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on the article “Tobacco and Tolerance: Blowing smoke”.

Not only labour made man differ from a monkey, but also care and attention to his fellow creatures. This is the main point of human relations and the basis of human being. Animals are first of all competitors with each other, and they do not have an instinct to help their neighbours and to think about their safety. The only exception is their own cubs.

Similarly, as a father and mother take care of a small child who does not yet have his own opinion on what is good and what is bad, who do not even know, that many seemingly innocent things harm his health greatly and cause strong addiction. Even when a child realises that, it is very hard for him to make the right decision. And if we consider such thing as smoking, the only right decision is not to start it. One may argue that whether to smoke or not is the private decision of every person and no one might impose his point of view to someone. I agree with this statement, but not always this principle provides us with a solution to the problem of social wellbeing. People make a lot of decisions connected with great risks like motorcycle riding, parachute jumping, smoking, taking drugs and so on. Some of these things have unalterable consequences, which make people regret they have made these decisions during the rest of their lives. The only thing they should ask themselves is whether this thing is worth risking. The fewer would be the number of activities that greatly harm human health, and above all, of these, which are not worth risking like smoking, the better it would be for the health of all humanity. The exceptions are such things as scuba diving or mountain climbing and other, because they can be justified from many reasons and they are not simple and stupid self-poisoning. I do not agree with the author of the article “Tobacco and Tolerance: Blowing smoke” that smoking is not a social problem but a private one and the anti-smoking program should be minimized. Those people, who have already started and have become addicted to ‘the grayish-blue fumes’ can’t fully realize, why do they take this great risk, still acknowledging that this harms their health, and it is hard for them to give up smoking without outside help. For this noble purpose there should always exist those people who can clearly realize this enormous threat as third persons with their unaddicted minds. They should never stop such hard and unappreciated occupations as different anti-smoke programs and, whether smokers want it or not, they should try to pull them out of this ‘gray and poisonous swamp’. This can be done by different government merciless limitations of tobacco producing companies, tobacco advertisements, restricting places for smoking to minimum and so on. That is why smoking is a problem of the whole society, despite some of its members think that it is not, because healthy persons form a healthy society.

Smoking causes (or, if someone would be lucky, it might cause) many different illnesses like lung and mouth cancer, heart disease, oral cavity. In general, the risk of developing a tobacco-related cancer depends on the intensity of the habit as determined by a duration of the smokinghabit, a number of cigarettes smoked per day, a tar content of the cigarette, and the depth of inhalation. Cigarette smoking is not only related to the development of lung cancer but also affects the development of cancer of the bladder, oral cavity, and esophagus. A non-smoker’s inhalation of smoke produced by smokers in an enclosed space also appears to heighten the risk of developing lung cancer. That is why the problem of passive smoking is also very actual and to avoid harmful consequences, governments of all countries ought to enlarge the development of a program of making isolated places for smokers to enjoy their dangerous toys without any harm to other people.

After the major medical revelations about smokingduring the 1950s and '60s there was an increasing attempt to lessen the influence of tobacco advertising in several countries. Cigarette manufacturers in Canada agreed to end television advertising in 1972 after a bill to effect that end was passed in the Commons. In West Germany television advertising of cigarettes was to be phased out by the end of 1972.And as a result, the rate of smoking in America has declined from more than 40% to about 25% and the number of ex-smokers has trebled. This was the great victory of anti-smoking programs.

In fact, a tobacco-producing industry is very profitable, and of course, these companies try to find or sometimes to invent some evidences and reasons why people need to use their harmful production. I believe that the anti-smoking programs cause great losses to them, and someday they will succeed and it would not be profitable for producers to continue operating any more.



Figure 1 shows that the demand curve for tobacco production is very inelastic, because it is highly addictive and has no close substitutes. Buyers could not reject a considerable amount of it in response to a large increase in price.

FIGURE 1.

In figure 2 we see the situation after the government’s imposition of a sales tax. The new Supply curve will shift upwards on the amount of tax. And because the demand for tobacco production is inelastic, this will increase total revenue of a producer. This indirect tax would not become his profit and all the additional money received would be considered as costs and go directly to the government.

FIGURE 2.

(TR1= q\*p TR2= Q\*P)





Figure 3 shows us the situation where the government sets a price ceiling on

tobacco production, which would result in slightly higher demand but lower quantity produced, as it would not be beneficial for a producer to operate at the previous production level. If this price ceiling would be set at P lower than 2 (the lowest price, at which a firm will be willing to produce), than these firms would not operate at all, because their costs would be greater than revenues.

FIGURE 3.

Smoking also has great negative externalities. This is passive smoking, which is said to be even more harmful than the ‘active one’. Especially children fall under the thread of this problem whose parents are chain-smokers.

FIGURE 4

In the figure 4 we see private demand DD and supply SS with free market equilibrium at E and eqiul. quantity Q. With a negative consumption externality , the social marginal benefit is DD1 lying below DD. E\* is the socially efficient point at which output is Q\*. At this output the marginal externality is E\*F. By levying this tax of exactly E\*F

per unit, the government can shift the private supply curve from SS to SS1

leading to a new equilibrium at F at which the socially efficient quantity Q\*

is produced and the dead-weight burden of the externality E\*HE is eliminated.

Although it is not possible to stop a tobacco industry immediately, the models above show how the government could decrease its harmful influence and consequences. For example, the money that it receives from taxation could be spent on the improvement of different rehabilitation centres for ex-smokers or on the development of anti-smoking program and advertisements.

In conclusion, I believe that in any case, smoking IS one of social problems and despite some people considering it to be like motorcycle riding or other risky occupation, it is not worth totally risking. The conscious part of humanity ought to help smokers to give up this habit by trying to restrict smoking by all means. Then there would be one social problem less.

Moreover, smoking is a great fraud of all humanity. If, for example, you comb you hand in some place for many years day after day, this would first become your habit and second- this would give you an inexplicable pleasure. If you held a match in your mouth or crunch the tail-end of your pen for many years, this would also result in these things. Thus smoking provides us with the same “virtues”, and all people, particularly at an early age, previously pretending to each other, that smoking is a sort of pleasure and relaxation for them, start getting pleasure just from the fact they have got addicted years later. This stupidity came out of tobacco producing companies, which made a fetish of a considerable part of humanity from an old Indian ritual tradition.

P.S. Five packets of cigarettes were smoked while writing this essay… ☺