

Smoking Behavior among Female Worker in Indonesia Does Education Matter?

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Abstract

Smoking behavior in women has a risk of fertility problems, the reproductive system, and many other health problems. This study was aimed at analyzing the effect of education level on smoking behavior among female workers in Indonesia. The samples used were a female worker. The sample size was 51,815 respondents. Apart from education, other independent variables analyzed were the place of residence, age, marital, wealth, and pregnant status. Determination of determinant by binary logistic regression. The results of the study informed that female workers with primary education were 0.456 times more likely than no education to become smokers. Female workers with secondary education are 0.428 times more likely than no education to become smokers. Female workers with higher education are 0.219 times more likely than no education to become smokers. The results of this analysis indicate that the higher the education level, the lower the possibility of female workers becoming smokers. Apart from the education level, 4 other variables were also found as predictors of smoking behavior among female workers, namely the place of residence, age, wealth, and pregnant status. It was concluded that the education level was a predictor of smoking behavior among female workers in Indonesia. The higher the education level, the lower the possibility of female workers becoming smokers.

Keywords: *Smoking behavior, female worker, tobacco use.*

Introduction

It is reported that female smokers worldwide reach 250 million people, 22% in developed countries, and 9% in developing countries¹. Several countries reported a complete reversal in relative prevalence between men and women, accompanied by a shrinking gap between male and female smokers in adulthood². This

condition shows that smoking behavior in women globally can change significantly in the future². In line with the increase in female smokers, it was found that female smokers were at greater risk of experiencing pain due to tobacco use than men. Female smokers are at risk of developing breast, fibroid, and lung cancer^{3,4}. Some female smokers reported not stopping smoking while pregnant⁵. Screening results in female smokers showed positive depression at early pregnancy, late pregnancy, and 12 months after delivery⁵. Quitting smoking especially early in pregnancy is associated with a reduction in preterm birth⁶. Besides, smoking also has adverse effects on the reproductive system, increased risk of infertility, stillbirth, sudden death syndrome, and intrauterine fetal growth disorders⁷.

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Most of the smokers are female workers. Female smokers working in Indonesia are reported to be 66.2%⁸, in Iran 27.7%⁹, and Brazil 40.3%¹⁰. 7.3% of female smokers in Brazil still smoke during pregnancy¹⁰. Women who smoke in China are reported to have poor education and socioeconomic⁸. A Canadian study of female smokers reported that female smokers were more likely to continue smoking during pregnancy which was associated with education and employment status¹¹. Meanwhile, in Bangladesh, it was also reported that 51.0% of smokers were women, and 33.6% worked in various sectors¹².

Female workers are one of the seven vulnerable groups. Some of the vulnerabilities of female workers that occur in the European Union include discrimination in workgroups, sexual harassment, lack of concern for reproductive health, including menstruation leave and pregnancy¹³. Vulnerabilities in female reproduction include not being allowed to get pregnant while working, not having a baby during the contract period, greater wage discrimination for men, including work benefits, such as children and family, less than maximum menstrual and pregnancy leave, harassment, and sexual violence¹⁴. The psychological vulnerability of female workers is 30.8% higher than that of men. Psychological vulnerabilities can take the form of bullying, anxiety, stress, mental badness, and depression¹⁵.

Working women show an important aspect in the macro economy¹⁶, but it is also a challenge that women must face. Working women have a double burden, namely as workers outside the home and workers in the home¹⁷. World Bank data shows that the percentage of female workers in 2018 was 50.7%, and those aged 15 years and over. This data forms the basis that women have a role in the family economy¹⁸. The dual roles of female workers include caring for their children, being mothers, partners as well as being members of society. This condition affects emotional health, physical health, social and economic activities¹⁵. Based on the background description, the study was aimed at analyzing the effect of education level on smoking behavior among female workers in Indonesia.

Materials and Method

Data from the 2017 Indonesian Demographic Data Survey (IDHS) was used as material for analysis in this study. The unit of analysis in this study was female workers (15-49 years) in Indonesia. The 2017 IDHS

used stratification and multistage random sampling, so it got 51,815 respondents.

Smoking behavior is the respondent's recognition of his smoking behavior. Divided into 2 categories, namely no smoking and smoking. Apart from the education level, other independent variables analyzed were the type of place of residence, age groups, marital status, wealth status, and pregnant status.

All variables involved in the analysis of this study were dichotomous variables, therefore the chi-square test was used to examine the relationship between education level and other variables. In the final stage, binary logistic regression is used because of the nature of the dependent variable. All statistical analyzes were carried out using SPSS 22 software.

Results and Discussion

Table 1 displays descriptive statistics of female workers in Indonesia. It can be seen that all categories of education level are dominated by female workers who don't smoke. Based on the education level, primary and no education female workers are predominantly living in rural areas, while female workers with secondary and higher education levels are predominantly living in urban areas.

Based on the age group, primary and no education female workers are dominated by the 45-49 age group, while female workers with secondary and higher education levels are dominated by the 35-39 age group. All-female workers are dominated by those who are married or living with partners.

Based on wealth status, primary and no education female workers were dominated by the poorest, while female workers who had education at the secondary category level were dominated by the richer, and female workers who had education at the higher category level were dominated by the richest. Based on variable status, all-female workers were dominated by those who were not pregnant.

Table 2 shows the results of the binary logistic regression of smoking behavior among female workers in Indonesia. It can be seen that female workers with primary education have a 0.456 times chance compared to no education female workers to become smokers (OR 0.456; 95% CI 0.393-0.529). Female workers with secondary education are 0.428 times more likely than

no education female workers to become smokers (OR 0.428; 95% CI 0.366-0.501). Female workers with higher education are 0.219 times more likely than no education female workers to become smokers (OR 0.219; 95% CI 0.171-0.279).

The results of this analysis indicate that the higher the education level, the lower the possibility of female workers becoming smokers. The better the level of education, the more female workers understand the risk of behavior that will be adopted in their daily lives. This condition makes education level often found as a positive predictor of output in the health sector^{8,19,20}. On

the other hand, low levels of education are often found to be a barrier to output in the health sector^{21,22}.

Apart from the education level, 4 other variables were also found as predictors of smoking behavior among female workers. First, based on the type of place of residence, it was found that female workers living in rural were 0.643 times more likely than female workers living in urban to become smokers (OR 0.643; 95% CI 0.588-0.704). This information shows that female workers who live in urban have a higher likelihood of becoming smokers. The same findings were also confirmed in several previous studies^{23,24}.

Table 1. The descriptive statistics of the education level of female workers in Indonesia (n=51,815)

Variables	Education Level								P
	No Education		Primary		Secondary		Higher		
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Smoking Behavior									***0.000
No	2672	91.9%	31546	96.6%	40080	97.2%	9302	98.7%	
Yes	237	8.1%	1125	3.4%	1154	2.8%	123	1.3%	
Type of place of residence									
Urban	575	19.7%	11233	34.4%	23219	56.3%	6300	66.8%	
Rural	2337	80.3%	21450	65.6%	18025	43.7%	3126	33.2%	
Age Group									***0.000
15-19	7	0.2%	114	0.3%	318	0.8%	6	0.1%	
20-24	45	1.5%	718	2.2%	2354	5.7%	241	2.6%	
25-29	113	3.9%	2085	6.4%	4918	11.9%	1278	13.6%	
30-34	247	8.5%	4336	13.3%	7646	18.5%	2209	23.4%	
35-39	443	15.2%	7125	21.8%	9597	23.3%	2231	23.7%	
40-44	724	24.9%	8856	27.1%	9111	22.1%	1812	19.2%	
45-49	1333	45.8%	9449	28.9%	7300	17.7%	1649	17.5%	
Marital Status									0.527
Never in union/Divorced/Widowed	2	0.1%	17	0.1%	27	0.1%	9	0.1%	
Married/Living with partner	2910	99.9%	32666	99.9%	41217	99.9%	9417	99.9%	
Wealth status									***0.000
Poorest	2065	70.9%	13508	41.3%	7895	19.1%	547	5.8%	
Poorer	476	16.3%	7737	23.7%	7817	19.0%	803	8.5%	
Middle	220	7.6%	5801	17.7%	8458	20.5%	1088	11.5%	
Richer	102	3.5%	3916	12.0%	9134	22.1%	2019	21.4%	
Richest	49	1.7%	1721	5.3%	7940	19.3%	4969	52.7%	
Pregnant									***0.000
No	2872	98.6%	31955	97.8%	39802	96.5%	9083	96.4%	
Yes	40	1.4%	728	2.2%	1442	3.5%	343	3.6%	

Note: *p <0.05; **p <0.01; ***p <0.001.

Table 2: Results of binary logistic regression of smoking behavior among female worker in Indonesia (n=51,815)

Predictor	Low Birth Weight			
	P	OR	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Education Level: No education	-	-	-	-
Education Level: Primary	***0.000	0.456	0.393	0.529
Education Level: Secondary	***0.000	0.428	0.366	0.501
Education Level: Higher	***0.000	0.219	0.172	0.279
Type of place of residence: Urban	-	-	-	-
Type of place of residence: Rural	***0.000	0.643	0.588	0.704
Age group of respondents: 15-19	-	-	-	-
Age group of respondents: 20-24	0.804	0.909	0.428	1.932
Age group of respondents: 25-29	0.531	1.258	.614	2.578
Age group of respondents: 30-34	0.137	1.712	.844	3.474
Age group of respondents: 35-39	*0.034	2.140	1.057	4.330
Age group of respondents: 40-44	0.059	1.975	0.976	3.997
Age group of respondents: 45-49	*0.032	2.168	1.071	4.387
Wealth status: Poorest	-	-	-	-
Wealth status: Poorer	***0.000	0.771	0.692	0.859
Wealth status: Middle	***0.000	0.523	0.460	0.595
Wealth status: Richer	***0.000	0.483	0.421	0.554
Wealth status: Richest	***0.000	0.481	0.414	0.560
Pregnant: No	-	-	-	-
Pregnant: Yes	*0.028	0.723	0.542	0.965

Note: * p <0.05; ** p <0.01; *** p <0.001.

Second, the results of the analysis found that the age group had a partial effect on smoking behavior among female workers. Female workers in the 35-39 age group were 2.140 times more likely than female workers in the 15-19 age group to become smokers (OR 2.140; 95% CI 1.057-4.330). Female workers in the 45-49 age group were 2.168 times more likely than female workers in the 15-19 age group to become smokers (OR 2.168; 95% CI 1.071-4.387). Previous studies in Costa Rica, Iran, and Cuba also informed the same finding, that age is a predictor of smoking behavior^{23,25,26}.

Third, wealth status. Female workers with poorer wealth status have a probability of 0.771 times compared to the poorest female workers to become a smoker (OR 0.771; 95% CI 0.692-0.859). Female workers with middle wealth status have a 0.523 times chance compared to the poorest female workers to become smokers (OR

0.523; 95% CI 0.460-0.595). Female workers with richer wealth status have a 0.483 times chance compared to the poorest female workers to become smokers (OR 0.483; 95% CI 0.421-0.554). The richest female worker was 0.481 times more likely than the poorest female worker to become a smoker (OR 0.481; 95% CI 0.414-0.560). This information is in line with the findings of the previous studies²⁷.

Fourth, pregnant status. Pregnant female workers had 0.723 times the probability of non-pregnant female workers becoming smokers (OR 0.723; 95% CI 0.542-0.965). This means that pregnancy is a protective factor to prevent female workers from smoking.

Conclusions

Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that education was a predictor of smoking behavior among

female workers in Indonesia. The higher the education, the lower the possibility of female workers to become smokers. Apart from education, 4 other variables were also found as predictors of smoking behavior among female workers, namely type of place of residence, age group, wealth status, and pregnant status.

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