

Thesis Title            Legal Measures for Nonsmokers' Rights Protection :  
The Perspectives of Medical, Law and Communication  
Arts Students

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#### ABSTRACT

The purposes of this thesis was to understand University Students' perspectives concerning legal measures for non-smokers' rights protection and relationships between the above mentioned points of view and some selected socio-demographic variables - sex, study field, educational institute, parents' occupation, students' income, residence, participation to university activities and smoking behavior. The sample was composed of 798 students from Medical, Law and Communication Arts fields of Chulalongkorn University, Mahidol University, Thammasat University and Srinakarinwirot Prasanmitre University. They provided data by answering full details in self-written questionnaire. Then the data analysis was made by the way of frequencies, percentages and  $X^2$ -tests.

The study resulted to following conclusion: About 80% of the samples agreed to have more Government legislation to protect the rights of non-smokers. 67.1% preferred the legislation to be an Act than a District Regulation. Around 47.5% thought the mentioned Act should be in charge in the cities first, then in the up-countries. However, about 46.8% agreed to start up the action both areas at the same time. Nevertheless the Act should be known by the public for a period of time before any enforcement. In case of any break to the law, almost all of the students agreed to the penalty fee at about 2,000 baht ( $\bar{X}=1,929.56$  baht).

Besides these, almost all of them agreed that the government would indicate the public place's owners to arrange the "no-smoking" signs for appropriate areas, separate areas between smokers and non-smokers. The penalty fee at 6,000 baht ( $\bar{X}=6,483.23$ ) to be charged to owners who broke the law. Concerning the forecasted problem after declasing the mentioned Act, most of the students (80.5%) believed that number of government officers to look after the law compliance would not be enough. Therefore, The Government should appoint more officers to this matter including a specific responsible organization or section. Volunteers might also be used for surveillance those who broke the law by co-ordinating with the government.

The study also showed that students' point of view about the legal measures to protect the non-smokers' right had statistical relationships with socio-demographic factors which were the study field, educational institute, sex, student's income, father's occupation and the participation to the university activities ( $P < 0.05$ ). It has also been found that the students' present smoking behavior had statistical relationships with their perspectives of using legal measures to protect the non-smokers' rights ( $P < 0.05$ ).