

## SMOKE FREE CAMPAIGN THROUGH SCHOOL-BASED PREVENTION PROGRAM AT MUTIARA HARAPAN ISLAMIC SCHOOL, TANGERANG – BANTEN

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**Abstrak** – Children are susceptible to be passive smokers as a consequence of exposure to cigarette smoke when they are in the surroundings of smokers. Nearly 70% of children aged 13-15 years are exposed to cigarette smoke inside their homes, while 78 percent are exposed to cigarettes outside their homes. Cigarette smoke has a bad impact on health in children, even though they do not understand the dangers of cigarette smoke. For this reason, an extension activity is conducted on the dangers of cigarette smoke, so that children can understand the dangers of cigarette smoke and can be the main driver for parents and their surroundings to live smoke-free.

**Keywords:** Cigarette smoke, passive smokers, dangers of smoking

### INTRODUCTION

World Health Organization (WHO) states that Indonesia is one of the countries with the highest prevalence of smokers in the world. The proportion of active smokers in Indonesia, increasing from year to year [1], amounts to nearly 63 million smokers [2]. The most vulnerable population to start smoking is in the period of children or adolescents. According to the World Bank, every day there are nearly 82,000-99,000 children and adolescents around the world who start smoking [3].

The increasing number of active smokers has an impact on increasing the prevalence of passive smokers. The same big potential risk will be encountered by active smokers as a consequence of being in a surroundings of smokers, such as heart disease, lung cancer and other respiratory disorders. The most vulnerable age group to be passive smokers is the age of 13-15 years. Nearly 70% are exposed to cigarette smoke inside their homes, while 78 percent of the children are exposed to cigarette smoke outside their homes [4].

Although some studies have shown that smoking bans at home are associated with smokers' awareness of the presence of second-hand smoke which is harmful to both non-smokers and the household environment, more than 90% of parents agree that parents who smoke give a bad impact on their family's health, especially exposure to cigarette smoke in children. However, there are differences in awareness of the dangers of cigarette smoke due to several factors such as education level, age, and gender.<sup>5</sup> The theory of Health Belief Model shows that a person can be motivated in changing proactive behavior in an effort to avoid negative consequences for his health [5,6].

Cigarette smoke has a bad impact on public health, especially in children. They still do not understand the dangers of cigarette smoke so extension activity is conducted so that children can understand the dangers of cigarette smoke and can be the main driver of parents and the surroundings to live smoke-free.

With regard to the above description, the activity of Community Service held by the lecturers of the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Prof. Dr. Moestopo (Beragama) aims to: (1) find out the adverse effects of cigarettes and cigarette smoke on the body health, especially the teeth and mouth; (2) be able to make efforts to avoid exposure to cigarette smoke; (3) be able to take action for the surrounding environment to live smoke-free.

In the long run, this activity is expected to reduce the number of diseases caused by the exposure to cigarette smoke in the community, especially children, so this activity is named: *"Campaign for Smoke-Free Kids through Oral Health School Program"*. This activity took place at Mutiara Harapan Islamic School, Tangerang, in early April 2018 with the target of students from grade one to grade six with a total of 180 students.

## METHOD

This activity used a face-to-face method (lecture) in front of the students which was then followed by demonstrations. During the demonstration, props were used including cigarette models, posters and videos so that students could understand deeply the dangers of smoking to health.

Face-to-face method was carried out using simple language, accompanied by utterances in the form of children's typical cheerfulness, so that effective forms of communication were established for children. With such a communication model, messages conveyed about the dangers of smoking were expected to be embedded in their memory and they could remember them until adulthood.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Extension activity regarding the dangers of cigarette smoke to health was carried out for one day. The event was opened with a speech from the committee chairman and from the Mutiara Harapan Islamic School, Tangerang. Education provided was in the form of negative impacts from exposure to cigarette smoke using props that was a replica of cigarettes along with large cigarette packs, videos, and flags with smoke-free images. The event was closed by giving a questionnaire to evaluate students' knowledge, awareness and behavior towards the dangers of cigarette smoke.

Students of Mutiara Harapan Islamic School had high enthusiasm when participating in this activity and many of them agreed to avoid the exposure to cigarette smoke. The school is committed to continuing to support this program and make the school smoke-free.



**Figure 1.** Cigarette Poster in the form of a Cigarette Box



**Figure 2.** Cigarette models containing harmful ingredients that emit smoke

Meanwhile, the evaluation of the extension activity was conducted by giving questionnaires to find out the knowledge, awareness and actions of students on the dangers of cigarette smoke.



Figure 3. Education on the dangers of cigarette smoke

### Campaign for Smoke-Free Kids through Oral Health School Program

**What We Do?**  
The Goal of Campaign For Smoke-Free Kids through Oral Health School Program is to teach children and teenagers to be the "smoke-free generation", as their life will be more enjoyable to learn smoking and their exposure to second-hand smoke.

**Why?**  
Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) found more than 12 million of people in Indonesia are exposed to secondhand smoke. Girls' knowledge of young children are exposed to 35% in public places, and 55% of children are exposed to 35% at home. Children are vulnerable to the effects of 35% exposure when there is major health problem such as lower respiratory tract infection, asthma, ear infection, and also the factor of professional disease. This campaign will be at school because it has a major role in every town, school, and other in Indonesia that encourage anti-smoking life and behavior.

**Where?**  
Mutia Harapan Islamic School, Tangerang

**When?**  
Tuesday of April 2023

**How We Do it,**

Smoke-Free campaign activities included 200 children from grade 1 to grade 6. The activities such as health education about the effects of 35% exposure to second-hand smoke, model oral health behaviors, draw children's book with "Smoking-free", "Medical Free", "Noor", "Share more", and "Smoke-free" with Pledge. Ten items of class and questionnaire to assess knowledge, awareness, and attitude regarding second-hand smoke exposure was administered to the students.

The mission of "Smoke-Free Generation" was to teach the children to know their role to learn about air and they use their action to make a smoke-free zone. One of the children had a good knowledge about the effects of 35% exposure when there is major health problem such as lower respiratory tract infection, asthma, ear infection, and also the factor of professional disease. This campaign will be at school because it has a major role in every town, school, and other in Indonesia that encourage anti-smoking life and behavior.

**Who we use?**

We are dental students at University of Prof. Dr. Moestopo (Jember), Jember, Indonesia. During 3 months rotation in dental public health department, we developed some project results to health promotion, one of them is "Smoke-Free Campaign". We found a lot of fun learning the application of dental public health theories and practices. Special thanks to Dr. Raka Jannah MS (Dean of Faculty of Dentistry, Chief of Dental Public Health Department) and all the lecturers for abundant support and experiences. We are also appreciate Mutia Harapan Islamic School for the willingness and cooperation to support this project.

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Figure 4. Event Flyer

## CONCLUSION

This extension program went well proven by the enthusiasm of the students and the community of Mutia Harapan Islamic School which was quite high so that the information provided could be

absorbed properly. Methods and props are one of the important factors in delivering education so students are interested in listening and absorbing the information provided.

Suggestions obtained from this activity are conducting educational activities on the dangers of cigarette smoke to other schools and using other props that can further hone children's affective, psychometric and cognitive aspects so that information can be applied in everyday life.

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*by Y M*

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