

Table 9: Questions with regard to the reaction of the environment towards smoking

| | Non smokers MULO | | Non smokers LBGO | | Non smokers LTS | |
|---|---------------------|------|---------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| | B | G | B | G | B | G |
| More friends | 19.2 | 10.1 | 38.5 | 32.7 | 19.4 | 10.5 |
| More attractive | 32.4 | 17.2 | 30.3 | 14.3 | - | - |
| More intelligent/ macho appearance/more sophisticated | 34.4 | 22.7 | 31.9 | 28.9 | - | - |
| Helps to have a more calm feeling/at events, parties, social meetings | 41.5 | | 44.4 | | - | |

Both non-smokers and smokers were asked about their firm opinion with regard to smoking being bad for your health. This question was asked to the non-smoking and smoking MULO students. The answer was 91.9% and 75.4%. The question was then asked if they share the opinion that smoking by others could be harmful to your health. The answer was 65.7% and 50.2% respectively. The non-smoking and smoking LBGO students were asked the same question: the answer was 75.4% and 64.5% respectively. The question was then asked whether they share the opinion that smoking by others can be harmful for your health. The answers were 53.9% and 42.2% respectively.

The question was then asked to the students whether someone smoked in their presence either at home or elsewhere, within the past 7 days. The non-smoking and smoking MULO students gave a positive reaction to the question with regard to someone smoking in their presence at home, namely 47.1% and 74.9% respectively. To the question whether someone has smoked in his or her presence elsewhere the positive reaction was 60.0% and 82.3% respectively.

The non-smoking and smoking LBGO students gave a positive reaction to the question with regard to someone smoking in their presence at home, 56.4% and 68.9% respectively. The question whether someone has smoked in their presence the positive answer was 60.7% and 86.2% respectively.

IV. Attitude towards stopping with smoking

A third of the active smokers would rather stop smoking. This means that there is a great need for help during stopping with smoking. This is also clear from the fact that 68% have tried to

group approximately 59.8% has already stopped a year or longer.

In order to have a view of the reason for stopping with smoking, 57.1% of the boys and 52.9% of the girls did so because of health reasons. The boys and girls also answered positively with regard to money reasons, respectively 4.1% and 2.7%. 13.3% and 6.8% respectively, stopped because the family disapproved, 1.6% and 2.5% respectively because friends disapproved and because of other reasons, 23.9 and 35.2% respectively. It is clear here as well that it is wise to find out what the other reasons may be.

Table 10. Periods during which they stopped with smoking

| Months | % |
|--------------|----|
| 1 – 3 | 16 |
| 4 – 11 | 10 |
| 12 – 24 | 10 |
| More than 24 | 12 |
| More than 36 | 50 |

The urge to stop smoking has also been surveyed. As such, 89.9% of the active smokers think they can stop if they want. But the same research has shown that 68.3% has already tried but failed.

V. Knowledge about media messages

A survey was also made of whether students had received anti-smoking messages through the media in the past month. Apparently, 31.9% had seen a lot of messages, 41.8% had only seen a few and slightly more than a fourth (26.3%) had not seen any messages at all (see table 11).

Table 11. The percentage of students who received anti-smoking messages through the media within the past 30 days.

| | Many messages (%) | A few messages (%) | No messages (%) |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Total | 31.9 | 41.8 | 26.3 |
| Girls | 35.7 | 39.3 | 24.9 |
| Boys | 27.7 | 45.1 | 27.2 |

We can conclude therefore that certainly 68% of the Surinamese students receive information insufficiently via the media with regard to the negative effects of smoking. This means there is still a lot to do. Anti-smoking messages can also be given during games, concerts, in discotheques, at parties and at other gatherings. During this research, it was also surveyed whether the students had ever received anti-smoking messages.

Table 12. The percentage of students who received anti-smoking messages during games, concerts, discotheques, parties and other gatherings

| | Many messages (%) | A few messages (%) | No messages (%) |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Total | 26.7 | 45.4 | 28.0 |

Table 12 shows us therefore that approximately 63% of the Surinamese students insufficiently receive anti-smoking messages during games, concerts, in discotheques, at parties and at other gatherings.

There are obviously many factors that can influence the smoking habit of the youth. One of these factors is a movie in which famous actors light up a cigarette after an heroic deed. The students were asked whether they saw actors smoking in the movie on television or on a video. Only 29.2% answered 'sometimes', 2.8% answered 'never' and 68.1% answered "often". A policy measure to stop films in which the actors smoke from being shown on television is not possible. Still, a better education to young people would be to point out to them that actors who do heroic deeds are only fantasy and that this fantasy does not correspond with reality.

Another factor that can stimulate smoking is having or wearing items (t-shirt, pen, bag etc) with the logo of a cigarette brand on them (see table 13).

Table 13: Percentage of students who have something with a cigarette brand as logo

| | Yes (%) | No (%) |
|--------------------|---------|--------|
| Non-smokers | 20.6 | 71.4 |
| Smokers | 31.0 | 69.0 |

So, a percentage higher than 20% seems to have such a logo. It is remarkable that cigarette brands can be seen during sports events or other broadcasts on television. 49.9% of the students claim to have seen this a lot in the past 30 days. 40.1% claims to have seen this sometimes. So, together, 90% of the students have seen cigarette advertisements during sports events on television.

A much occurring fact is that notice boards are being used as means of advertising for cigarettes. Among non-smokers, 29.2% claim to have seen a notice board in the past 30 days. Among active smokers, 31.6% claim to have seen notice boards. A survey was also made as to whether students had not seen any advertisements for cigarettes within the past 30 days. Among non-smokers, this percentage was 25.3% and among smokers 24.4%. The largest part, namely 75%, sees cigarette ads regularly while approximately 70% has not notice any anti-smoking messages.

VI. What is taught at school

At school some attention is indeed given to the harmful effects of smoking. 45.6% of the students have received information about the dangers of smoking in classes during the past

half. If we look at table 9, it seems that the least information was given at LTS and ETO.

Conclusions

Smoking habit