

Smoking Bans

Name:

University:

Abstract

It is widely accepted that smoking is a danger to individuals who smoke as well as to those who do not use tobacco but are exposed to second-hand smoke. Despite warnings, however, the use of tobacco products such as cigarettes continues to increase, especially among college students. As a result, some call for more stringent laws to be passed and enforced in regulating tobacco use. The purpose of this paper is to explore the present bans on tobacco usage and the effectiveness of those bans.

Smoking Bans

The purpose of smoking bans is to protect the health of the general population, those who smoke as well as those who are harmed by breathing in the nearby tobacco fumes from those who smoke. Bans involve the workplace environment as well as public places, such as restaurants and places of business (Public Health & Law, 2005). Because of the serious and lasting effects of tobacco use, smoking it has become a criminal offence under certain circumstances.

Bans are meant to be used as a measure to protect the health of the general public and their use are advocated by both medical and scientific evidence (Sun, 2012). Tobacco products contain more than sixty compounds known to cause cancers such as lung cancer (Martin, 2012). This risk pertains to both smokers and those who inhale the secondary smoke. Whereas an individual may choose whether or not to smoke, those around him do not have the choice of whether or not to inhale that smoke (European Union, 2011). Obviously, breathing is not an option since it is necessary for living. Some may argue that those who do not wish to breathe in the poisonous gas can simply remove themselves from the area, but that is not a realistic option. All individuals must be able to move about freely to conduct business and livelihood activities without restrictions due to health risks imposed by their fellow citizens. Ban on smoking, for that reason, are essential in helping to ensure clean air for all (Rigby, 2010). The enforcement of bans

on smoking decrease incidents of illnesses such as cardio vascular diseases and lung cancer, as indicated by scientific studies (Sun, 2012). The evidence from the study addresses the harmful effects of both primary and secondary smoke.

Bans on smoking are desirable for a variety of purposes. Besides helping to ensure the health of the individual and those around him, it also decreases medical costs. Safety issues are also a concern (Michigan University, 2005). Smoking cigarettes and cigars have contributed to fires at home and in the workplace. This is a special concern in certain work environments that contain combustible items such as explosives and gas. An added consideration in limiting smoking is that smokers habitually drop their buds on the street or grind them into floors in buildings. The banning of smoking helps to maintain cleanliness and good hygiene in many areas, such as restaurants, shops, and places of employment. Smoking bans have already been shown to be effective in the decrease of tobacco use (World Health Organization, 2007). Other effective measures in discouraging the use of tobacco include public education policies, help in kicking the tobacco habit, and heavy taxation on tobacco products.

The move to ban smoking is not restricted to the United States. A large number of countries and their citizens encourage and support the use of tobacco bans in the interest of public health and workplace safety (European Union, 2011). Furthermore, many parts of the world forbid advertising that promotes the use of tobacco products (WHO, 2007). Bans also include importation of tobacco products and their subsequent sales. Some countries, including New Zealand and Ireland, confine the selling of tobacco products to tobacco outlet stores.

In conclusion, the banning of tobacco product use, especially in smoking it, has positively affected economic growth by decreasing health issues and the subsequent decrease in medical costs. The results have garnered even more support from countries around the world and their citizens.

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