tried alcohol or betel chewing were approximately 3, 2, 4 and 5 times more likely to be current smokers than those who did not have. There was no significant difference between respective crude OR and adjusted OR_{MH} . There were linear trend association between current smoking status and age groups, education level, alcohol consumption and betel chewing. After residual stratified analysis, only ≤ 13 and 17+ age groups, middle and university level, never and occasional drinkers, never and occasional betel chewers were associated with current smoking status.