

Title The acceptance on smoking free environment in urban
restaurant of Yunnan Province, China

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ABSTRACT

Background

In recent years, smoking has become an important issue in China. With a population of 1.3 billion, China has 350 million smokers. The smoking prevalence in men and women aged 15 years or older is 57% and 3%, respectively. Smoking causes a serious health problem and a huge economic burden to Chinese society. The Chinese government is aware of the hazard from smoking and has started to implement some measures for tobacco control.

Restaurant is one of the most used public places where both workers and customers are most exposed to second hand smoke. However, China doesn't have national laws or regulations specifically banning smoking in public places including restaurant. Legislation is the best way to create a smoke-free environment. However, public attitudes are the foundation for law enactment and enforcement.

Yunnan province is situated in the south-western borderland of China, it is the biggest tobacco production province of China. Kunming city is the provincial capital of Yunnan Province. The prevalence of tobacco

use was reported nearly 30% among the city residents in 2008. Xishan district is one of four central districts of Kunming city. There are approximately four thousand restaurant registered a regularly inspected by the health bureau.

General objective

This research aims to measure the acceptance of managers, employees and customers on smoke-free environment in urban restaurants of Yunnan province, China.

Specific objectives

1. To investigate the attitudes of restaurant managers, employees and customers towards proposed smoking ban policies in restaurants.
2. To find the factors associated with attitudes supporting total smoking ban in involved restaurant business groups.
3. To explore if there are any difference among managers, employees and customers on attitudes towards proposed smoking ban policies.
4. To examine the influence power on investigation results to managers attitudes.

Study design and methodology

A restaurant based survey in an urban area of Kunming city was carried out from May to August 2009. 104 restaurants were randomly selected. The study population was consisted of the managers and the employees who were currently working in those restaurants, and their customers, aged 15 and above. All study participants were interviewed using a structured questionnaire. After finishing the investigation, a brief result on opinions of employees and customers were sent to manager, and managers were asked for their decision again.

Descriptive statistics were first used to breakdown by proportion of respondents. As gender, smoking status and education were potentially confounding, logistic regression was applied to identify independent predictor of preference of a total smoking ban. Since groups of employees and customers working or eating in the same restaurant environment might tend to given similar responses in the questionnaire, multilevel analysis was used. X^2 test was used to recognize the difference of opinions among the 3 groups. Kappa test was used to exam the attitudes changes of manager before and after investigated information feedback.

Results

The percentage of respondents preferring a total smoking ban in restaurants was 17% among managers, 13.4% among employees, and 16.6% among customers. The attitudes were different in employees from managers and customers. Multilevel analysis confirmed that respondents who did not smoke, were educated, and worked or dined at a restaurant with fewer than 200 seats were more likely to support a total smoking ban. Female customers had a lower preference towards a total smoking ban policy than males. The harmful effects of passive smoking were not well recognized by all groups. Kappa test result shows the managers opinions on smoke-free restaurant were agreement before and after research team feedback the investigation results.

Conclusions and recommendations

A total smoking ban policy in restaurants is unlikely to be supported by people involved in the restaurant business in the study area. This coincides with poor local awareness of the harm from smoking. Less educated people and females should be more concerned by health education program. Non-smoker's right should be emphasized to change the social

norm.

Key words: tobacco control, legislation, smoke-free environment,
survey, multilevel analysis, kappa test