

**SMOKING STATUS AMONG FINAL YEAR STUDENTS AT
RATCHAMONKON COLLEGE, NAKORN PATHOM,
THAILAND.**

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ABSTRACT

This is a cross sectional study that was aimed at determining the smoking status among final year students and also to describe the relationship between the contributing factors to cigarette smoking and smoking status among the respondents. The total number of students in the study was 206, consisting of 74.3% males and 25.7% females.

The study had found that the prevalence of smoking among students was 25.24%, with more male smokers (32.0%) than females (25.2%).

Most students who were smokers were in the age group 20–25 (29.3%).

The researcher concluded that a significant relationship contributing to smoking status among the respondents were found with : Sex (p-value< 0.001), knowledge of the health hazards of smoking (p-value=0.025) , and peer group pressure (p-value = 0.006).

Other findings that this study described which influenced the smoking status of students were, cost of a cigarette and its availability from local shops. Although no statistical survey was conducted, the descriptive study revealed that if the cost for a packet of cigarette were raised and availability reduced, a decline in smoking among students could be appreciated hypothetically.

Thus the recommendations of this study have been based upon these significant findings and other descriptive findings, which could be incorporated into anti-smoking programmes as potentially powerful factors that could produced the desired behavioural changes leading to the reduction of smoking among students.

The collateral efforts of parents, college staffs, NGO's, and the government as the leading body, should be organized systematically in a manner that will permit a more extensive strategic approach towards achieving national goals on smoking reduction in schools.

**KEY WORDS : SMOKING STATUS/ CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO
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