

Government imposing a ban/tax on the demerit goods- alcohol, cigarettes and e-cigarettes

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Summary: Imposing a tax or ban on the demerit goods helps the government to stop the negative externalities of consumption which results in lower death rate in the country by which mortality rate decreases. A demerit good is a good which generates negative externalities and over consumed or are produced by market forces. In the research paper I mainly focused on the countries which imposed a ban or a high rate tax on the production and consumption of alcohol, cigarettes and e-cigarettes.

Literature Review

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Introduction

A demerit good is a good which generates negative externalities and over consumed or are produced by market forces. However, as these goods are highly addictive in nature so to decrease the negative consumption or production of externalities, the government imposes a ban or a high rate of indirect taxes on demerit goods so that people should stop buying these goods.

The main purpose of imposing high rates of taxes is to stop the production of demerit goods, as the taxes would be applied on the demerit goods so the producers will stop producing it as the cost of producing the goods will be too high and the producers will suffer a huge loss. As many people in the country consume demerit goods so these goods can cause negative externalities of consumption, the third parties who are not consuming the goods also get affected so to overcome this situation the government decides to impose tax/ban on demerit goods. As the demerit goods are injurious to health so many people die due to the consumption of it and the mortality rate increases, by imposing a ban/tax government can control the mortality rate in the country.

In this research paper I will be summarizing and synthesizing many sources which talk about the demerit goods like- alcohol, cigarettes and e-cigarettes. Many countries impose a ban or a high indirect tax to control the situation of the country as many people in each country consume the demerit goods. In many countries the consumption of alcohol leads to domestic violence and physical abuse in rural areas.

Consumption of cigarettes causes many lung diseases, respiratory diseases, heart attack, cardiac arrest, etc. Many governments impose a ban on tobacco and cigarettes so that people shift to less harmful products such as e-cigarettes and e-cigarettes have less nicotine in them so it is less harmful as compared to the other tobacco products and cigarettes. However, many youngsters also started consuming e-cigarettes in many countries which is illegal so the government also had to ban the e-cigarettes.

Due to ban, black market in the country rises by which people will spend most of their income in buying demerit goods so due to this people will lost their savings and they can be into debt due to this.

Should the government place a permanent ban on alcohol?

The prices for alcohol in India rises due to an excess demand

The prices for alcohol in India increases as there is a sudden increase in demand for alcohol. The sudden increase in demand for alcohol may be possible as there can be a New Year eve's and on the 31st December everyone will purchase alcohol so the price of alcohol will rise as there will be an increase in the demand for it.

The rise in price of alcohol may be possible due to an imposition of tax, by which the prices for alcohol will rise but as the higher income earners can afford the amount of tax so the demand for alcohol will remain the same. As alcohol is an addictive good so it will be difficult for people to stop the consumption of it.

Imposing ban on the production of alcohol

To control the alcohol consumption rate every government decides to impose a ban on the production of alcohol so that people should stop consuming it and live a better and healthy life. As the ban is placed so the producers will stop producing alcohol by which the supply for alcohol will fall resulting in the decrease in demand as people will not be able to buy alcohol.

However, this will result in a black market in the country and alcohol will be sold in the country through illegal ways. For example, the higher income earners will be able to import alcohol in the country easily as they will be able to pay the higher prices for it, but the poor people who are addicted to alcohol will shift to the cheap alcohol which will be available in the black market and as cheap alcohol will be of low quality so the chances of getting ill for the person would rise. The mortality rate in the country can rise as people will be drinking cheap alcohol resulting in the death of those people. So, instead of placing a ban, the government can impose a tax on alcohol by which people will consume alcohol but at a lower rate as the price for alcohol will remain high.

Instead of imposing a ban and tax on alcohol, the government can also impose a ban on alcohol advertising, this will help people to stay away from it as it is a negative advertisement.

People seeking alcohol treatment

Many people in India will be seeking alcohol treatment because for them it is very difficult to quit the consumption of alcohol. As the government of India imposed a ban on the production of alcohol so many people were unconscious as they were very addicted to alcohol so the government decided to open alcohol treatment centres in many areas of the country so that people can attend the sessions and can quit alcohol.

However, many people did not attend the alcohol treatment sessions and many went missing in the country as they were not able to purchase alcohol. Few days later, the government founded that people who were addicted to alcohol and didn't come to the rehabilitation centres for alcohol, they did suicide and died as they were not able to purchase alcohol and due to the addiction they did suicide.

Moreover, this policy is very beneficial for the Indian government as people will stop consuming alcohol and the government has to make sure that people should receive the alcohol treatment sessions. To avoid suicides in the country, the government should make people aware with the help of banners, posters and many advertisements.

Is imposing a high rate tax on alcohol a right step rather than imposing a ban?

Many governments think that imposing a high rate tax is beneficial as compared to a ban. Imposing a ban will cause zero production for alcohol and if the government imposes a high rate tax then the government will receive tax revenue as the high income earners will be able to buy alcohol as they can afford the high rate taxes, as the government will collect tax revenue so, it will be able to spend more on public expenditure like- healthcare, education, constructing roads, providing electricity in the rural areas, etc. by this the standard of living for people will rise and they will be paying tax to the government so that they can enjoy these services.

However, imposition of tax will not be as beneficial as imposing a ban because the high income earners will keep buying alcohol as they can afford the price of tax and due to this the consumption of alcohol will not decrease, imposing a ban on alcohol will result in zero production of alcohol by which people will get less ill and healthcare issues and they will be tend to live more as there is a ban placed on alcohol production.

Moreover, the people who were selling alcohol will get unemployed as their business will be stopped because of the ban. So, the government will have to provide unemployment benefits to them until they find a good job.

The effect of imposing a ban/tax on alcohol

The effect of imposing a ban/tax on alcohol will be both positive and negative.

Positive effect-

As the government imposes a ban on the production of alcohol then the alcohol production will stop and if a high rate tax is imposed then people will stop buying alcohol as it will be very expensive. By this the consumption rate of alcohol in the country would fall resulting in the decrease in the mortality rate due to the consumption of alcohol. People will tend to live more as they will get less healthcare issues as they will stop consuming alcohol, by this employment rate will rise in the country as people will spend most of their time in their jobs rather than consuming alcohol so, the productivity rate in the country will rise and there will be an economic growth in the country and the GDP would rise.

Negative effect-

If the government imposes a ban on the production of alcohol than people will not be able to buy it, this will be beneficial for the government but they will not be able to collect any tax revenue from it as they have banned the production of alcohol and in India many states derives 15-20% revenue from taxation on alcohol so, from now on government will not be able to earn any revenue by which they will not be able to provide any services to people so the healthcare, education, infrastructure sectors of the country would fall resulting in fall of standard of living. If people in the rural areas fall ill so the doctors will not be able to save the life of the patients as the hospitals in rural areas will not have any good technology to save the patient due to this there is a chance that mortality rate in the rural areas might rise. As the education level in rural areas will be low, there will be a low literacy rate in the country and people would not be able to find a good job as they are not skilled enough to do the job.

Many neighbouring countries of India and other countries imposed a ban on alcohol production and on the advertisements of alcohol

As India imposed a ban on the production of alcohol so many neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bhutan and China imposed a ban on alcohol production. The countries came to this decision because alcohol was harming the lives of people as many people were dying due to it and many cases of lung cancer, liver cancer, heart diseases were reported so the Nepal government decided to impose a ban on alcohol production.

South Africa also decided to impose a ban on alcohol production and on alcohol advertisement as well. According to WHO(World Health Organization) 130 people die each day due to the alcohol consumption in South Africa and many people in South Africa consume alcohol due to which the mortality rate has increased a lot. So, the South African government decided to impose a ban on alcohol and they also imposed a ban on alcohol advertisement so that people should not get influenced by it and start consuming it. The neighbouring countries of South Africa have also started taxing the alcohol products.

India sees a rise in the domestic violence to women and physical abuse to children

The rise in domestic violence and physical abuse, psychological abuse was one of the main reasons to ban the production of alcohol. In the rural areas women had to face domestic violence because men used to consume alcohol and used to beat them. WHO also looked upon this issue and India has the very worst situation in domestic violence and sometimes the men also beat their children to death. 15.7% children in India suffer from physical abuse by which their education also suffers.

After placing a ban on alcohol the number of cases of physical abuse declined and this government policy worked for the country.

Should the government permanently ban tobacco products?

Government imposing ban on tobacco products

Indian government imposed a ban on the production of tobacco products like- cigarettes because the consumption of tobacco is very high in India so to decrease the negative externalities of consumption the government decided to ban the tobacco products. By banning tobacco products

the production of tobacco would decrease and hence people will not be able to purchase any tobacco products. According to [data](#) around 275 million people in India consume different types of tobacco products. According to [WHO](#) due to the consumption of tobacco products there is a major risk of diseases like- lung disease, cancer, cardiovascular diseases and stroke. Moreover, more than 1.35 million people die every year in India and India is the second largest consumer and producer of tobacco so the price for tobacco products will be relatively lower hence, this is the reason that more people consume tobacco products in the country. So, the Indian government imposed a ban on tobacco products. By imposing a ban 21 states imposed a ban on tobacco products.

Indian government decided to conduct surveys for the tobacco consumers

In India the government conducted a survey so that it can make out how many people consume tobacco products in the country. Only 74,000 people in the country responded to the survey and this survey was conducted for the people aged above 15 years. As many people consumed tobacco products in the country, the government decided to paste the health warning labels on cigarette packs in India. Another survey was carried out to ask people whether the health warning should be placed on the cigarette packages or not. The result was very shocking for the government as many people demanded that the warning labels should not be placed on the cigarette packs.

However, this method worked for the government as there was a 16% decline in the consumption of tobacco products. The size of warning labels were also increased by 85% by the government.

Many restaurants in India placed an indoor smoking ban

According to the Indian laws and regulations smoking at public places was banned in 2008 but many restaurants were not following this rule in India so the government decided to ban and place a heavy fine on people who consume cigarettes in restaurants. As people who consume cigarettes in public places then other people will also inhale the smoke particles which contain many toxic chemicals so this also affects the third parties by which the negative externalities increase and affects the health of people and also affects the health of people who don't smoke. As people will get ill due to the consumption of cigarettes then their health will be affected and the

diseases in the country can rise and mortality rate will also increase in the country so the government will have to spend more on the healthcare sector as they have to save lives of people. There will be an opportunity cost for the government as they could have spent the money on other public expenditures like education, building roads, providing electricity in the rural areas, etc. if the government could have spent on education then the skills of people would have raised and they could have gotten a job easily.

Smoking banned in public places, educational campaigns to quit smoking in China

Many educational campaigns were started in China to reduce the consumption of cigarettes in the country. China is the number one country in the world which consumes the most cigarettes in a single year. By this method the government will be able to persuade people more easily as the education is provided to children which will help them to look that what is a healthy product and what is an unhealthy product as they will be provided education so they can easily make out that consuming tobacco will be very harmful for the human body as they can cause many diseases.

However, this method is not so beneficial for the government as it is only placed in 17 cities in the country and hence, China is still the number one consumer of cigarettes all over the world. So, the government decided to ban smoking in public places as the negative externalities would rise. This method worked for China but there are a lot of places where people do not follow these rules.

How China failed to ban the production of cigarette smoking and other tobacco products

China, which is the worst hit country by the consumption of cigarettes and tobacco products, decided to ban smoking cigarettes and other tobacco products but it failed. The main reason behind failing was that the national and local government failed to educate the public about the consequences of consuming cigarettes. If the children will not understand the consequences of consuming cigarettes then this will be the greatest disadvantage for China as consuming cigarettes can lead to- heart attacks, stroke, cardiac arrest, lung diseases, etc. By this the death rates in the country would increase leading to a high mortality rate in the country. As the death rate increases so many people will lose their jobs and this may be possible that many high income earners die as they may consume cigarettes so the government may lose a lot of revenue by this.

Nepal imposes a ban on tobacco smoking, chewing habits

A ban was placed on tobacco smoking and on chewing because the imports of cigarettes and other products were increasing. The main and the important reason behind the ban of cigarettes was that the Himalayas were melting as the average temperature in Nepal has increased over past few years and smoking can be one of the reasons for increasing the temperature. According to the scientists if the temperature of Nepal keeps rising then the sea levels would rise and there is a high chance that Nepal can be submerged due to the melted water of Himalayas. So, looking at the consequences, the Nepal government decided to ban tobacco smoking and other products as well.

Moreover, Nepal reported many cases of head and neck cancer by which people can lose their jobs and can be unemployed, the unemployment rate in the country may rise in future.

Are e-cigarettes the right substitute for cigarettes?

Indian government bans the production of e-cigarettes

E-cigarettes were banned in India as e-cigarettes are also considered a demerit good so the government decided to ban e-cigarettes. Many people who consume cigarettes shift to e-cigarettes as e-cigarettes have less tobacco and nicotine in them. But, many doctors claim that e-cigarettes also cause harm to the human body such as- respiratory diseases, lung diseases, poor oral health, etc. Due to consumption of e-cigarettes in India cases of lung problems, respiratory diseases were reported and because of this 26 people died.

This ban includes the ban on the production, trade, transport, storage and advertisement of tobacco products and e-cigarettes. If any person is found consuming tobacco or e-cigarettes then he/she will have to pay a fine of 1,00,000 rupees and this can also lead to a 3 year imprisonment and a 5,00,000 rupees fine will also be imposed if any person stores the tobacco products or the e-cigarettes.

Banning the products of tobacco and e-cigarettes will not help in the less consumption of these products so the Indian government is planning to import the new technology of healthcare so that it can treat people easily and by this people will be able to maintain their oral health. However, this will lead to more spending of revenue collected by the government. Hence, the government decided to impose a ban on the products of tobacco and e-cigarettes.

China government decides to ban the production of e-cigarettes in the country

Firstly, the chinese government launched e-cigarettes products in the country because e-cigarettes help people to quit tobacco and shift to a less harmful product which is e-cigarettes. This plan worked for the chinese government and many people shifted to e-cigarettes products like vape, juul, etc. as these e-cigarette products have less nicotine so less cases of lung diseases, heart diseases, cancer were reported in the country.

However, as these e-cigarette products were launched so many youngsters in the country started consuming e-cigarettes as they had less nicotine in them. Many youngsters were addicted to the products like- vape, juul, etc. by this the spending on healthcare rose as the government of china needed better technology to save the life of youngsters.

Is banning e-cigarettes in India is right or wrong

Indian government decided to impose a ban on the production of e-cigarettes as many youngsters in the country started consuming e-cigarettes. Mainly youngsters from the age of 15-19 consume e-cigarettes and 16% from the age of 17-19 consume e-cigarettes. As many youngsters consume e-cigarettes, the Indian government will have to spend more revenue on the healthcare sector as many youngsters will fall ill . Many youngsters will miss their education by which the skills required for the jobs will decrease. The death rate in the country would be high as many people will die consuming e-cigarettes. These tobacco products can cause diseases like heart problems, cancer, lung diseases, etc.

However, as e-cigarettes have less percentage of nicotine in them so it will not be as harmful as compared to the other tobacco products. E-cigarettes are also helpful for those people who are willing to quit or to shift to less harmful products like vape, juul. These products will help them as e-cigarettes are less harmful as compared to tobacco products such as cigarettes so the health of people will remain good and their jobs will not be affected.

To conclude, the government should not ban the production of e-cigarettes as the people who are addicted to tobacco products will not be able to stop consuming the tobacco as they will not be willing to leave the tobacco as they will not have any less harmful substitute so they will keep consuming the tobacco products.

Should the governments impose a tax on the production of e-cigarettes?

If a government imposes a ban on the production of e-cigarettes then the production of e-cigarettes would decrease because the cost of producing it would rise and then the producers will stop producing it. By this people will stop consuming e-cigarettes as the price for the product would rise, the negative externalities of consumption would decrease and the mortality rate in the country will also decrease. The healthcare index of the country would also improve as less people will consume e-cigarettes.

Moreover, the government will earn more tax revenue as the rich people will buy the products as they can afford the price of tax. As the government is earning more revenue than it will spend on public expenditures like- education and healthcare, there will be better infrastructure in the country and the standard of living for the people will rise in the country.

However, the indirect tax imposed on e-cigarettes will be regressive as the rich people can afford the price of the tax and the poor people cannot as they have less income as compared to the rich people.

Moreover, the government should impose a high rate tax for the rich people and a lower tax for the poor people as it will be a huge disadvantage for the people because they cannot afford the higher price of e-cigarettes.

What will happen if the government imposes a ban instead of a tax?

If the government imposes a ban on the production of e-cigarettes rather than imposing a tax then the production of e-cigarettes will be stopped and the production level of it will be zero. This will be a great advantage for the government as the negative externalities of consumption would

reduce and the health of people will also improve . People will pay more attention towards their jobs and by this they will earn income so their standard of living will rise.

However, as the ban is placed on e-cigarettes so the government would not be able to earn any tax revenue by which they will not be able to spend on infrastructure and on the public expenditure so the living standards would fall for people. There would be no development in the rural areas in the country so many things like- roads, buildings, electricity would not grow.

In addition, placing a ban would not be beneficial for the government as they will not be able to receive any revenue as the production of e-cigarettes would be zero. But the negative externalities of consumption would decrease which will be a big advantage for the government.

So, placing a ban or tax both will be beneficial for the government.

Ban on e-cigarettes in Brazil will be a success or failure?

Brazil was one of the first countries in the world to impose a ban on e-cigarettes products like- vape, juul, etc. The main reason behind this ban was that e-cigarettes have some toxic substances in it which can affect the mental health of the consumers but the scientists were not fully confirmed that this can affect the mental health of consumers. Another reason for imposing the ban was that many teenagers started consuming e-cigarettes illegally, from the toxic substances present in the e-cigarettes it is considered that these can affect the testosterone level in the body by which the chances of prostate cancer increases and it can also have an adverse effect on the health such as- lung cancer, heart diseases, etc.

Furthermore, people who consume e-cigarettes will also affect the third parties or the people who are not consuming any of the demerit goods. Thus, Brazil government decided to ban the e-cigarettes products. By banning these products the government will prevent people from consuming unhealthy products and by this people will remain healthy in the country.

How the Indian government banned the online sales of e-cigarettes

India banned the online sales of e-cigarettes so that people should stop buying e-cigarettes online as the ban on production of e-cigarettes was banned so the many people were consuming the products by ordering them online so the Indian government decided to ban the online sales of e-cigarettes. The government investigated the online vendors which were selling e-cigarettes and the vendors which were selling vapes, juuls illegally were charged with a fine. As the e-cigarettes consumption also affects the health of non-consumers so by this the negative externalities of consumption rises. Many states in India banned the online sales of e-cigarettes 16 out of 29 states banned the online sales of these products.

The main reason behind the banning of online sales was that many vendors were available in the capital city of India who were selling e-cigarettes so the Indian government decided to ban the production of e-cigarettes.

Indian and chinese government agreed to ban the e-cigarettes and other smoking cessations

Both the governments imposed a ban on the smoking products so that people would shift to the e-cigarettes which is less harmful but this plan didn't work for the governments as the young generation of both countries started consuming e-cigarettes. So, the countries decided to ban the production of e-cigarettes as well to protect the young generation. The main plan to ban cigarette consumption was that 1.3 billion people used to smoke in both countries. With a ban placed on smoking products a triple excise tax was also placed on the production of cigarettes. After imposing the taxes and ban on these products both the countries were successful as they were able to control the smoking situation in the country around 250 million people quit smoking combining both countries.

Conclusion

In conclusion, most of the countries are still struggling in the world to control the situation of demerit goods as many people in each country consume demerit goods.

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