FPB1-1

INFANT FEEDING PRACTICES and HEALTH STATUS: A PROSPECTIVE STUDY OF INFANTS IN FIRST SIX MONTHS OF LIFE.

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Aims, a prospective study was carried out to examine the relationship between infant feeding and the health status of infants in the first six months of life at the University of Malaya Medical Centre Kuala Lumpur.

Methods, a total of 150 newborns from the medical centre were selected and followed up for six months. Feeding practices were assessed monthly by questionnaire, frequency and duration of illnesses were recorded during monthly visits to the child health clinic.

Results, in this study, 64% of the newborns were exclusively breastfed at birth, followed by 22.7% who were partially breastfed and 13.3% who were not breastfed at all. By six months of age, only 5.3% remain exclusively breastfed, 61(39.8%) of the babies still received some breast milk and non breastfed had increased to 59.3%. Mean episodes of gastrointestinal and upper respiratory infections among exclusively breastfed babies and partially breastfed babies were lesser than the non breastfed infants, respectively with F (1,147) = 13.90, p=0.001 and F (2,147) =19.89, p=0.00. Non breastfed babies had longer mean duration of gastrointestinal and upper respiratory rate infection than the other two groups respectively with F (2,147) = 15.12, p=0.001 and F (2,147) =21.01, p=0.001.

Conclusion, breastfeeding reduces the episode and duration of respiratory and gastrointestinal infection and improved the health status of infants. Breastfeeding should be promoted so that more mothers will breastfeed exclusively for at least six months. It is recommended that the initiation of “Baby Friendly Hospital” to be extended to private health care institutions.

FPB1-2

FACTORS INFLUENCING GENDER IDENTITY DISORDER AMONG MALE STUDENTS IN PUBLIC HIGHER LEARNING INSTITUTES IN KELANG VALLEY

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The existence of male with gender identity disorder (GID) is a sensitive issue in family health development. We need to study this especially in our local setting. The aim of this study is to identify the risk factors associated with GID among males. The factors studied were individual, family and social factors. Apart from that, this study also aims to determine the relationship between these males with risky sexual behavior. The study was done among male students in selected public higher learning institutes in the Kelang Valley. A case-control study was conducted using self-administered questionnaires. As complement to the case-control study, a qualitative exploration was also done by analyzing written answers to open-ended questions built at the end of the self-administered questionnaires. There were 68 cases and 175 controls responded to this study. Results had shown that among the most common criteria manifested by cases were persistent appearance of cross-sex roles in play or social activity (85.3%); speaking, articulating or simulating feminine vocalization (75.0%); and displaying feminine-like body and limbs movements (70.6%). However, there were also cases with extreme feature such as feeling disgust towards own genitalia and willingness to get rid of their own genitalia (19.1%) and having history of trying to change their sexual characteristics by taking hormone (19.1%). In terms of risk factors, result show significant association between GID and social factors of having more female than male peers with odds ratio 9.9, 95%CI (3.8 – 25.7) and having effeminate males as close friends with odds ratio 48.7, 95%CI (12.6 – 189.2). However history of attending co-education school was not to be protective against GID with odds ratio 0.2, 95%CI (0.1 – 0.6). Among cases, the risk of having risky sexual behavior was high with odds ratio 6.2, 95%CI (3.3 – 11.6) and homosexual relationship was the most commonly reported sexual practice (36.8%). In the qualitative exploration, the common factors mentioned by cases as reasons why they become effeminate

male were natural influences (21 cases), while others (8 cases) either expressed their inner feelings; cases expressing having life difficulties and sadness. Ten cases hope to other studies need to be carried out light and understood. Apart from each profile various factors of formation of other issues related to GID will help us in determining.

FPB1-3

SMOKING AMONG FEMALE STUDENTS AT PRIVATE HIGHER LEARNING INSTITUTIONS IN SELANGOR

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Background: Many women, especially those from traditionally urban households, have tried smoking as a way of coping and development among young women, especially with modernization. There are barriers. It is especially a problem for young urban women. Large groups of young women working or studying in the learning both in and outside the focus on female education, learning institutions of the urban women. Many of cigarette smoking, as they are well off financially. This study examined the smoking among female students at three PHLI in Kuala Lumpur to determine the associations.

Objectives: We aimed to examine the smoking among female students at three PHLI in Kuala Lumpur to identify the factors contributing to smoking.

Methodology: A cross-sectional survey was conducted among female students at three PHLI in Kuala Lumpur. Data were collected using self-administered questionnaires. The questionnaire included demographic information, smoking status, and smoking-related factors. The data were analyzed using statistical software. The prevalence of smoking was calculated, and the associations between smoking and demographic and smoking-related factors were evaluated using logistic regression analysis.

Results: The prevalence of smoking among female students was 6.2%. Young age (18-24 years), higher educational attainment, and higher socioeconomic status were associated with increased smoking. Additionally, lower self-efficacy in quitting smoking and perceived social support from family and friends were also associated with increased smoking. The results of logistic regression analysis showed that higher educational attainment and lower self-efficacy in quitting smoking were independent predictors of smoking.

Discussion: The high prevalence of smoking among female students at three PHLI in Kuala Lumpur highlights the need for interventions to address smoking. Interventions should focus on reducing the influence of social norms and increasing self-efficacy in quitting smoking. These findings can be used to develop effective smoking cessation programs for female students.

Conclusion: The findings of this study have important implications for the development of smoking cessation programs for female students at PHLI in Malaysia.