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## A SURVEY ON THE PUBLIC'S SMOKING AND SMOKING CONTROL IN HANDAN CITY, CHINA

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### **Abstract**

Smoke control is a worldwide trend and smoking prohibition in public places has aroused widespread attention, but China is the country with biggest tobacco production and consumption. Therefore smoke control in China is more difficult than any other country in the world. With the method of observing smoking in bus stop, express railway, some hospitals and restaurants, this paper analyses the reasons of smoking, and puts forward the corresponding countermeasures and suggestions for promoting and protecting the public health.

**Keywords:** Public places; Smoking; smoke control, Smoking prohibition; Measures; Public health

**JEL Classification:** H00

### **Introduction**

Tobacco is a very special issue. On one hand, in any country in the world, the production of tobacco generates huge economic benefits, and provides huge tax revenue for the government; On the other hand, the consumption of tobacco

and smoking as well as second-hand smoking thereby causes great loss of people's health, productivity, life, and even the increase of medical expense. According to the medical study, cigarette smoke includes 92% for gas, such as carbon monoxide, dimethyl phosphite ammonium nitrate, hydrocyanic acid, 8% for tar, it contains nicotine, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon, arsenic and some radioactive paperless. It is proved that there are more than 40 kinds of carcinogens. Smoking is not only harmful to the smoker himself, but also for non-smokers passive inhalation of environmental tobacco smoke which is harmful to their health.

To reduce non-smokers receiving the dangers of tobacco, the government announced universal restricting smoking areas. The world health organization's framework convention on tobacco control came into effect on February 27, 2005, one of its guiding principle is developing the law of banning smoking in public to protect nonsmokers from the dangers of tobacco smoke. Framework convention on tobacco control formulated by the world health organization, was fully implemented in China in 2011. It means that for China we must realize the promise of a ban on smoking in indoor public places, indoor workplaces and public transport. On May 1, 2011, the ministry of health started the Public health management regulation rules, that smoking is forbidden in indoor public places and corresponding control measures should be taken. The state council legislative affairs office released Regulations On Control Of Smoking. In Public Places on November 24, 2014, and seek public opinion on it. This is the first time in China to formulate administrative regulations to control smoke. The Regulations On Control Of Smoking In Beijing is released on June 1, 2015, Known as the most severe smoking prohibition in Chinese history, which attracted wide attention in society.

Tobacco is one of the most serious factors endangering human health and smoking in public places has become an important public health problem. Therefore, it's of great importance to find the reason of smoking, especially smoking in the public and put forward the corresponding countermeasures and Suggestions so as to promote and protect the public health.

### **Literature Review**

With the development of medicine, scientists have confirmed that smoking is not only harmful to smokers, but also to non-smokers by "passive smoking". "Smoking and health" began to become a global topic. People begin to pay more attention to the harm of smoking to health. Richard , "Tobacco causes cancer discovery" and the "father of epidemiological" pointed out that smoking increases the risk of death, can lead to 40 kinds of diseases, each kind of deadly.

On October 19, 2015, the world health organization, the international tobacco control policy evaluation project (ITC) and the Chinese center for disease control and prevention jointly issued "China smoke-free policies - effect evaluation and policy recommendations". According to the report, tobacco use has brought great harm to China's public health. If you do not take effective measures to ban smoking in public places, China's illness and death caused by secondhand smoke will continue to rise, thereby more aggravating of the dangers of tobacco use. From the perspective of public health and people's health, the government control policy is beyond doubt.

## **Methods**

Method of Observation is adopted at typical public places such as bus stops, express railways, hospitals and restaurants etc. in order to collect the direct information for this study.

## **Results**

Through observation investigation toward smoking in bus stop, express railways, some hospitals and restaurants in Handan city, China, we found that more than half of the phenomenon of smoking in public places have occurred and among them the restaurant indoor smoking prohibition were in most poor condition; bus station indoor smoking situation is good; the smoking situation in hospitals, high-speed rail indoor is best, smoking rates are the lowest.

## **Discussion**

The survey found that the main cause of smoking in public places can be concluded as follows:

First, Handan city hasn't issued any relevant laws, regulations and rules on smoking in public places. This means that people can be freely smoking when gathering in public places. However, smoking in public places will affect other people, namely has the externality, and lead to efficiency loss. Coase theorem has tell us profoundly, clearly defining propriety rights is more important than who has the right. This provides theory basis for smoke control policy for the government.

Second, the level of literacy has a significant association with smoking. The higher one's literacy, the stronger will of controlling smoking and discouraging others from smoking in public places. The people who have higher literacy may pay more attention to health, and more aware of the dangers of secondhand smoke, so they are more likely against smoking in public places.

Third, some public places, especially restaurants have no "no smoking" signs. Most of restaurants are operated by private owners, lack of corresponding control regulators, and restaurant managers don't want to do anything for smoking control and discourage customer smoking, because they may worry to meet with customers' opposition, which may affect their operating revenue. However, Smoking-control identification is one of the important measures for smoking prohibition. Therefore, there should be the same regulations in restaurants as well as the other related public places as that in bus stations and express trains.

## **Conclusion**

At present, secondhand smoke has become an important cause of disease and early death, so control smoking in public places and the decrease of secondhand smoke is the important measures to protect the right of every citizens' health. There should be some effective measures to control smoking in public places.

First, the government should complete the laws and regulations, make clear restrictions for smoking and legal responsibilities for smokers as well as punishment procedures and punishment rules, so as to provide systematic guarantee for control smoking in public places.

Second, make clear signs as “smoking prohibition” in any public places to arouse the smokers of their harmful behavior and strengthen health instruction to those smoking, especially to the people with lower literacy, so as to help the smokers increase their self-control of smoking.

Third, strengthen the inspection and supervision for public smoking, especially the special public places as private restaurants etc and implementing corresponding hard rules of punishments.

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