

Reducing Cigarette Usage at Mahakanadarawa

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Cigarette usage by people is a major cause for the rapid increase of non communicable diseases. Usually the tobacco industry targets youth and children via the media, posters etc. Smoking influences the lives of people: impairs happiness, joy, interest and family life and affects their economy, social life and health.

This research was conducted to find out the expenditure on cigarettes within a one year period in shops and the attitudes of shop owners towards selling cigarettes. Twenty shops were selected in the Mahakanadarawa Yaya 2/3 P.H.M. area in the Mihintale M.O.H. division. The study was carried out using a semi structured questionnaire in randomly selected shops. A question regarding the attitude for reducing cigarette selling among shop owners was included in the questionnaire.

Out of the 20 shops surveyed, two shops did not sell cigarettes. Approximately 902 cigarettes are sold in a day from the 18 shops. The total expenditure for cigarettes within one year in this area is Rs. 4938560.00. This could be considered as an economic loss in this area. Out of the 18 shops 95.5% shop owners agreed to quit selling cigarettes. According to the responses received, shop owners are already aware of the harmful effects of cigarette smoking. In conclusion, it is possible to say that our research had a positive impact on the reduction of cigarette selling.