

DRUG ABUSE, ALCOHOL AND ECONOMY: THE DILEMMA OF PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Drug dependence and alcohol consumption can have long-lasting and detrimental effects on the health of both adolescents and adults. Cigarette smoking, for instance, can lead to shortness of breath, hinder lung growth, and cause cardiovascular damage. Excessive alcohol consumption, on the other hand, can result in various health issues such as cancer of the esophagus, heart disease, mouth and throat cancer, high blood pressure, liver cirrhosis, and stroke. Surprisingly, the government seems indifferent to these concerns, likely due to the economic benefits derived from these substances. Banning cigarettes and alcohol could potentially lead to unemployment and a loss of revenue for both the government and individuals. Another emerging issue is the economic aspect of medicinal cannabis and its impact on public health. These complex issues require careful consideration in public policy. However, the fundamental question that needs to be addressed is whether the government prioritizes economic benefits or the guarantee of public health. The health of citizens is of utmost importance for the development of a nation. The author argues that smokers are more likely to die prematurely, as emphasized by government campaigns aimed at discouraging smoking. However, the lack of political will to shut down industries and disregard the economic consequences poses serious obstacles to effectively preventing drug abuse and alcohol consumption in our society. Unless the government places public health as its top priority, efforts to combat drug abuse are unlikely to achieve the desired objectives.

Keywords: Drug Abuse, Alcohol, Economy, Public Health, Policy Dilemma.

Introduction

In both a semantic and philosophical sense, drug abuse refers to the dangerous consumption of psychotropic drugs, alcohol, and illicit medicines. It is typically associated with the use of mind-altering drugs that have detrimental effects on health and behaviour. In recent time, drug abuse and excessive alcohol consumption have long been recognized as significant public health concerns. The adverse effects of substance abuse on individuals and communities are well-documented, ranging from physical and mental health consequences to social and economic burdens. As societies grapple with these issues, it becomes crucial to examine the complex relationship between drug abuse, alcohol consumption, and the economy. This article delves into the intricate dynamics between public health and revenue generation, aiming to shed light on the multifaceted challenges and potential solutions in addressing drug abuse and alcohol-related problems. By exploring the public health implications, economic consequences, government policies, public health initiatives, revenue generation, and the delicate balance between public health and revenue, we can strive

towards a comprehensive approach that prioritizes the well-being of individuals and communities while considering economic impacts.

However, throughout human history, drugs have been utilized for various purposes, including medicinal, religious, and festivities. In ancient times, alcohol, bitter cola, leaves, kola-nut, and tobacco were the most prominent substances used. The issues and behavioural patterns associated with drug abuse have been prevalent throughout human history. Drugs are commonly used for both the prevention and treatment of diseases in both humans and animals. Depending on factors such as the user's metabolism, the nature of the drug, and the amount used, drugs can have both positive and negative effects on the body's systems. This includes whether the drug is used alone or in combination with other medications. However, drug abuse is a dangerous and ongoing issue that often involves self-administration without regard for medical prescriptions or culturally accepted patterns of consumption. This behaviour can have severe consequences, interfering with both the individual's health and their ability to fulfill their social roles. Symptoms of drug abuse can include anxiety, behavioural changes, depression, fatigue, stress, loss of appetite, and an increased desire for more drugs.

Nigeria, like many other nations, is grappling with the alarming rise in drug abuse and alcohol consumption. The accessibility and affordability of these substances have contributed to their widespread use, posing a significant challenge to public health and social welfare. The consequences of this epidemic are far-reaching, affecting individuals, families, and society as a whole. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, the Nigerian government has implemented various initiatives and policies to address the drug abuse and alcohol consumption crisis. Laws and regulations have been enacted to control drug trafficking and regulate the sale and consumption of alcohol. Specialized agencies and task forces have been established to coordinate efforts in combating the substance abuse epidemic. Moreover, the government has allocated funding and support for prevention and treatment programs, aiming to educate the public about the dangers of substance abuse and provide assistance to those in need.

Statement of the Problem

Drug abuse is a serious global health and social issue in our modern era. The abuse and addiction to drugs are universal problems that transcend race, culture, socioeconomic class, religion, ethnicity, and national borders. When drugs are abused, they bring about changes in the biological system, affecting memory, behaviour, attitude, mood, and the overall body system. In Nigeria, the use of alcohol, cannabis, tobacco, and other psychotropic substances among young people poses a significant public health challenge. Illicit drug use has become a global issue, with drug industries targeting the largest population and hope of every nation - the youth. This widespread use of illicit drugs is currently one of the most pressing problems in Nigeria, contributing to the country's high rate of crime. A concerning proportion of Nigerian youths have become addicted to drugs, posing a serious threat to their own health and safety. This addiction also creates additional difficulties for their families and society as a whole. Drug abuse is a major challenge that must be addressed in order to improve the well-being and security of the nation.

Illicit drug use poses undesirable health hazards among its users, hampers national development, and is one of the leading anti-social behaviours in Nigeria today. Moreover, this

phenomenon affects every aspect of our nation, cutting across gender boundaries and impacting people of all ages, from the young to the elderly. The usage of drugs also affects entire families, posing a serious threat to the community and constituting an economic burden on individuals, families, and society as a whole. The problem of drug abuse has permeated all levels of education, from elementary schools to universities. Tragically, hundreds of young lives are lost each year as a result. This issue is not limited to a specific gender or geographical area, affecting both male and female adults, young individuals, and those residing in rural communities. It goes beyond socio-economic boundaries, impacting high-ranking executives, professionals, musicians, truck drivers, and athletes alike.

Youth are the most vulnerable individuals who engage in alcohol and drug abuse, which poses a significant threat to any nation. The transition from adolescence to young adulthood is a critical period during which experimentation with illegal drugs often begins. This is because drugs exert a magnetic appeal on them as they navigate the journey towards self-identity and independence. However, the persistent use of illicit drugs among youths often emerges as a coping mechanism for the challenges they face. However, the weak political, legal, and attitudinal responses to the use of illicit substances make drug abuse one of the most complex public health problems in Nigeria.

Literature Review

Trends in Drug Abuse

Throughout human history there has always been a continuous search for substances that induce pleasure. People seek these substances to protect and sustain themselves, as they believe they bring inner peace, contentment, soothe muscles, and enhance human senses (Adekeye et al., 2015). Evidence of substance abuse in Nigeria can be traced back to the time when our ancestors' created drugs from tree leaves, which were consumed through wooden pipes or rolled in shrubs. Remarkably, these drugs produced similar effects to those used today (Imo 2001). The Cannabis Sativa plant was first introduced to Nigerian soil after the Second World War. The West African Frontier Force (Soldiers) were exposed to smoking hemp while on duty in India, hence the name Indian hemp. Soon after, the plant rapidly spread across the nation, reaching different cities. As the threat of excessive drug use intensified, Indian hemp began to attract public attention from government bodies, religious organizations, scientists, and non-governmental organizations. In response to this growing concern, the military regime enacted the Indian Hemp Decree in 1966, followed by the Other Drugs Decree. The aim was to reduce the production, sales, and use of illicit substances (Axel, 1999).

Interestingly, the Civil War introduced a new dimension to drug use. Soldiers on the war front were introduced to Indian hemp and other stimulant drugs. The use of these substances gained popularity among musicians such as Fela Anikulapo Kuti, among others. Subsequently, the political class shifted their focus from the adverse effects of drugs to the economic benefits they could bring. Nigeria began to cultivate cannabis in large quantities for commercial purposes and exported it to other countries. Eventually, Nigeria gained international recognition as a drug trafficking center in the 1980s. As laws and regulations became stricter in the countries where Nigerians exported drugs, a significant amount of these substances found their way into the local market. Inhabitants began to use and abuse hard drugs such as cocaine, heroin, opium, and more (Axel, 1999). In addressing the shortcomings

of previous drug legislation, the introduction of Decree No. 48 and the establishment of the NDLEA marked a significant step towards combating drug abuse in our society. The implementation of Drug Demand Reduction Programs in educational institutions aims to tackle this issue comprehensively, focusing on creating awareness, providing education, offering treatment and rehabilitation for drug addicts, and ensuring the successful reintegration of former addicts into society (Obioha, 2002).

Health Implication of Alcohol, Smoking and other Substance Abuse

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC, 2010) has established a strong correlation between alcohol consumption and various types of cancer, including colon, female, larynx, liver, esophagus, oral cavity, and pharynx. Furthermore, studies have shown that the risk of developing cancer increases with higher alcohol intake (Rehm et al., 2010). The quantity and duration of alcohol consumption play a significant role in the likelihood of alcohol-related injuries, with a higher risk associated with long-term and heavy drinking (Rehm et al., 2010; WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2009). Additionally, research has demonstrated that prolonged and excessive alcohol consumption can contribute to heart-related diseases (Rehm & Roerecke, 2011). It is widely accepted that alcohol consumption is detrimental to cardiovascular health, including conditions such as hypertensive hemorrhagic stroke (Patra et al., 2010) and atrial fibrillation (Samokhvalov, Irving & Rehm, 2010) (Taylor et al., 2009).

Smoking is the act of inhaling and exhaling the fumes produced by burning plant material. Various types of herb materials can be smoked, including marijuana and hashish, but tobacco is typically associated with smoking in cigarettes, cigars, or pipes. Tobacco contains nicotine, an addictive alkaloid that can have both stimulating and calming psychoactive effects. It is important to note that just because cigarette smoking is not illegal does not mean it is any less harmful than other illegal substances in Nigeria. The legality of smoking is due to its widespread use and social acceptance before the discovery of its health hazards. However, it is crucial to understand that cigarette smoking is extremely detrimental to health and is the leading cause of preventable deaths worldwide. Shockingly, it is estimated to claim the lives of over five million people each year. According to the World Health Organization (WHO, 2019), if appropriate measures are not taken to reverse this alarming trend, the death toll associated with tobacco smoking is projected to exceed eight million annually by 2030. This highlights the urgent need for action to combat this grave issue.

Tobacco products consist of cigarettes, kreteks, hookah, shisha, smokeless tobacco etc., has been reported to have caused 16 different types of cancers, including lung and oral cancers, chronic lung diseases, that intensify the risk of death by 12 times. It is equally associated with increased risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and tuberculosis. Smoking among pregnant women increases the danger of miscarriage, preterm delivery, low birth weight and sudden infant syndrome (Schauer et al. 2017; Wang et al. 2016; Thomas et al. 2014; Leirer, et al. 1991). The damaging effects of cigarette smoke on lung health are well-known. However, it is becoming increasingly apparent that smoke also has significant pulmonary toxicity. The main target of inhaled smoke is the lung, and the injury it causes can be attributed to direct chemical exposure. However, the effects that trigger chronic diseases in other organ systems are likely to be the result of indirect consequences of this exposure (Dilyara et al, 2007).

Smoking affects various organs in the body, leading to several tobacco-related diseases. Diseases of the respiratory tract, such as COPD and cancer, particularly lung cancer, as well as cancers of the larynx and tongue, are well-documented health risks associated with tobacco smoking (Boyle, 1997; Crofton & Bjartveit, 1989). In Australia, smoking alone is one of the leading causes of preventable diseases (Hess, 2003). Shockingly, it is estimated that smoking kills 15,000 Australians each year and costs the Australian government \$31.5 billion in social and economic expenses (Drope et al, 2003). Furthermore, half to two-thirds of smokers die prematurely due to the effects of smoking, resulting in an average loss of about 13 years of life for those who die as a result of smoking (Crofton & Bjartveit, 1989; Boyle, 1997). Cannabis is the illegal drug most often found in the blood of drivers who have been involved in vehicle accident, including fatal ones (Brady, 2014). Two European studies discovered that drivers with THC in their blood system were roughly twice more likely to be responsible for a fatal crash than drivers who had not used drugs or alcohol (Druid, 2012; Biecheler et al, 2008). The role played by cannabis in vehicle accidents is often unclear because it can be detected in body fluids for days or even weeks after intoxication and because people frequently combine it with alcohol. Those involved in vehicle crashes with THC in their blood, particularly higher levels, are three to seven times more likely to be responsible for the incident than drivers who had not used drugs or alcohol. The risk associated with cannabis in combination with alcohol appears to be greater than that for either drug by itself (Hartman, 2013).

Smoking cannabis can lead to respiratory symptoms like cough, increased sputum production, and wheezing. It is equally connected with dyspnea, pharyngitis, hoarsening of the voice (Lee & Hancox, 2011) and the aggravation of asthma (Tessmer et al, 2012). Cannabis and tobacco smoking can cause substantial bronchial injury. It also increased the risk of developing airflow obstruction in smokers of both cannabis and tobacco, which lead to the development of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) (Van Hoozen, 1997). Cannabis causes central airway resistance to airflow associated with prominent symptoms of bronchitis and hyperinflation (Tetrault, 2007). Cannabis has been connected, in a dose-dependent manner, to elevate the rates of myocardial infarction and cardiac arrhythmias (Reece, 2009). Additionally, the cannabinoid system opposes the autonomic nervous system, causing paradoxical vasoconstriction, a decrease in cardiac output and hypoxia and an increase in carboxyhemoglobin, an increased risk of infarction in coronary patients, an arrhythmogenic effect and orthostatic hypotension (Jones, 2002). A causal relationship exists between cannabis exposure and ischemic stroke was established by a case series (Singh, et al, 2012). It is one of the most frequent causes of arteriopathy in young adults. -9-THC which has a direct toxic effect on blood vessels (Cottencin, Karila & Lamber, 2010).

Cocaine, is a powerful stimulant, and a white powder commonly sniffed for its effects. However, in its original form, it is chewed as a leaf from the cocoa plant. Derived from the resin of the cocoa plant, cocaine is primarily found in South American countries such as Chile, Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru. Initially, it was used to enhance physical endurance and as a local anesthetic by doctors (Barber, 1967). Unfortunately, it has been widely abused by addicts. The abuse of cocaine occurs when it is used incorrectly. This involves mixing the raw cocaine powder with sodium bicarbonate (Na_2CO_3) in specific proportions. The resulting mixture is then poured into a conical flask with distilled water and heated over an invisible burner, forming a solid rock that addicts use (Hollister, 1995). Additionally, cocaine is often combined with other drugs before consumption. There are three main methods of cocaine usage:

snorting, smoking, and injection (Lauer, 1978). Snorting involves inhaling cocaine powder through the nose, allowing it to be absorbed into the bloodstream. Smoking entails inhaling cocaine vapor or smoke into the lungs, resulting in rapid absorption into the bloodstream, similar to injection. Injection involves using a needle to directly release the drug into the bloodstream. It is crucial to note that all three methods of cocaine usage can lead to addiction and severe health problems.

The prevalence of cocaine and opioid use has been strongly linked to the alarming increase in drug overdose deaths (CDC, 2021; NIDA, 2021). Both cocaine and opioids, such as heroin, can be used independently or in combination to achieve a heightened experience or to counteract negative effects (Leri & Stewart, 2003). However, the simultaneous use of these drugs can have a synergistic detrimental impact on cardiovascular function (Kaye & Darke, 2004; Ghuran, 2018). The acute intake of cocaine leads to sympathomimetic effects, including an increase in heart rate (HR), contractility, blood pressure (BP), and vasoconstriction. These combined effects heighten the demand for oxygen while reducing its supply (Stankowski, Kloner&Rezkalla, 2015), thereby elevating the risks of myocardial infarction, cardiomyopathy, arrhythmia, and other cardiovascular diseases (Schwartz, Rezkalla&Kloner, 2010).

The literature has shown that excessive and prolonged alcohol intake can have severe consequences. Chronic alcohol abuse can damage vital organs such as the liver, heart, and brain. It increases the risk of developing liver cirrhosis, cardiovascular diseases, and neurological disorders. Smoking tobacco is a habit that poses significant health risks. The inhalation of tobacco smoke exposes individuals to numerous harmful chemicals, including nicotine and tar. These substances can cause various respiratory problems, such as chronic bronchitis and emphysema. Smoking is a leading cause of lung cancer, responsible for a significant number of cancer-related deaths worldwide. Cocaine, a highly addictive stimulant, has detrimental effects on both physical and mental health. Its use can lead to cardiovascular problems, including heart attacks and strokes. Cocaine abuse can also cause severe damage to the nasal septum, leading to chronic nosebleeds and a loss of the sense of smell.

The Economic Cost of Substance Abuse

Alcohol, drug abuse, and mental (ADM) infection are the leading causes of widespread infection, disability, and premature loss of life worldwide. These disorders have a profound impact on society, resulting in the utilization of health resources, decreased productivity, and financial consequences from motor vehicle accidents, fires, criminal activity, and incarceration. The individuals affected by these disorders endure immense pain and suffering, often leading to financial dependence, homelessness, social isolation, undesirable job changes, missed opportunities for advancement and education, and disruptions in life plans. Furthermore, the families and friends of these victims also experience significant disruptions in their lives (Dorothy, Rice, Sander & Leonard, 1991).ADM disorders impose a heavy burden not only on the individuals affected but also on their families and society as a whole. Quantifying the full extent of this burden is challenging, but it is crucial to translate it into economic terms to inform resource allocation and decision-making. As resources are limited, the continuous rise in healthcare budgets and the growing pressure for cost containment may limit the availability of necessary healthcare for all Americans. Therefore, it is essential to

prioritize areas that will have the greatest impact on the welfare and well-being of individuals for every penny spent.

The prevalence of illicit tobacco products not only harms consumers' health by promoting the consumption of lower-quality goods at affordable prices but also poses a significant obstacle to the government's development efforts. It is estimated that the government faces a substantial reduction in tax revenue, amounting to approximately N12 billion, along with increased healthcare costs and decreased national productivity due to morbidity. These factors collectively hinder Nigeria's development. Tobacco consumption has a significant impact on the socioeconomic status of Nigerians, thereby affecting the country's economy. The alarming rates of mortality and morbidity resulting from tobacco use lead to the premature loss of productive lives among men, women, and children, which is detrimental to any nation's economic growth.

In Nigeria, an astonishing 7.45 billion naira is spent annually on purchasing cigarettes (Premium Times, 2013). To put this into perspective, a smoker spends 1.8% of the national average income to buy 10 of the cheapest cigarettes every day (The Tobacco Atlas, 2019). This financial burden is exacerbated by the fact that individuals with lower levels of education, an indicator of poor socioeconomic status, are more likely to consume 10 or more cigarettes daily compared to those with higher educational attainment (Nigeria Demographic Health Survey, 2013). Consequently, these individuals allocate scarce financial resources towards purchasing cigarettes instead of meeting essential needs such as food and healthcare. This diversion of funds hampers the overall well-being of Nigerians and impedes the country's progress. The impact of tobacco consumption on the socioeconomic status of Nigerians and the subsequent strain on the country's economy cannot be underestimated. It is imperative to prioritize efforts to combat tobacco use, ensuring a healthier population and a more prosperous nation. Therefore, it is crucial to address the issue of tobacco consumption in Nigeria not only for the health and well-being of its citizens but also for the sake of the nation's economy.

The Dilemma of Public Health Policy in Nigeria

A policy of dilemma exists between the economic choice and the public health. We have seen many times through advert "that smokers are liable to die young" we have seen the health hazards associated with alcohol, smoking and other substance abuse. Clamping down on breweries and a banned-on production and importation of smoking products not only pose a serious significance loss of revenue generation to the government but also a loss of job security to individual. At the same time allowing the status co to remain as it is, means a potential loss of present and future labour force due to the risk associated with substance abuse. Issues of drug control raise a fundamental moral question that needs to be addressed. This is because economy, politics and rule of law are involved. Reformers who seek legalization of drug abuse has argued that an elimination of the black market, greater tax revenues, etc would not be achieved if the government continued to punish those who produce and sell illicit drugs. Anyone who is concerned to drug law reform for economic reasons is almost certain to want to remove criminal penalties for production and sale as well as for use. But then again, economic gain is not the best reason to oppose prohibition.

A civilized society is the society that has a wide variety of morals obligation that shape the conducts of individuals within a social system. It is a society that priced itself of intellectual

advancement, humane, ethical and rational. It is a society that distinguished itself by refinement in taste and manner. Therefore, public health should be a top priority of every government by promoting the health of citizens through the prevention of disease and harm. It should be a core value and a moral endeavor of an organized society, because the end it seeks is the improvement of human good. Health has intrinsic value in as much as it is partly fundamental of individual role performance in a social system. Furthermore, it also has instrumental value by providing enabling environment necessary for the adequate functioning of populations. Lawrence (2004) once asserts that, without minimum levels of health, individuals cannot engage in social interactions, participate in the political process, exercise rights of citizenship, produce wealth, create art and provide for common security.

The pursuit of public health policy is at the detriment of economic wellbeing and freedom of some people to choose what one want is not without criticism but what is important according to Andrew & Maria (2019), is that the pursuit of public health is motivated by the aspiration to advance human welfare. Besides, there are several different normative lenses through which one can understand the moral argument of the public health initiative. These different understandings of the foundational principles of public health in turn bear on how one articulate and address the ethical challenges that arise in public health. They further maintained that, the consequentialist ethical theories, the sole justification for an act is the state of affairs it brings about, and the right action or policy is the one that maximizes the particular good (e.g., pleasure, happiness, or welfare) that is sought. Consequentialism might appear to be well suited to public health, given that the goal of public health is to enhance the welfare of populations. And, indeed, the consequentialist perspective does inform some approaches to public health policy. For example, it underlies a cost-effectiveness approach to resource allocation that is embraced by many health economists, that seeks to maximize the number of healthy life years in the population as a whole through a distribution of resources that results in the most "quality-adjusted life years" (QALYs) (Andrew & Maria, 2019). However, a typical form of moral objection against consequentialism, is that a strict adherent to it would, in principle, permit acts that are logically considered to be violations of distributive justice and personal autonomy. It is on this note that Pseudonymous (2000) maintained that, individuals should be able to choose what they do to their bodies as a fundamental principle of liberty that by criminalizing drug users, prohibition needlessly removes people from potential employment and use to society and possibly creates criminals out of people who wouldn't otherwise be so inclined. At the same time prohibition creates a powerful supply vacuum that can only be filled by criminals. The consequence of this is safe less drugs (from adulteration), violence and stronger organized crime.

However, another way of overcoming the moral criticism against consequentialism is to recognize deontological constraints on the pursuit of public good. Deontological ethical theories, is of the view that, what makes an act right are the intrinsic features of the act rather than the state of affairs that it produces. Deontological approaches (sometimes referred to duty-based approaches), maintained that, as human we have duties toward others (and ourselves) that prohibit certain acts regardless of the good consequences those acts may yield. These duties are often taken to include, among other things, acting in a manner that conforms to norms of fairness which manifests respect for personal autonomy. Thus, a deontological approach to public health ethics would reject policies that violate obligations grounded in autonomy or distributive justice, even if those policies would maximize population health

(Andrew & Maria, 2019). The foremost prominent frameworks for public health ethics encapsulate both consequentialist and deontological considerations; that is, they both recognize that the general justification for the public health initiative is to produce good health outcomes that demands for justice and respect for individual liberty and privacy rights place limits on the kinds of public health policies that are permissible (Marckmann et al., 2015; Childress et al., 2002; Kass, 2001).

However, in a capitalist world, economic interest reigns supreme over any other interest. As people are dying few people benefit from the rotten individual. Drug cartels benefit more when more people abuse drugs just like an increase in the sales of gun and ammunition whenever there is war only few people profit from it. Importantly too, the existence of any organized society is to guarantee the welfare of its citizen. Therefore, public health is fundamental to the development of any society and it is expected to occupy a top policy priority of any civilized society irrespective of whatever it may cause to any individual, corporate organization or government as long as it is for public good.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Youths are the backbone of any nation's workforce, and it is essential to protect them from the devastating effects of drug abuse. By taking decisive action to review and abolish the policy allowing the production and sale of alcohol and tobacco, we can create a society that prioritizes the well-being and progress of its citizens over the economic benefit. Various severe and chronic health problems associated with different types of drug abuse have been identified and discussed. The current wave of violence engulfing Nigeria is closely linked to drug abuse. It is absolutely absurd for any society to allow the sale of drugs to its citizens. Tobacco companies have managed to infiltrate all forms of media, aiming to make tobacco use more acceptable and fashionable. These companies, along with breweries, are among the most sophisticated in the world. If their efforts remain unchecked, they will continue to develop innovative campaigns to create a positive image of their products and attract new users.

Therefore, it is strongly recommended that the policy allowing the simultaneous production and sale of alcohol and tobacco be thoroughly reviewed and abolished in the public interest. This task may seem daunting, but it is achievable. History has shown that practices once considered legitimate, such as slavery, can be abolished and condemned as criminal offenses. Similarly, if alcohol and tobacco receive the same level of condemnation and abolition, they will be seen as incompatible with a civilized society.

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