

# **Knowledge and Attitude towards Smoking among Fayoum University Students**

Smoking is a behavioral cause of premature morbidity and mortality, resulting in approximately four million persons dying of smoking-related diseases annually worldwide. This study aims to investigate the extent of smoking habit, knowledge and attitude toward smoking among Fayoum University students > A cross sectional analytical study was conducted in Fayoum University during the academic year 2010/2011. A total of 804 students were selected by using randomized multi-stage sampling using self-administered questionnaire for data collection. Data were analyzed using SPSS version 16. The respondents age ranged from 18 to 26 years  $20.36 \pm (1.21)$  years. The males were 51% (N= 410) and females were 49% (N=394). The prevalence of smoking among students was 13.4%. The majority of the smokers 82.4% used cigarettes while 8.3% smoked water pipe. 97.3% of the students were aware about smoking related diseases; only 5.6% of the sample had good/ satisfactory knowledge score. In conclusion, smoking is prevalent among the university students and their knowledge about the harmful effects of smoking is generally superficial. Smoking has direct effect with diseases, program to help students quit smoking may be advantages.

**Key words:** Smoking- university students- knowledge- attitudes