ABSTRACT

Smoking is one of the main causes of early death and disabilities which displays a public health problem both in developed countries and in developing countries, such as Brazil. Smoking, under all its forms, enhances the hazards of coronary diseases, hypertension, strokes, bronchitis, emphysema and cancer (INCA, 2004). In case nothing is done to change these risks, the WHO estimates that 10 million of death rates in 2030 will be directly related to smoking an 70% of them will occur in developing countries (MEIRELLES, 2006). This work aimed to study smoking prevalence among students adolescents of CEFET/Campos dos Goytacazes (RJ). The Students that took part in this research, answered a questionnaire where the questions, made an approach as to the use of cigarette smoking, frequency, purpose, and how long they made use of it, among other items. 889 students were interviewed, among these, 812 questionnaires were analysed, amounting to a total of 91.3% of the instruments. The results which were obtained, display that the smokers make up a total of 9%. 62.5% The age group of most smokers is over 16 to 17 years old and that 62.5% are male. Among the smoking individuals 50.0% have income family being 2 to 3 minimum wages. Smoking is one of the most severe problems in public health, making up an epidemic that involves both public health and the country economy and the environment (ARAÚJO et al., 2004; JÚNIOR, 2005).

Key words: Adolescents. Students. Smoking. Tobacco. Nicotine.