

ABSTRACT

Tobacco use is a major global public health problem. Use of tobacco among workers can cause loss of productivity, absenteeism and ill health. The objective is to study the knowledge, attitude and practice of tobacco consumption among shipyard workers. The study was cross sectional descriptive study conducted at Myanma Shipyard Enterprise in Yangon which is under Ministry of Transport from September to November 2009. Random sampling method was used to select required number of workers and face to face interview method was done by using semi-structured questionnaires. Key informant interviews were carried out to one deputy general manager and two assistant managers. Findings show that ever smokers were 56.7% and never smokers were 43.3%. Among ever smokers, current smokers were 35%, ex-smokers were 17.2% and non-current smokers were 4.5%. Among male, 64.6% were current smokers while among female 16.7% were current smokers. The mean age for start smoking was 22.21 ± 7.167 years. More than half of current smokers smoked at home. Among current smokers who have at least one child at home (less than 18 years), 75.6% smoked at home. So, hazards for passive smokers are happened. Regarding to the smokeless tobacco, ever betel chewers were 56.7% and never betel chewers were 43.3%. Among ever betel chewers, current betel chewers were 47.2%, 7.2% for ex-betel chewers and 2.3% for non-current betel chewers. Among male, 83.2% were current betel chewers and among female, 85.7% were current betel chewers. It was found that current betel chewers were higher than current smokers. Mean age for start betel chewing was 30.84 ± 12.127 years. Smoking and betel chewing were higher among shipyard workers especially betel chewing that most female chew betel quid. Peer pressure influenced is vital for initiation of both smoking and betel chewing. So, education in peer group is essential. There is significantly associated between knowledge and attitude i.e. increasing knowledge lead to favorable attitude. It was found that weakness in rules about smoking and betel chewing in factory and also easily accessible of cheroots, cigarettes and betel quid that can lead to high consumption. It is necessary to designate non smoking areas and strengthen rules for smoking and betel chewing at the shipyard. Education program and smoking cessation program should be done frequently to aware hazards of smoking and betel chewing among shipyard workers.