ABSTRACT

A cross sectional descriptive study was conducted on factors associated with smoking status among construction workers in Salaya, Nakhon Pathom. A face to face interview was conducted by trained interviewers using a structured questionnaire at the construction site where 205 construction workers age between 15 and 60 years were interviewed. The following factors relating to the construction laborers were considered; Socio-Economic Demographic Characteristics, smoking status, knowledge and attitude on health problems related to smoking and source of information which resulted in initiating to smoke. Furthermore association between the different socio-demographic characteristics of construction workers and their smoking status was tested and chi-square was employed.

The results reveal that almost half of the construction workers (45.9 percent) were smokers. Fifty four point one percent of the respondents either had stopped smoking or had never smoked. The reason cited was that smoking was a big health hazard. Moreover the prevalence of smoking was much lower in females (6.8 percent) but much higher in males (61.6 percent).

Regarding knowledge of construction workers towards smoking, 17.1 percent of smokers had high knowledge whereas amongst non-smokers, 82.9 percent had high knowledge. As for attitude towards smoking, 36.6 percent had a positive attitude towards smoking. On the contrary 63.4 percent had positive attitude towards non-smoking.

Regarding the association between socio-demographic characteristics and smoking status, a very high significance at p-value of 0.0000 was found between sex and smoking. A very high prevalence of smoking was established among male construction workers. A statistically significant association was found between smoking status and income. The higher the income the more the probability of being a smoker. No significant association could be found between other socio-demographic characteristics and smoking status.