

## Gender Moderates the Association Between Symbolization Trait (But Not Internalization Trait) and Smoking Behaviour

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**Abstract :** Gender plays a big role in psychosocial development. This study aimed to investigate whether gender moderates the relationship between moral identity (internalization and symbolization) and risk-smoking behavior. An online cross-sectional study was carried out on 388 (61% female) youths who fulfilled the study's inclusion and exclusion criteria. While viewing images of smoking behavior, participants rated their emotional state, which ranged from unpleasant to pleasant. Participants were also asked to fill out the eight-item Moral Identity Scale and provide their socio-demographic information. Gender significantly moderated the relationship between symbolization and smoking behavior. However, the moderation effect was not shown by internalization. Finding highlights the implication of gender on moral identity and smoking behavior and the importance of considering this in the public health intervention and program.

**Keywords :** smoking behaviour, gender, emotion, moral identity

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