



Original article

Social, medical and economic implications of tobacco consumption

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Abstract

About 150 years after Columbus discovered the "strange foliage" in New World, tobacco was used around the world. Its rapid spread and widespread acceptance characterize the dependence on the tobacco plant. Only the delivery mode has changed. In the eighteenth century, it was consumed in the pipe, in the nineteenth century it was at the age of cigar, and the twentieth century recorded the development of manufactured cigarettes and a large number of smokers.

At the beginning of the 21st century, about one-third of adults in the world use tobacco. To this is added the growing number of women consuming tobacco. Despite thousands of studies showing that tobacco in all its forms kills its consumers as well as non-users, people continue to smoke, and deaths from tobacco use continue to increase.

After having penetrated the European continent, tobacco has grown intensively and has spread throughout the world. The lack of knowledge about the effects of tobacco consumption even stimulated it at that time, believing it to be a sign of mondeness, at first as a privilege of the nobility, and then, even of the best and the most desperate social categories. Currently, Europe has the largest consumption of cigarettes per capita vis-à-vis any of the six WHO Regional Health Organizations.

Keywords: social, medical, economic implications, tobacco consumption



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Introduction

In antiquity, when the land was empty and people were starving, the Great Spirit sent a woman to save mankind. When she traveled all over the world, where her right hand touched the ground, there grew potatoes. And over where the ground has reached the ground, corn has grown. And in the place where he stood there, he grew up with tobacco. Christopher Columbus wrote in his diary on November 6, 1492: "The Spaniards, after their long journey, met a lot of men and women with pipes in their hands and herbs to smoke them according to their custom.

Smoking is a disgusting habit for the eyes, odious to the nose, bad for the brain, dangerous to the lungs, and black, a smelly smoke similar to the horrible smoke in the pit of the hell, which is bottomless." James I of England A Counterblaste to Tobacco 1604 . US President George Washington to contribute to the financing of the American Civil War, 1776.

About 150 years after Columbus discovered the "strange foliage" in New World, tobacco was used around the world. Its rapid spread and widespread acceptance characterize the dependence on the tobacco plant. Only the delivery mode has changed. In the eighteenth century, it was consumed in the pipe, in the nineteenth century it was at the age of cigar, and the twentieth century recorded the development of manufactured cigarettes and a large number of smokers. At the beginning of the 21st century, about one-third of adults in the world use tobacco. To this is added the growing number of women consuming tobacco. Despite thousands of studies showing that tobacco in all its forms kills its consumers as well as non-users, people continue to smoke, and deaths from tobacco use continue to increase.

Discussion

Tobacco is an annual herbaceous plant, originated in Mexico where it was used in magical and religious rituals in the sixth century, spontaneously grows in South America where it is known as *bacon*, *tiutum*, tobacco, *duhan* , Has been acclimated in many other areas of the globe. It belongs to the Solanaceae family, the genus *Nicotiana*, in which there are 60 species. The species used in industrial tobacco production is *Nicotiana Tabacum*. The exact description of the tobacco plant is due to Gonzalo Hernandez of Ovideo y Valdes, governor of San Domingo, where the Spaniards had begun the first systematic crops for marketing purposes, being imitated by Portuguese in Brazil and by English on the territory of Virginia today.

Even though tobacco is grown around the world in small quantities, there are areas considered as big producing: Asia (China, especially India, Pakistan, Japan), America (USA, Brazil), Europe (the Common wealth of Independent States).

In 1518 a Spanish missionary brought the tobacco to the Iberian Peninsula. In the past, redskins, ie Native Americans, used dried and macerated tobacco leaves for medical treatments - such as snake bites and intestinal worms, but also in different rituals, such as the start of a war and the Preparing the "pipe of peace" that was a way to establish an unwritten pact of non-aggression among tribes.

From a historical point of view, tobacco use and tobacco tourism generally begin in 1492, with the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus, on the island later named Cuba. Also from this period are the first notes by Cristofor Columbus about the custom of smoking, which reports that when he landed on Guanahani (San Salvador) he noticed that the indigenous people smoked from some bamboo pipes, "something" prepared from The leaves of the tobacco plant, simply called them, tobacco.

Sometime later, in 1519, when they returned to Europe, the Spanish sailors of Columbus, led by Captain Francesco Romano Pace, gave Jean Francois Ambassador to Portugal, Jean Nicot, a bundle of burning tobacco leaves, And the habits they have seen in South American natives. Among those who have favored smoking is also one of Captain Romano Pace's officers, named Diego Rodriguez, who with his return to Europe continues to smoke home-made tobacco from America. Among the events generated by tobacco consumption there is also a little hilarious situation in which Diego Rodriguez's wife asks him to "swallow fire and smoke". The Spanish Inquisition judges him and sentences him to 10 years of hard work for "connection to the devil."

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In England, *Nicotiana Tabacum* was originally cultivated as a decorative plant, but soon its cultivation increased vertiginously with its use in the preparation of tobacco that smokes similarly to what is happening today or is nasal (as in the case of Drug use). An important role in the spread of tobacco in Europe is held by the French ambassador to Lisbon, Jean Nicot (from where the scientific name of the plant - *Nicotiana Tabacum*). He cultivated the tobacco in his own garden and used it to treat his own migraines.

A crucial moment in the spread of tobacco in Europe but also in other parts of the world is considered to be the year 1558. In the same year, France's mother queen of Caterina de Medici receives tobacco from Jean Nicot, considering it a healing plant for all suffering , With preparation for the treatment of the soreness of the sovereign. Soon the tobacco decoction was considered a panacea, an idea

highlighted by the name "herba panacea" or "herba sancta" associated with tobacco at that time. Within a few decades after being presented to the French court, tobacco is rapidly spreading throughout the world.

At the end of the 16th century there was a mass migration phenomenon from the use of tobacco for therapeutic purposes in the form of a soothing agent to its use for deconstruction due to the trade practiced by the Italian cities. After spreading to Europe, tobacco came to the Middle East and then to Africa, Asia and Oceania. As mentioned above, the tobacco was originally used for smoking or snuff. In the Orient, it was used for smoke mixed with other plants, including narcotic or irritating substances. The emergence of the pipe in the 17th century marked a special moment in tobacco consumption, and its success among tobacco lobbies grew steadily. Gradually, it went to cigarettes made of sheets, manufactured mainly in Cuba, then in Spain and later in other countries in Europe and the rest of the world.

If at first the tobacco was used only by the nobles, it then expanded among the masses. Initially ignored effects of tobacco consumption have become visible, people finding that the use of tobacco had many unpleasant consequences, including some very serious for the body. This is the moment when the smoking ban is triggered in various countries, in most cases prohibitive measures being unusually harsh. In the sixteenth century, in some countries, punishments went as far as decapitation, as was the case in England, the heads of smokers being exposed in markets, with pipe in their mouths, to intimidate the population.

Among those who fought against tobacco use are King James I of England, who in 1619 vehemently criticizes smoking, drawing people's attention to the fact that if he does not follow his advice "you damage your health, you spend money in the desert, dishonor nation ". Those who were surprised to smoke were sentenced to 10 days of arrest and 6 shillings for each puff (0.5 kg) of smoking tobacco. In Russia, tobacco consumption also showed a different evolution. If initially at the beginning of the seventeenth century tobacco consumption was considered a common habit, smoking and tobacco sales were punished with 60 knocks of cnut on empty soles, and later with nose cutting and deportation. Moreover, at the third offense, the capital punishment applies.

Among the countries that introduced the monopoly of tobacco are also France, which in 1811 under Napoleon's leadership, started this process, with the passage of time consolidating the position and the substantial increase of state revenues. In Romania tobacco was introduced by the Turks in the middle of the century. XVI. Since its arrival in the territory of Romania, tobacco is grown and consumed in a consistent way, in the same way as the production and consumption of alcoholic beverages. And in Romania different taxes were imposed on tobacco consumption, for example in Wallachia there was a bar called "the tobacco hack", in Moldova the prince Constantine Duca established in 1698 a tax on the

cultivated tobacco field, and in Transylvania it was introduced. A fine for smokers. With the expansion of the population's use of tobacco, the first factories, initially rudimentary, of tobacco processing in 1812 in Moldova and in Muntenia in 1821 appeared. In the nineteenth century, tobacco and foil were used, of which the smoker could make his own cigarette, and later he made cigarettes.

The design and construction of the industrial facilities for cigarettes in 1881, but also the industrialization of tobacco production and the automation of manufacturing products, towards the middle of the 20th century, have led to the increasing production of cigarettes, but also a substantial increase in the consumption of cigarettes to several thousand billion units annually worldwide. Developed rapidly in industrial countries since the 20th century, the tobacco epidemic nowadays has a contradictory development. For science, two events in the history of tobacco are important:

- 1735 when Swedish botanist Linne studies and classifies him as *Nicotiana Tabacum*, associating his name with the one who introduced him in Europe - Jean Nicot,
- 1809, when Nicolas Vanqueli discovers and isolates tobacco from nicotine, the toxic effects of which are studied by Claude Bernard five decades later.

Currently, Europe has the largest consumption of cigarettes per capita vis-à-vis any of the six WHO Regional Health Organizations.

The economic costs of smoking for smokers and their families include money spent on tobacco purchases that could otherwise be used for food, clothing and shelter, holidays or even the purchase of a car. Smoking has been depriving the family of the smoker many years of income. Smokers also suffer income losses from disease. After the premature death of a smoker, the partner, elderly children or parents can be left without support. Family members can record expenses when smokers are sick. To all this is added the time lost through hospitals. In some developing countries, a visit to the hospital may take several days. In some countries, smokers have a higher health insurance premium, but also a premium for housing insurance due to the increased fire risk.

The cost of a pack of cigarettes may mean the equivalent of:

- half a kilo of cucumbers in Georgia;
- 12 eggs in Panama;
- Four pairs of cotton socks in China;
- 12 coconuts in Papua Moua Guinea;
- pounds of fish in France, Gana or Moldova;
- six kilograms of rice in Bangladesh

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