Making Anti-Smoking Interventions Work for School Adolescents: Evidences and Implications from 18 Asian Countries

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Abstract

Much literature has shown adolescent smoking could be triggered by many familial-, school- and community-level factors, based on which some anti-smoking interventions are recommended. But empirical studies conducted in Asian settings and from comparative perspectives are still insufficient. By employing multiple logistic regression approach and analyzing data from Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS), this paper intends to examine the effects of multiple influential factors on adolescent smoking initiation in 18 Asian countries. We plan to compare those factors in Asian contexts, discuss the mediating social and cultural effects on the relationship between adolescent smoking and those influential factors, and then raise some more effective anti-smoking intervention strategies. Our finding suggests that although some influential factors work similarly in Asian like in Western countries, some others, like having smoking parents or getting exposed to smoking social environment more often, have no notable effects on the initiation of adolescent smoking. But health education at school could significantly reduce the likelihood of initiating smoking. Therefore, more empirical studies in Asia are highly needed to better understand adolescent smoking behaviors, especially on the mediating social and cultural effects. Meanwhile, health education at school should be enhanced greatly as a more effective intervention strategy to control tobacco use among adolescents.

References


