The Role of Peer Interaction on Indonesian Adolescent Smoking Behavior: Prevalence, Incidence, and Psychosocial Predictors

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Introduction and Aims: The prevalence of Indonesian adolescent smoking behavior is one of the highest in the world.¹ This longitudinal study aims to provide an overview of Jakarta’s adolescent smoking behavior, while also identifying predictors of smoking behavior emergence.

Design and Methods: Data of three consecutive years, 2017 to 2019, were used from a larger longitudinal cohort study. The total sample was 940 high school students (n female = 52.2%). Logistic regression was used to assess the predictive factors for 2019 smoking behavior in those who weren’t smokers yet in 2018. Multiple imputation was used to account for missing data.

Results: Smoking behavior prevalence increased with each year, reaching 23.4% in the third year. An incidence rate of 11 new cases per 100 person-years was found. Most adolescents have started smoking before they reached 15 years of age (60.3%). The regression model showed several significant predictors of smoking behavior emergence (R² = 23%), the most powerful one being gender (OR = 7.11). Further analysis for male samples (R² = 10%) confirmed that male smoking behavior were also predicted by friendship quality (OR = 2.08). Parental attachment was found to be a significant protective factor in both models.

Discussions and Conclusions: The prevalence and incidence of smoking behavior were confirmed to be as high as previously reported and has alarmingly been increasing over the years. Male adolescents were 7 times more likely to become smokers than females, where high friendship quality between males was a risk factor. Further attention on male peer dynamics will be essential for promotive and preventive initiatives.

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