

[49]

TOBACCO USE BEHAVIOR AND ORAL HEALTH CONCERN AMONG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The prevalence of tobacco use among teenagers is noticeably increased worldwide. Tobacco use is one of the substantial factors affecting oral health and leads to dental problems. **Objective:** This research aimed to explore the tobacco use behavior among high school students, knowledge and concern regarding oral health and dental problems. **Methods:** A cross-sectional online survey was used. Questionnaire was constructed by researchers consisting of 6 sections: demographic data, oral health care, oral health problems, knowledge regarding tobacco use and oral health problems, tobacco use behaviors, concern of tobacco use and oral health problems (Likert scale 0 – 5). The questionnaire was checked for content validity by experts. The results of reliability are knowledge = 0.835 and concern = 0.973, respectively. **Results:** The research results showed that there were 221 high school students participating in this study. Most of the participants are female students (61.5%), age is between 15 – 20 years old (Mean age is 16.7 ± 1.124) and in grade 11 (44.8%). 40.7% of participants do their dental checkup just only when they have an oral problem. The mean knowledge regarding tobacco use and oral health problems is 6.3 ± 2.060 out of 9 scores. The questions that most of participants answered incorrectly are tobacco use can be the cause of sensitive teeth (30.3%), tartar teeth (49.3%), and dental decay (45.3%), respectively. 11.3% of participants used tobacco products once in the past 30 days. The most types of tobacco products were electronic cigarettes (80.0%) and cigarettes (44.0%). 48% of them use tobacco for 6 months but less than 1 year. The high school students who have tobacco use behavior mostly concerned about bad breath (3.48 out of 5.0), staining of the teeth (3.32), and discoloration of gum, lip, and tongue (3.0), respectively. The correlation between tobacco use behavior and knowledge is significantly negatively related ($p=0.03$). **Conclusion:** High school students have to improve their knowledge regarding tobacco use and oral health problems. Due to the high school students' concern mostly in their appearance, the health care providers should use this information as strategies to reduce the tobacco use behaviors among teenagers.

Keywords: tobacco use behavior, high school students, dental health problem, dental care