

The purposes of this research were to study attitudes and behaviors of the private vocational students in Bangkok towards smoking in public and to examine the differences of attitudes in each variable such as allowance, residence, family members who smoke, smoking among friends and smoking among teachers. The questionnaire on attitudes and behaviors towards smoking was prepared by the researcher. Questionnaire was sent to 776 sample subjects, who were the private vocational students in Bangkok, for collection of data. The obtained data would be analyzed in terms of percentage, mode, t-statistics, one-way analysis of variance and multiple comparision (LSD model).

The findings were as follows :

1. Most of the vocational students were male (68.3%), took commercial program (50.8%), received monthly allowance less than 1,500 Baht (71.4%), lived with parents (72.6%), had family members who did not smoke (56.3%), had 1-5 friends who smoked (39.5%) and had teachers who smoked (90.3%).

2. The number of students who smoked and who did not smoked was almost equal (42.9% and 42.4% respectively). Most smokers started smoking at the age of fifteen, and started smoking for two and a half years, and most of the ex-smokers had quitted smoking for one and a half years.

3. Most of the student smokers and the ex-smokers would smoke 1-5 cigarettes per day. The filter-tipped cigarette, especially Krongthip brand, was the most popular. They had to pay 102 Baht per month for cigarettes. 86.5% of the student smokers never tried drugs along with their smoking except 13.5% of them who tried.

4. The incentives of the smokers and the ex-smokers were for relaxation when having emotional strain (66.1%), for new experiences (45.8%) and for belonging to peer-groups who smoked (42.7%). The times for their smoking were after meals (60.7%), while joining their peer group (52.6%) and while drinking whisky (51.2%). The places for their smoking were their bedrooms (29%) and the school toilets (28%).

5. 88.3% of the vocational students agreed with the campaign against smoking in the public places and 86.5% wanted the government to pass the law for protecting the non-smokers who got danger from smoke in the public places.

6. The vocational students had negative attitude towards smoking in the public with the reason that smoking might be dangerous to the body of the smoker himself and people around. Smoking would also damage the environments and economy. The government should have searched the measures and guidelines for protection of damage caused by smoking.

7. For the vocational student non-smokers, their differences according to the following variables: monthly allowance,

residence, family members who smoke, and smoking among teachers did not make significant differences in attitudes towards smoking in public at the 0.05 level, but the variable of smoking among friends made significant differences in attitudes towards smoking in public at the 0.05 level.

8. The vocational student smokers, with differences in monthly allowance, residence, smoking among friends, and smoking among teachers, did not have significantly different attitudes towards smoking in public places at the 0.05 level, but it was found that the variable of family members who smoked made significant differences in attitudes towards smoking in public at the 0.05 level.

9. For the vocational students who already quitted smoking, the variables of monthly allowance, residence, family members who smoked, smoking among friends and smoking among teachers did not make significant differences in attitudes towards smoking in public at the 0.05 level.

10. Both the vocational students who never smoked and those who already quitted smoking would behave themselves against persons who smoked by expressing dissatisfaction by means of verbal or gesture towards the smokers such as closing their noses and mouths with hands or cloth, telling or asking the smokers to stop smoking or to smoke somewhere else. However, the vocational students who smoked would express their indifference to smoking or would support it by lighting their own cigarettes and smoked without taking people around into consideration.

11. From the above results, it is recommended that the government put more effort to pass the law or set up measures for protecting the non-smokers' health from smoking in public.