



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***ASSOCIATION OF DIETARY PATTERNS WITH SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC,
LIFESTYLE, WEIGHT STATUS AND BIOCHEMICAL PROFILES AMONG
TYPE 2 DIABETES MELLITUS PATIENTS IN A SPECIAL MEDICAL
CENTER, TEHRAN IRAN***

NASRIN DARANI ZAD

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By

NASRIN DARANI ZAD

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
in Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science**

JULY 2012

Specially dedicated to

My mother, my father the most beloved persons in my life, for their love, understanding, endless patience and encouragement when it was most needed.



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science

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Chairman: Rokiah bt Mohd Yusof, PhD

Faculty: Medicine and Health Sciences

A cross-sectional study was conducted to determine the dietary patterns and their association with socio-demography, lifestyle, weight status and biochemical profiles among type 2 diabetes mellitus subjects and to determine the significant predictors of dietary patterns. Three hundred subjects aged 30 years and above with type 2 diabetes mellitus were selected for this study. Height, weight, and waist circumference were measured and body mass index and waist hip ratio calculated. Biochemical profiles were investigated from past medical history records including glycosylated hemoglobin, fasting blood glucose, postprandial blood glucose, triglycerides, total cholesterol, low and high density lipoprotein cholesterol. For each subject, a physical activity level in weekly metabolic equivalent hours were calculated using International Physical Activity Questionnaire. To measure the

dietary intake of the subjects, a semi-quantitative food frequency questionnaire consisting 105 food items was used. The subjects were interviewed on how often they had consumed each of the food items throughout the preceding month to the study period. The frequency intake per day was obtained from the amount of food that was intake each day. The portion sizes of food were estimated to gram with using household measurements. Total energy intake was calculated by summing up energy intake from all foods. Because of the large number of the food items relative to the number of participants, each food was assigned item into 1 of 23 defined food groups. The basis for placing a food item in a certain food group was the similarity of nutrients. Some food items were considered individually as a food group because their nutrient profiles were unique (e.g., eggs, and tea). Three factors (dietary patterns) were identified using factor analysis. Factor 1 was characterized by higher intake of fruit, fish, poultry, low fat dairy, green leafy vegetables, tomato, yellow vegetables, other vegetables, and olive oil and was labeled as vegetables and poultry dietary pattern, Factor 2 was labeled as western dietary pattern which was heavily loaded with legumes, sweets, egg, fish, high fat dairy product, French fries, potatoes, pizza, yellow vegetables. Factor 3 was labeled as mixed dietary pattern with high intake of refined grain, fruits, nuts, tea, whole grains, red meat and olive. Using the multivariate regression model, the factors which contribute significantly to vegetable and poultry dietary pattern in diabetic patients were waist circumference ($b=-0.022$, $p=0.000$), low physical activity ($b= -0.377$, $p=0.01$), male ($b= -0.295$, $p=0.01$), total energy ($b=0.001$, $p=0.000$), and body mass index ($b= -0.032$, $p=0.02$). The significant factors accounted in the western dietary pattern as moderate physical activity ($b= 0.773$, $p=0.000$), male ($b=0.436$, $p=0.001$), total cholesterol ($b= 0.003$, $p=0.008$), total energy ($b=0.000$, $p=0.001$), non-smoker ($b= 0.621$, $p=0.002$),

uneducated ($b= -0.371, p=0.02$), single ($b= -0.775, p=0.005$), fasting blood glucose ($b=0.002, p=0.013$). In addition, the results, related to mixed dietary pattern, showed that family history of diabetes mellitus ($b=0.349, p=0.003$), total energy ($b=0.001, p=0.000$) and high density lipoprotein cholesterol ($b=0.01, p=0.002$), moderate physical activity ($b=-0.39, p=0.03$), waist circumference ($b=-0.02, p=0.001$), body mass index ($b=0.03, p=0.01$) as well as low density lipoprotein cholesterol ($b=-0.003, p=0.04$) were significantly associated with mixed dietary pattern. As a conclusion, these findings showed that dietary patterns are influenced by interrelated factors such as socio-cultural, demographic, and lifestyle, which may be important for designing public health nutrition policy and preventive nutrition intervention programs to tackle further diabetes complications among Iranians.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

**PERKAITAN ANTARA CORAK DIET DENGAN SOSIO-DEMOGRAFI,
GAYA HIDUP, STATUS BERAT BADAN DAN PROFIL BIOKIMIA DALAM
KALANGAN PESAKIT DIABETES MELLITUS JENIS 2 DI PUSAT
PERUBATAN KHAS, TEHRAN, IRAN**

Oleh

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JULAI 2012

Pengerusi: Profesor Madya Rokiah binti Mohd Yusof, PhD

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Satu kajian keratan rentas telah dijalankan untuk menentukan corak diet dan perkaitan dengan sosio-demografi, gayahidup, status antropometri badan dan profil biokimia dalam kalangan subjek diabetes mellitus jenis 2, dan juga untuk menentukan petunjuk signifikan corak diet. Tiga ratus subjek diabetes mellitus berumur 30 tahun dan keatas telah dipilih. Tinggi, berat badan dan lilitan pinggang telah diukur dan indeks jisim tubuh dan nisbah pinggang-pinggul telah dikira. Profil biokimia telah dikaji menerusi rekod sejarah perubatan, termasuk paras hemoglobin glikosilat, glukosa darah berpuasa, glukosa darah selepas makan, trigliserida, jumlah kolesterol dan kolesterol lipoprotein ketumpatan rendah dan tinggi. Bagi setiap

subjek, tahap aktiviti fizikal dalam bentuk jam setara metabolik mingguan telah diukur menggunakan Soal Selidik Aktiviti Fizikal Antarabangsa. Bagi mengukur pengambilan diet subjek, soal selidik kekerapan pengambilan makanan separa-kuantitatif termasuk 105 jenis makanan telah digunakan. Subjek telah ditemuduga untuk kekerapan pengambilan makanan yang mereka makan bagi setiap jenis makanan daripada sebulan sebelumnya sehingga tempoh kajian. Kekerapan pengambilan setiap hari telah diperolehi bagi setiap jenis makanan. Saiz hidangan makanan telah dianggar kepada gram menggunakan sukatan isirumah. Jumlah pengambilan tenaga telah dikira dengan menjumlahkan pengambilan tenaga daripada semua makanan. Oleh kerana jumlah bilangan makanan yang banyak relatif kepada bilangan subjek, setiap makanan telah diagihkan kedalam 1-23 kumpulan makanan tertentu. Asas bagi meletakkan makanan kedalam kumpulan tertentu adalah mengikut persamaan nutrien di dalamnya. Terdapat juga makanan yang diletakkan secara individu sebagai kumpulan disebabkan profil nutriennya adalah unik (sebagai contoh: telur dan teh). Tiga faktor (corak diet) telah dikenalpasti melalui analisis faktor. Faktor 1, yang dilabelkan sebagai corak diet sayur-sayuran dan ayam-itek yang bercirikan pengambilan tinggi buah-buahan, ikan, ayam, produk tenusu rendah lemak, sayur-sayuran berdaun hijau, tomato, sayur-sayuran kuning, lain-lain sayur, dan minyak zaitun. Faktor 2, yang dilabelkan sebagai corak diet ala barat yang terdiri daripada kekacang, gula-gula, telur, ikan, produk tenusu tinggi lemak, kentang goreng, kentang, pizza dan sayur-sayuran kuning. Faktor 3 dilabelkan sebagai corak diet campuran, yang terdiri daripada bijian halus, buah-buahan, kacang, teh, bijian penuh, daging merah dan zaitun. Menggunakan model *regression multivariate*, faktor yang menyumbang secara signifikan kepada corak diet sayur-sayuran dan ayam-itek dalam kalangan pesakit diabetik adalah lilitan pinggang ($b=-0.022$,

p=0.000), aktiviti fizikal rendah (b=-0.377, p=0.01), lelaki (b=-0.295, p=0.01), jumlah tenaga (b=0.001, p=0.000), dan indeks jisim tubuh (b=-0.032, p=0.02). Faktor yang menyumbang secara signifikan dalam corak diet barat adalah aktiviti fizikal sederhana (b=0.773, p=0.000), lelaki (b=0.436, p=0.001), jumlah kolesterol (b=0.003, p=0.008), jumlah tenaga (b=0.000, p=0.001), tidak merokok (b=0.621, p=0.002), tidak berpelajaran (b=-0.371, p=0.02), tidak berkahwin (b=-0.775, p=0.005) dan paras glukosa darah berpuasa (b=0.002, p=0.013). Hasil kajian seterusnya juga berkait dengan corak diet campuran, menunjukkan bahawa sejarah keluarga diabetes mellitus (b=0.349, p=0.003), jumlah tenaga (b=0.001, p=0.000), kolesterol lipoprotein ketumpatan tinggi (b=0.01, p=0.002), aktiviti fizikal sederhana (b=-0.39, p=0.03), lilitan pinggang (b=-0.02, p=0.001), indeks jisim tubuh (b=0.03, p=0.01), dan kolesterol lipoprotein ketumpatan rendah (b=-0.003, p=0.04) mempunyai perkaitan yang signifikan dengan corak diet campuran. Sebagai rumusan, kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa corak diet dipengaruhi oleh faktor-faktor sosio-budaya, demografi dan faktor gaya hidup yang saling berkaitan, dan penting untuk merancang polisi pemakanan kesihatan awam dan program intervensi pemakanan bagi membendung komplikasi diabetes seterusnya dalam kalangan penduduk Iran.

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Finally, thanks God for giving me another opportunity to know myself by living in Malaysia.

I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 7.13.2012 to conduct the finale examination of Nasrin Darani Zad on her thesis entitled “Association of Dietary Patterns with Socio-demography, Lifestyle, Weight Status and Biochemical Profiles among Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus Patients in a Special Medical Center, Tehran Iran” in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the master of science.

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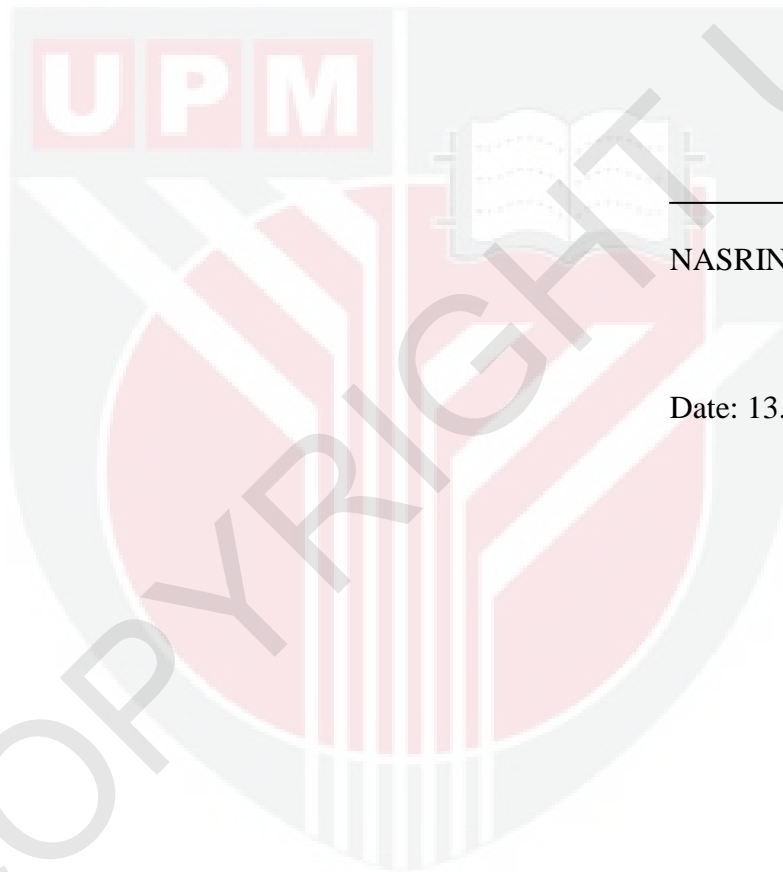
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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also, declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at University Putra Malaysia or at any other institutions.



NASRIN DARANI ZAD

Date: 13.July.2012

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADA	American Diabetes Association
BMI	Body Mass Index
DGAI	Dietary Guidelines for the Americans adherence Index
DM	Diabetes Mellitus
FBG	Fasting Blood Glucose
GDM	Gestational diabetes mellitus
GI	Glycemic index
HbA1c	Glycated Hemoglobin
HDL-C	High-Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol
IFG	Impaired Fasting Glycemia
IGT	Impaired Glucose Tolerance
IPAQ	International Physical Activity Questionnaire
LDL-C	Low-Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol
MET	Metabolic Equivalent
PPBG	Postprandial Blood Glucose
Q	Quintile
SD	Standard Deviation
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
T2DM	Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus
TC	Total Cholesterol
TG	Triglyceride
VO ₂ max	Maximal oxygen consumption
WC	Waist Circumference
WHO	World Health Organization
WHR	Waist Hip Ratio

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The term diabetes mellitus (DM) describes a metabolic disorder that is characterized by chronic hyperglycemia with disturbances of carbohydrate, protein and fat metabolism resulting from defects in insulin secretion, insulin action, or both (ADA, 2006). Diabetes mellitus may present symptoms such as thirst, polyuria, weight loss and blurring of vision. In its most severe form, ketoacidosis or a non ketotic hyperosmolar state may develop and lead to stupor, coma and in the absence of effective treatment, death (Craig et al., 2009).

The incidence of DM is increasing worldwide (Tuomilehto et al., 2001). As DM affects around 171 million people worldwide, it is predicted by the World Health Organization (WHO) that this number will have more than doubled to 366 million by 2030 (Wild, 2004). DM results in about 3.2 million deaths per annually. According to WHO (2006), DM increases the risk of heart disease and stroke. It has been reported that 50 % of diabetic patients die of cardiovascular disease. Type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) is becoming an epidemic in the world. The worldwide prevalence of T2DM was 2.8% with an expected increase to 4.4% by the year 2030 (Wild et al., 2004). In the coming decade, one of the world's greatest increases in the absolute burden of diabetes is expected to be in the Middle East. The prevalence of T2DM ranges from 1.2% to 14.6% in Asia and 4.6% to 40% in the Middle East (Marjani

and Mojerloo, 2011). Modernization has resulted in increased rates of diabetes, primarily because of a decrease in physical activity and an increasing consumption of high caloric diets in these nations. Iran is a Middle East country which experienced a socioeconomic transition coupled with westernization in diet and lifestyle. People both in urban and rural areas are increasingly suffering from chronic disease related to their diets.

There is a considerable imbalance in food consumption with low nutrient density in food consumption among the Iranian population (Ghassemi et al., 2002). An Iranian study was reported approximately 2 million adults have DM, ranging from a prevalence of 1.3% in rural areas and increase to 14.5% in the large cities of Iran (Azizi et al., 2003); Azizi revealed that the prevalence of diabetes is 8.7% in Tehran, the capital city of Iran. The peak prevalence was observed among individuals aged 55–64 years, whereas the greatest total number of diabetic individuals was among the 45–54 years age-group (Esteghamati et al., 2008). Early detection and appropriate management of diabetes is essential to reduce diabetes complications and major mortality.

1.2 Complication of Diabetes Mellitus

The effects of DM include long-term damage, dysfunction and failure of various organs. The long-term effects of DM include progressive development of specific complications. Diabetic complications can be categorized broadly as microvascular or macrovascular complications. Microvascular complications include nephropathy (kidney disease), neuropathy (nerve damage), and vision disorders (e.g., glaucoma,

retinopathy cataract, and corneal disease). Macrovascular complications include cerebrovascular disease, coronary heart disease, and peripheral vascular disease which can lead to ulcers, gangrene, and amputation (Williams et al., 2002). Dietary intervention, physical activity, weight management and cessation of smoking are all necessary for good glycemic control, the prevention of both microvascular and macrovascular complication (ADA, 2005).

1.3 Problem Statement

Diabetes causes disability and premature death in both developing and newly developed countries have significantly increased. Chronic complications are the major outcome of T2DM progress, which reduce the quality of life of patients, incur heavy burdens to the health care system, and increase diabetic mortality (Liu et al., 2010). In Isfahan, big city of Iran, the rate of complications among approximately 4000 T2DM patients was reported to be ischemic heart disease (34%), hypertension (50%), congestive heart failure (12%), retinopathy (44%), cataract (5%), bacteriuria (27%), nephropathy (19%), neuropathy (27%), depression (60%), diabetic foot (2.5%), hypercholesterolaemia (37%), and hypertriglyceridaemia (37%) (Azizi et al., 2003).

Type 2 diabetes mellitus is a well-known disease in which diet plays an important role in etiology and management. The goals of diet control are to improve quality of life, nutritional status as well as to prevent the chronic complications of diabetes. Appropriate dietary practice are a basic and integral part treating diabetes mellitus and may reduce the development of disease complications by improving risk

factor profiles (Al-Kaabi et al.,2008). Diabetic people are routinely advised to adopt a healthful diet; dietary changes include modifications in food habits and meal patterns on a lifelong basis (Yannakoulia, 2006).

Until now, numerous studies on the association between diet and diabetes have been reported. Diet is a complex exposure variable, various approaches are required to examine the relationship between diet and disease. The traditional approach to investigating diet-disease associations focuses on single dietary components, such as single nutrients or foods. Most of the studies focusing on nutrients or single food/food group intake. For instance, whole-grain intake appears to reduce blood glucose, fasting insulin among insulin-resistant subjects (Pereira et al., 2002). However, individuals eat combinations of foods as meals instead of consuming single nutrients or foods, making it difficult to interpret the effects of dietary factors.

Therefore, the recent researches has focused more on dietary pattern approach to investigate the relationship between disease and diet, rather than disease and individual food or nutrient factors (Lee et al., 2011). Favorable results of dietary pattern approaches have been seen in previous studies, for example, the healthy type dietary pattern rich in vegetable and fish, which is similar to the Mediterranean diet, and Dietary Approach to Stop Hypertension (DASH) was suggested to improve life prognosis in diabetic patients (Limuro et al.,2012). However, there have been few studies that have examined the dietary patterns among patients with diabetes mellitus (Lim et al., 2011). Furthermore, the epidemiology studies showed that, dietary patterns were influenced by biological, nutritional, socioeconomic, and demographic characteristics (Kant, 2004; Yi Park et al., 2005). Within several populations,

researchers have identified different dietary patterns that are attributable to varying social and cultural backgrounds. The differences in dietary patterns of societies are the result of different socio-demographic characteristics and lifestyle of patients that affect the choice of foods and diet. Therefore, many countries have tried to identify their own dietary patterns to determine their relationship with chronic disease, because culture and unique dietary patterns are factors that can influence the incidence of chronic disease (Odegaard et al., 2011)

However, diet, a lifestyle behavior, has been reported as a management domain with very low compliance among diabetics (mirmiran et al.,2007). People with diabetes generally report better nutrition awareness, but this does not consistently translate into healthy eating behaviors. Results from cross-sectional studies indicated low adherence to the dietary recommendations for macronutrient intake and fruit and vegetable consumption (Thanopoulou et al., 2004). In Iran, Veghari et al., (2007) reported diabetic patients do not have an effective knowledge about their diet and blood glucose controlling methods. Thus, there is a need to study and more practical dietary strategies are necessary. This study would provide information for planning dietary menu for diabetes mellitus. The purpose of this study was to identify dietary patterns among adults with T2DM and explore the associations of the dietary patterns with lifestyle, weight status, and biochemical blood profiles for management of the disease in order to prevent from further complications. Our findings may provide useful data for the development of practical dietary guidelines for diabetes management or treatment in Asian populations.

1.4 Research Questions

This research hopes to answer the following questions:

- i. What are the socio-demography, lifestyles, weight status, and biochemical profiles of diabetic subjects?
- ii. What are the dietary patterns among diabetic subjects in the Special Medical Center, Tehran, Iran?
- iii. Are there any associations between socio-demography, lifestyle, weight status, and biochemical profiles, with dietary patterns?

1.5 Objectives

1.5.1 General Objective:

To determine dietary patterns and their association with socio-demographic, lifestyle, weight status, and biochemical profiles among patients with T2DM in a Special Medical Center in Tehran, Iran.

1.5.2 Specific Objectives

- To determine the socio-demographic characteristics and related health factors including age, gender, marital status, educational level, occupation, monthly income, duration of T2DM, family history of DM, hypertension, and treatment of DM among subjects with T2DM.
- To determine the lifestyle factors such as smoking and physical activity. Smoking status was assessed as current smoker, non-smoker or ex-smoker. Physical activity

level was measured by International Physical Activity Questionnaire (IPAQ, short form) and categorized into 3 levels as low, moderate or high physical activity.

- To determine BMI, waist circumference (WC), and waist hip ratio (WHR) of subjects with T2DM.
- To assess glycosylated hemoglobin (HbA1c), fasting blood glucose (FBG), postprandial blood glucose (PPBG), lipid profiles [total cholesterol (TC), triglycerides (TG), low density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C), high density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C)] of subjects with T2DM from most recent medical record.
- To determine the dietary patterns, total energy intake and energy intake from macronutrients of subjects with T2DM through food frequency questionnaire (FFQ).
- To determine the association of dietary patterns with socio-demography, lifestyle, weight status, and biochemical profiles of subjects with T2DM.

1.6 Null Hypothesis

H01: There is no significant association between socio-demographic characteristics and dietary patterns.

H02: There is no significant association between lifestyle factors and dietary patterns.

H03: There is no significant association between weight status and dietary patterns.

H04: There is no significant association between biochemical profiles and dietary patterns

1.7 Conceptual Framework

The purpose of the present study was to determine the dietary patterns among T2DM subjects and its association with socio-demography, lifestyle, weight status, and biochemical profiles. Some studies reported that socio-demographic characteristics and lifestyle factors were associated with dietary pattern (Lenz, 2009; Rezazadeh et al., 2010). Besides, dietary pattern was also found to be correlated with weight status (Newby et al., 2004) and lipid profiles (Lim et al., 2011).

As shown in Figure 1.1, the outcome was influenced by socio-demography, related health factors, lifestyle, weight status and, biochemical profiles. In this conceptual model, dietary patterns as dependent variables influenced by 4 independent variables, socio-demographic characteristics were defined as age, gender, marital status, educational level, occupation, monthly income, related health factors are defined as family history of DM, hypertension, and treatment of DM. Lifestyle factors were defined as physical activity and smoking. Anthropometric measurements included body mass index (BMI), waist circumference (WC) and waist to hip ratio (WHR). Finally, biochemical profiles included the glycosylated hemoglobin (HbA1c), fasting blood glucose (FBG), postprandial blood glucose (PPBG), total cholesterol (TC), triglycerides (TG), low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C), and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C).

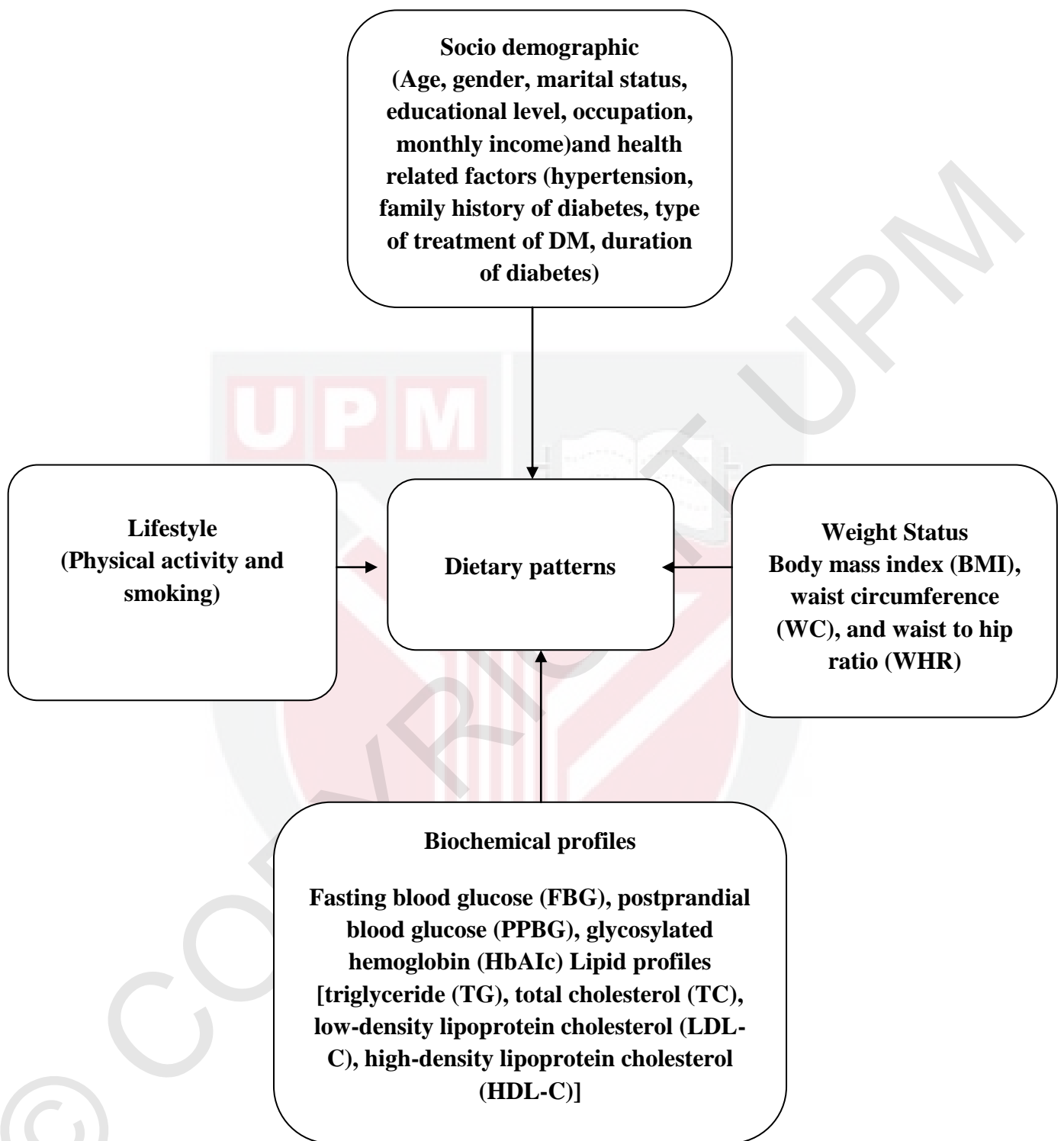


Figure 1.1 Conceptual Framework

1.8 Significance of the Study

This present study recognized dietary patterns among diabetic patients. Dietary pattern analysis provides patterns of food consumption among diabetic subjects; which has been shown to be useful, because it goes beyond nutrients and examines the effect of overall diet. A dietary pattern approach reflects individual's dietary behaviors and therefore can provide more detailed information about nutritional etiology of diabetes mellitus.

Analyzing dietary pattern can provide insights into possibilities for dietary changes and also may help facilitate the translation of findings into dietary recommendation. It can also enhance our conceptual understanding of diabetic patients dietary practice, and provide guidance for nutrition education. Information obtained from food consumption patterns, and associated with socio-demography, lifestyle, weight status and biochemical profiles which would be useful to nutritionists for monitoring diabetic patients' food consumption trends, identification of nutritional at risk groups, targeting for public health nutrition interventions programs and it could be very useful in establishing practical dietary guidelines for diabetics. Briefly, understanding dietary exposure should precede planning of public health nutrition policy and designing of preventive nutrition intervention to tackle from further diabetes complication, among Iranians.

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