



Smoking society disaster, its prohibition according to Islam: To cope with such calamity under sharia law

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Abstract

The human society are under challenge of several threat such as air pollution and climate change, HIV, drought and conflict, cyberattacks and data fraud, emerging market crisis, wine, narcotic drunk and smoke. Smoking are perhaps, one of the most important threat to individual and community health, it is no secret that more than 4 million people die in the world each year from smoking-related diseases, including lung cancer, chronic bronchitis, pulmonary emphysema, coronary heart disease and cancer of the bladder. (Clinics in Chest Medicine, 1991) To date not a single benefit of smoking has been identified. One of the worst forms of smoking is known as passive smoking and which refers to the involuntary inhalation by nonsmokers of other people's cigarette smoke, whether in the office, on public transport or in the home, Religion has a strong influence in any region. Many of the principles of Islam call upon people to look after their health, to avoid health hazards and risks and to raise their standards of hygiene. The general consensus concerning the Islamic ruling was that smoking is either completely prohibited or abhorrent to such a degree as to be prohibited. This paper is an attempt to provide a comprehensive idea to quit smoke under Sharia law.

Keywords: smoke threats, smoke affection society, prohibition in Islam

1. Introduction

Tobacco was discovered by the Spanish sailors of the American shores at about 1500 CE (900 AH). Since its discovery, the epidemic of smoking has continued to spread all over the world. In our times, one seldom finds a house not afflicted by it. Similarly early as the Seventeenth Century, the European countries realized the dangers of smoking and fought against it Laws were ordained in England, Russia, Denmark, Sweden, Austria, and other countries, prohibiting smoking and punishing violators. (Mohammad al-Jibaly, 1996)

Nowadays, most of the countries in the world attempts to protect their people from the harms of smoking. They employ media means, ordain laws and regulations, and apply other methods to discourage people from smoking. Because of the, the rate of smokers has declined to a certain degree in some societies. The danger is tobacco use – cigarette and cigar smoking, chew etc. The view on the subject came about because cigarettes are a more recent invention and did not exist at the time of the revelation of the Quran in the 7th century A.D. therefore, one cannot find a verse of Quran or words of the prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) saying clearly that “Cigarette smoking is forbidden”. However, there are many instances where the Quran gives us general guidelines, and calls upon us to use our reason and intelligence, and seek guidance from Allah about what is right and wrong. In the Quran, Allah says ... he (the prophet) commands them what is just, and forbids them what is evil; he allows them as lawful what is good, and prohibits them from what is bad ...” (Sura al-araf 7:157). So what are the evils of tobacco use, for your health and for your Deen (religion).

2. Materials and methods

Exploratory research methodology will be used to conduct this research in term of threats and prohibition of smoking according to Islamic Sharia law which will include identification of threats along with bread introduction of the topic. Finding the avoidance of smoking according to Islamic Sharia law most of the update articles, books, reports will take into account for implementation of this research as well as update will be include from Afghanistan perspective that counter smoke narcotics center in Afghanistan. Computer lab and library are mainly used as material in this research.

2.1 Definition

Smoking refers to the action of lighting a cigarette, a pipe, a cigar, a water pipe, or any other object made from tobacco or materials of similar effects. The object is then sucked on with the lips to extract smoke. This smoke is inhale into the chest and then exhaled from the nose and mouth as a thick white smoke. “Smoking” is now used to refer to the action of producing this smoke in English, Arabic, and other languages.

Smoke has been a big problem for human communities for a long time. The problem has become even worse since its use has become broad and people can provide it manually and by industrial equipment. Following are the destruction of this pestilence:

2.2. Smoke affection on your health

Allah says, “... make not your own hands contribute to your destruction (Sura al-Baqarah chapter 2: verse 195); “... nor kill yourselves ... “(Sura al-Nisaa chapter 4: verse 29). It is

Universally understood that cigarette smoking causes a number of health problems that often ultimately result in death. Men who smoke contract lung cancer at 2 times the rate of non-smokers. (Islam Awareness, 2008) ^[12]

Smokers are also highly at risk for heart disease, emphysema, oral cancer, stroke, etc. there are hundreds of poisonous and toxic ingredients in the cigarette itself that the smoker inhales straight into the lungs. In an authentic hadith, the prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said that “whomsoever drinks poison, thereby killing himself, will sip this poison forever and ever in the fire of Jahannum (Hell). (Sahih Al-Muslim; Hadith No 109)

“Over 8 million people worldwide die from smoking-related causes each year. (World health organization, 2017)

2.3. Smoke threats to your family’s health

In the Quran, Allah says: “Those who annoy believing men and women undeservedly bear on themselves a glaring sin” (Surat al-Ahzaab chapter 33: verse 58). And the Prophet (peace be upon him) said that “there should be neither harming, nor reciprocating harm. (Ibnimaja, Hadith Hasan). In another hadith the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: “Anyone who believes in Allah and the Last Day should not hurt his neighbor.” (Ibnimaja, Hadith Sahih). Those around the smoker inhale what is known as “second-hand smoke” there unfiltered, poisonous waste that goes in the air around the smoker. There are over 4000 chemicals in cigarette smoke, over 40 of which are known to cause cancer. Second-hand smoke causes or aggravates asthma, bronchitis, and other respiratory problems, especially in children. (Islam awareness, 2008) ^[12]

3. Addictive

The addiction to tobacco is a physical response that often interferes with one’s life and worship. For example, most of the Muslims are aware that it is forbidden to smoke during the fasting days of Ramadan. Many of these addicted smokers spend their fasting days sleeping, cranky, and short-tempered, just counting the hours until they can have their fix. There have been times when the most severely addicted will wait outside the masjid (Mosque) door for the adhan, and break their fast by lighting up, before taking even food or water.

4. Noxious Smell

Muslims are advised to refrain from eating raw onions and garlic simply as a courtesy to those around them. Nobody likes the smell. The same goes even more so for the reek of cigarettes, which permeates everything around the smoker – hair, clothing, home, car, etc. the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: whoever has eaten from such greens as garlic, onions or leek should keep away from our mosque (Sunan Ibi-Dawud & Masnad Ahmad). Many smokers try to hide the smell by using breath mints or perfume. This does not get rid of the smell, it only masks it. Often the combination of smells is even more nauseating.

5. Evidence for the prohibition of smoking in Sharia law

There are many reasons, any one of which sufficient to rule smoking prohibited. Most importantly, it is harmful in numerous ways. It is harmful to the Deen (religion), health, environment, family, brotherhood and social relations, property, etc. the following sections will briefly outline some of its harms and evils.

5.1 Smoking Harm to the Deen (Religion)

Smoking spoils a person’s acts of worship and reduces their rewards. For instance, it spoils the prayer, which is the pillar of Deen (Religion). Allah’s messenger (peace be upon him) said: whoever eats garlic or onion let him avoid us and our masjid, and stay in his home. The angels are surely hurt by things that hurt the human beings. (Al-Bukhari & Muslim from Jabir)

Those with clean and undefiled fitrah (nature) have no doubt that the smell emanating from the mouth of a smoker is worse and more foul than that from the mouth of one who ate garlic or onion. Thus, a smoker is in between two options, either to harm the praying people and the angels with his foul smell or miss the prayer in jama’ah.

Smoking also spoils fasting Fasting is very hard for the smoker. As soon as the day is over, he hastens to break his fast on an evil cigarette instead of sweet dates or pure water. Even if he fasts through the month Ramadan, a smoker is reluctant to fast on other days. Thus he loses the great reward of those who fast even one day in Allah’s way.

5.2 Smoking Harm to the human body

No one can deny the harm of smoking to the human body. The medical evidence for this is well established and overwhelming. Because of this, the law in the Afghanistan and many other countries requires including a warning on any smoking advertisement.

Smoking contains poisonous materials, such as nicotine, tar, carbon monoxide, arsenic, etc. that the smoker swallows in small proportions. Their harm accumulates with time to result in a gradual killing of the human organs and tissues. (Muhammad bin Ibraim, 2012) ^[8].

The hazards of smoking to the health are hard to enumerate. Cancer, tuberculosis, heart attacks, asthma, coughing, premature birth, infertility, infections in the digestive system, high blood pressure, nervousness, mouth and teeth diseases, etc., are among the many health hazards that have been strongly linked to smoking. These diseases may not appear all at once, however a smoker is most likely to suffer from some of them, and his suffering increases as he grows older. Furthermore, statistics have established that smokers’ age is, on the average, ten years less than other people. (Muhammad bin Ibraim, 2012) ^[8].

This is sufficient to prohibit smoking. Islam prohibits any action that causes harm to oneself or to other people. Allah Almighty says (what means): “Do not kill yourselves; Allah is indeed merciful to you” (An-Nisa’ 4-29). Almighty Allah Says: Don not cast yourselves; with you own hands, into destruction. (Al-Baqarah 2-195)

And the messenger (peace be up him) says: no harm be inflicted on oneself or others. (Recorded by Ahmad & Ibnmaja from Ibn Abas and Ubaada; authenticated by al-Albani).

The feet of a human being will not depart, on the day of judgement, from his standing before his Lord, until he is questioned about five things: his lifetime – how did he pass it, his youth – how did he used it, his wealth – where did he earn it and how did he spend it, and how did he follow what he knew (Recorded by Tirmithi from Ibn Masoud and Abo Barzha authenticated by al-Albani).

Whoever consumes poison, killing himself with it, then he will be consuming his poison in the hellfire, and he will abide in it permanently and eternally (Al-Bukhari & Muslim from Jaabir).

5.3 Smoking Harm to the mind and will power

Smoking is harmful to the human mind and many other reasons. An obvious demonstration of this is that one who is addicted to it passes through periods of severe craving, making it hard of him to think, concentrate, solve a problem, or do any important matter, until he smokes.

When one smoke, his muscles slacken, and he passes through a brief period of delirium that curtains the thought. His digestive system is also affected, causing him frequent nervousness and trembling of the hands. He passes through periods of excitability, in citation, and insomnia.

Thus, instead of being Allah's slave, a smoker becomes slave to his cigarette. He develops a weaker control of his sense and reason. The faculty of reason, clear and unobstructed, is one of Allah's great bounties on people. He almighty praised it in numerous places of the Quran; and he called on people to use it to see truth and obey him in a better way. Allah wants of the believer to be strong and capable of controlling the reigns of his desires. He almighty said (what mean):

"Allah almighty wants to let you into his mercy, whereas those who follow the desires want you to drift far away (from the right path). (An-Nisa 4:27)

5.4 Smoking Harm to the environment

A smoker emits his poisons in the faces of his companions, wife, children, and the environment it is well established that second-hand smoke is almost as dangerous as first-hand. Thus, whether they like it or not, a smoker's associates are forced to inhale the smoke and be themselves smokers as well.

In addition to the poisons normally carried in the smoke, if a smoker has a contagious disease, such tuberculosis or influenza, his exhaled smoke and coughing carry the disease to those around him.

Furthermore, a smoker irritates people by the foul smell and poisonous nature of his smoking. If they suffer from asthma or allergies, they are forced to move away from his vicinity. The (Peace be upon him) said: anyone who believes in Allah and the Last day should not hurt his neighbor. (Sahih Al-Bukhari). Thus, smoking constitutes a definite harm to other people; this is prohibited, as was indicated in the hadith cited earlier.

Also, a smoker is certainly a bad companion to sit with, as is depicted in the following hadith: verily, the example of a good companion and a bad one is like that of a perfume merchant and a blacksmith: as for the perfume merchant, he would either grant you (some perfume), or you would buy (some perfume) from him, or (in the least) you would get a good smell from him. And as for the blower of the bellows (ironsmith), you would either get a foul odor from him, or he would burn your clothes.

5.5 Smoking Harm to the property

A smoker wastes his wealth on that which harms and has no benefit; he will be asked about his wealth and how he spent it, as has been cited in the hadith earlier. His wealth belongs to Allah, so how would he dare to waste it in disobedience to Him? Allah almighty says (what means): "and do not entrust to the imprudent ones the possessions that Allah has placed in your charge" (An-Nisa 4:5).

And Allah says: "... and do not waste (your resources)

extravagantly. Indeed the squanderers are the brethren of the devils (Al-Isra 17: 26-27)

And the prophet (peace be upon him) said: Allah hates for you three things: gossiping, begging, and wasting money (Sahih Al-Bukhari & Muslim).

Furthermore, there are numerous cases of burnt carpets, furniture, and even complete houses and establishment that have resulted from this disastrous vice.

6. Moral decadence

Smoking is a form of mora decadence. It is most spread among the low-class immoral people. It reflects blind imitation of the non-Muslims. It is mostly consumed in bars, discos, casinos, and other places of sin. A smoker may beg or steal if he does not have the money to buy cigarettes. He is ill-mannered with his friends and family, especially when he misses taking his necessary "dose" at the usual time.

6.1 Evil substance

Smoking involves the consumption of an evil substance (khabeeth). It has a foul smell, foul taste, and is harmful to the body. This is sufficient to: prohibit it, because Allah (T) says (which means): (the prophet) who will enjoin upon them the doing of what is right, forbid them the doing of what is wrong, make lawful to them the good things of life, prohibited for them the evil things, and lift from them their burdens and the shackles that were (previously) upon them (Al-Araf 7; 157).

6.2 Resembling the people of the fire

A smoker inhales the smoke that does not give him any nourishment. This is similar to the action of the people of the Hell fire who eat harmful thorny plants: Not food will be there for them but a poisonous thorny plant, which will neither nourish them not still their hunger (Al-Ghaashiyah 88:6-7)

6.3 Bad Example

A smoker, whether he likes it or not, makes of himself an example for his children and others to follow, He leads them to commit this evil. Actions sometime have a stronger effect than words. Thus, even if he advises them of forbids them from smoking, his partaking of it provides them with a strong excuse to do it.

The problem is worse when the smoker is of known piety or knowledge. In such case, his harm becomes more emphasized, because more people take him as guide and example, and are thus lead astray by him. This multiplies his sins and increases his burden.

6.4 Hostility toward the Good People

The majorities of good people avoid smoking and stay away from smokers. Therefore, a smoker would be forced to stay away from them – at least while he smokers. He puts himself in a selective exile, creating a spiritual distance and hostility between him and the good people, and a closeness to the evil people. The effect of this becomes more apparent and acute with time. Note that this applies equally to any sin that a person commits, small or large.

6.5 Low self esteem

A smoker despises himself, because he feels that a little cigarette is controlling him. Realizing his weakness before

Desires, this creates in him a feeling of defeat in the face of hardships.

6.6 Scholars' verdict

Since smoking became known to Muslims, all of the great scholars who have the capability of *ijtihad* (deriving verdicts in new situations) agree to its prohibition. Thus, there is no value for baseless opinions, conflicting with this, provided by self-proclaimed lesser scholars.

7. Results & Discussion

In more recent times, as these dangers of tobacco use have come to be proven beyond any doubt, scholars have become more unanimous in pronouncing tobacco use clearly haram (forbidden) to believers. They now use the strongest terms to condemn this habit.

The general rule in Islam is that any smoke, beverage that get people intoxicated, or harmed them when taken is unlawful, both in small and large quantities, whether is smoke, alcohol, drugs, fermented raisin drink or something else.

The first declaration made by the Prophet (peace and blessing be upon him) concerning this matter was that not only is *Khamr* (wine or alcohol) prohibited but that the definition of *Khamr* (wine) extends to any substance that intoxicates, in whatever form or under whatever name it may appear. Thus, smoke, hashish, alcoholic beer and similar tools are haram (prohibited).

This paper presents the impact of smoking on health in Afghanistan. I would like to say thanks to ministry of higher education directorate of academic for encouragement in writing articles. As well as I would like to say thanks to my family for continue support and motivation in term of education with their best wishes.

7.1 Warnings

In discussing the subject of the prohibition of smoking, there are some important warnings that need to be mentioned:

1. As indicated before, the prohibition of smoking is not restricted to cigarettes, but applies well to other objects that have similar effect such as cigars, pipes, water-pipes, chewing tobacco or sniffing tobacco, narcotic drunk, wine etc.
2. The reasons mentioned above for prohibiting smoking and all drunks apply as well, and more strongly, to various types of drugs and hashish such as marijuana and tat. These materials have additional problems such as casing drunkenness, death, madness, etc.
3. The prohibition of smoking is not restricted to consuming it, but applies as well to offering it to people, sitting with those who are smoking, or selling it. All of this involves helping people commit sins, which is prohibited, as Allah almighty say: Help one another in righteousness and piety, and do not help one another in sinning and transgression. And fear and revere Allah; verily, Allah is severe in punishment (Al-Maidah 5:2).

Also, Allah's messenger (Peace be upon him) said: indeed when Allah prohibits something, he prohibits eating its price (Recorded by Ahmad & Abu Dawud from Ibi Abas; authenticated by al-Albani).

7.2 The following are some suggestions to help a person stop smoking

1. Rely on Allah sincerely, with full determination not to return to smoking, in compliance with Allah's command: When you decide on a certain course of action, place your trust in Allah (Al-Imran 3:159)
2. Stop immediately instead of claiming it is best to do it gradually. The gradual approach is the way of one who does not trust his determination and the will power that Allah has granted him. Let the example be taken from the Sahabah who, as soon as Allah's command reached them regarding alcohols: will you not then desist (Al-Maidah 5:91). They immediately poured out all the alcohol that they and said, "We desist our Lord, we desist!" they did this despite the fact that alcohol has greater addictive power over those who drink it.
3. Avoid the bad company of smokers and smoking environments that are full with the smell of smoke.
4. Change the food diet by abstaining from foods and drinks that would entice the craving to smoke such as spices, meat, tea and coffee; and eating a lot of vegetables and fruits.
5. Use medically tested and established procedures to help stop smoking, as directed by physicians, such as nicotine gum, etc.
6. Expel the secret whispers of Satan who continuously dictates to the human being that he is weak and incapable of refraining from sinning, as Allah (T) says (which means). Fight then against the allies of Stan; indeed, Satan's guile is weak (An-Nisa 4:76).

8. Conclusions

As prevalent phenomena, smoking has made many difficulties for humankind and especially Muslims. Religious leaders have paid attention to them from the first appearances of Islam and have presented appearances of Islam and many appropriate and efficient solutions.

Islamic scholars and juris consults have used religious sources such as Quran, Hadith (speech) of the prophet, tradition, wisdom and consensus that have formed the foundations of prohibition of smoke. According to these foundations, smoke is prohibited and forbidden in Islam due to harams and corruptions that they make for wisdom, body, family, society, state and government. The law stipulates religious punishments and worldly and legal sentences. Juris consults of the Islamic world who has been the main keepers of intellectual and ideological border. They have a consensus about it and believe that smoke is certainly prohibited and no Muslim is allowed and permitted to use them. If anyone of Muslim uses it, he or she commits a great sin and should be punished.

9. Recommendation

Loss of such harmful poisons (Smoke, narcotic drunk, wine) and seditious dangers for religion, faith, honor, independence, health of soul and body and all status of society is quite clear. Every act, dealing and transformation that destroys the security of Islamic society and causes some prohibited and should be quitted. Preventing the sins and prevent such a thing is a direct obligation of government and all people oblige to do the same according to religious standards. All people should coordinately prevent this sin

And other sins that cause corruption and wickedness in moral and ethics in Islamic society.

10. Acknowledgments

This paper consider the most important hypothesis that Islam as a school of thought that its main goal is human salvation both in materialistic and spiritual aspects, has doubtlessly presented unavoidable and strong foundations for prohibition of smoke which by utilizing them; we can transmit a healthy and clean society to future generations. On the other hand explicit texts and statements existing in Islam are not in conflict with international laws, but they are in cooperation and coordination with them, but it should be noted, however, that some omissions in the international smoke or drug law are rooted in the goals of the beneficiary countries, so they are obstacles in enforcing serious prohibition for smoke, and narcotic drug usage, but Islamic jurisprudential and legal foundations have not such profiteering flexibilities.

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