Addressing Tobacco Problems in Developing Countries

Wednesday - Thursday, December 5 - 6, 2012

University of Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta
conference and exhibition

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STUDENTSHIP GRANT

ABSTRACT:

Peer Education to Increase Junior High School Teenagers Involvement in Preventing Smoking Behaviour in Bantul Distric
Heni Trisnowati, Supriyati

Lozonges Formulation from Extract Miracle Fruit with Freeze Dryer Method: Improvement Herbal Dosage from Addiction Smoker therapy
Yosi febrianti, Mutiara Herawati, Chyntia Paradhita

The Effect of Larkspur (Delphinium) Inhalation to Decrease Nicotine Withdrawal Syndrome in Intravenous Nicotine Induced Sprague Dawley Rats
Nurvita Risdiana, S.Kep., Ns

The Effect Of Disease Picture Printed-Cigarette Package To Active Smokers of High School Student in Yogyakarta
Munawir Saragih,S.Ked

Analysis of Ratio 3-Hydroxycotinine: Cotinine: Phenotyping Study of Cytochrome P450 2A6 on Indonesian Smoker
Christine Patramurti

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THE LAW AND REGULATION OF TOBACCO
AND ITS EFFECT TO OUR HEALTH

Ensia Lasahid Lentera

ABSTRACT

In this age, Tobacco has been consumed by all elements in society. The product that produced by tobacco has been consumed every day; even woman and man consume the product of tobacco without seeing the difference in their social status in the society. As one of the commodity that gives the biggest revenue to the country, the industry of tobacco develops very fast with many range of products such as cigarette and cheroot. The development of this industry is inversely with the impact that it contributes to the health aspect. As what people already known that the product that produced by tobacco such cigarette and cheroot inflict many dangerous illness like cancer, heart attack, impotent, lung disease, and many dangerous disease/ill. This is caused by the contents inside the product contain many dangerous substances such tar and nicotine. Although mostly active smokers are aware of the bad effects and the contents inside the cigarette and cheroot they still choose to consume this dangerous thing. Despite all of the negative impacts, tobacco also plays some good part in terms of economic aspect. Tobacco is one of the important and biggest commodities in this country. It is the life source of millions of tobacco farmers. The farmers relay their life on their farming. In these two contrary issues, the government as the organization that manages every aspects of its people’s life should make a regulation that comforting for both parties. They have to apply a new rule that advantage the economic sides of the farmer as well as protecting the society from the bad side effects of tobacco. The government should not be concern in just one aspect like neglecting the economic to achieve the healthy community goal or reversible. They have to come out with the best solution for both parties to be able to protect its people from tobacco’s negative effect and still maintaining a sustainable economic condition of the tobacco’s farmers.
Full Paper
THE LAW AND REGULATION OF TOBACCO AND ITS EFFECT TO OUR HEALTH

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INTRODUCTION

Tobacco as one of the influential commodities in Indonesia has given great impact in the society and in the financial. Tobacco has been consumed by all level of society in Indonesia. According to National Institute of Health Research and Development 2007, there are 57 million smokers in Indonesia. It shows that Indonesia is one of the perfect countries to do a business of tobacco because the big mass of smoker in this country. It can be detached from the fact that Indonesia itself is one of the countries that produced a tobacco in a big mass. According to the data from Indonesian Tobacco Farmers Association, recorded in 2011 Indonesia produced tobacco about 165,000 ton with area that used about 207,419 Ha.

Tobacco turns to be products that have two opposite effects. In one side tobaccos creates a big work area and give a big advantages, a big income to the country but tobacco isn’t a perfect product. The tobacco may be a great industry that gives a big incoming to the country but tobacco gives an effect that can kill the consumer slowly. Moreover, according to the data from WHO, cigarette (product of tobacco) is a no. 1 killer in the world. Recorded, there are 100 million people in this world that get killed by cigarette in 20 century.

In term of the country’s revenue in form of foreign exchange, the export value of tobacco and the result of tobacco selling are having an important role. Although, it grows slower in 2008, but all over the export value of tobacco shows a positive trend. It grows higher and higher. In average, the export value of tobacco noted a growth about 9.2% in last five years, with the average of export value is US$. 65.7 Million in era 2004 until 2008. In 2011 according to the data from the custom department, the amount of total income that the custom department earned is 64.8 billion rupiah.

It is so translucent and people can see clearly how much the income that the government get from the taxes of tobacco through the custom department. Although, the stunning amount of revenue that the government get from tobacco can’t change the status of tobacco as one of product that danger for health and body. The government understood that the consumption of tobacco can kill the citizen and the government has to do something about this matter but government still can’t give a good regulation and good policy that related with tobacco.

In fact, the government knows and understands very well the bad effect of tobacco but it seems that they close their eyes on this matter. They know that the consumption of tobacco is very dangerous. The question that rise, is the government already trying or giving a solution on this matter? Are they having a regulation that appropriate with the condition in Indonesia?

THE ROLE OF TOBACCO

In arranging a good regulation for tobacco, the awareness of the role of tobacco has to be understood very well. It has already known that tobacco gives a huge income to the country. According to the head of APTI (Indonesian Tobacco Farmer Association), Abdus Setiawan, in 2012 the production of tobacco estimated will rise up to 10%. The rising of this product is affected by the price of tobacco that reached 200,000 rupiah for each kilogram. But nowadays the price of tobacco is in stable condition about 43.000 - 47.000 rupiah.
In gaining the workers, tobacco industry absorb huge numbers of workers. Recorded in world of tobacco industry in Indonesia, this industry absorb about 4.154 million workers, where 93.77% absorbed in farming activity, including farmer activity after harvest the tobacco. Whereas, the workers in sector of cigarette just absorbed 6.23% (cited from barber, 2008). The rate of this absorption is so extensive thus it shows that this industry has a good prospect and has great advantage to citizen and government.

In a relation with the government achievement, the amount of a big worker in this industry is a great solution for the government to overcome the problem of jobless. Indonesia supply 2.1% of total tobacco in this world. It means that the production of tobacco is huge in Indonesia. The power of absorption that big gives an impact in term of (tax) and the selling of tobacco in society. Not only sell the product of tobacco inside of this country, but also Indonesia has thrown their product in the global market. Indonesia has sold their product in international market and earns great revenue. Some Indonesian products of tobacco that already well known in this world are Gudang Garam, Sampoerna, and Djarum.

According to Natasya Sirait Ningrum, in the aspect of government revenue in form of foreign exchange, the export value of tobacco and the product of tobacco have an important role too. Not only our country getting the benefit from exporting the product that sell in international market, but also Indonesia import some product of tobacco from another country to increase the government income from the tax. Overall the position of Indonesia in the world of trade of tobacco is a net exporter; it means that Indonesia get more income in export than import. The main foreign exchange is coming from cigarette export because the value of cigarette export is bigger than cigarette import. In 2007 the surplus of cigarette trading is US$ 253.87 million (cigarette export about US$304.45 million and cigarette import about US$ 50.58 million).

THE HEALTH ISSUES OF TOBACCO

The role of tobacco that contributes many advantages to government can’t change its status as one of the industry that deal with a big problem. The problems that rise aren’t coming from the industry, not from the management nor the workers, but the problem comes from the product of tobacco. The product of tobacco contributes many problems in the society’s health.

Cigarette has killed many people in Indonesia. According to University of Indonesia in 2009, the number of death rate because of cigarette in Indonesia is 427,948 people. Consider the number of smoker that rising in Indonesia, the death rate in Indonesia will raise continuously. It has been known by all level of society that cigarette contains many dangerous substances that can kill people slowly and silently. Cigarettes consist of some chemicals item such benzene, formaldehyde, ammonia, acetone, tar, nicotine, carbon monoxide, arsenic, and hydrogen cyanide and are proven to be very dangerous to body. These substances are causing many dangerous diseases such cancer, heart attack, lungs disease, disorders of pregnancy and etc.

The factor that is causing smoker can’t move on from cigarette is a substance called nicotine. Nicotine gives an addiction effect to the body. The nicotine that sucked will be absorbed fast and give an addiction effect suddenly. The spreading of nicotine from lungs to the brain only needs 7 seconds. At the time nicotine arrives in the brain, it will stimulate the extrication of dopamine. Dopamine is a substance inside the nerve system that will make someone feels relax and happy.

Nicotine stimulates the production of dopamine in an excessive amount to make the body feels more relax. The danger happens when the concentration of dopamine gets lower; the body will feel the anxiety. As a result, people will take more cigarettes and inhale the
dangerous chemical substances again. That’s why the addictive condition is hard to avoid and the accumulation of these dangerous chemical substances in their body that is causing the diseases.

According to WHO (2001), 80% smokers in this world are eager to stop being a smoker, but just 2% that actually stop being a smoker. Another factor they said that, 82% smoker age 13-15 years old want to stop being a smoker, 92% trying but failed.

There has been a lot of writings about the role and the health issues of tobacco. There are two opposite factors in here. That’s the issues that need to be understood and to be considered by the government to make a path to solve this polemic. The government needs to make a regulation that can solve both problems.

THE REGULATION OF TOBACCO

In conducting a good regulation for tobacco, the government has to think and look from two different perspectives. They have to make a good regulation that appropriate with the tobacco industry as well as prevent the people to get killed from tobacco.

The farmers are known and understood how bad the tobacco is. The problem that arise is that it’s impossible for them to leave they farm or change their plant to another agriculture plant. They relay on the selling and the business of tobacco so much so they prefer to work with this plant. The government can’t push the farmer not to plant or produce tobacco because it is their right. So, it is a job for government and the other organizations to find a way or regulation about this matter.

There are some regulations that government has already applied. The regulation that the government set to solve the tobacco matters can’t solve fully this matter. It happens because they don’t give a full attention to tobacco matter. They just talk about the path to solve the problem without applying it to the society. Some of regulations that the government set are give a big warning in the product of tobacco and raise the tax of tobacco.

A warning in the cover of cigarette is a good idea to warn to the society about the danger of it. It can give a big influence to the smoker too. People can think twice if they see the warning in the cover of cigarette. The thing that needs to be considering in here is the effectiveness of this warning. In some countries there are tight regulations about the warning in the cover of cigarette. In Singapore, there is a rule that make the industry of cigarette has to place a warning in the cover. They have to make a half cover drawing with the warning of tobacco. The consumer will see clearly the bad effects of smoking so they will choose to avoid it. In Indonesia, the warning in the cover of cigarette is just about 20% of the cover. The government has to make the warning bigger; they can demand the tobacco industry to make a bigger cover. The government can demand the cigarette industry to put some horrific drawings on the cover of cigarettes pack that shows how bad the tobacco is to their body.

The advertising of cigarette has to be reduced or the government can forbid the advertising of cigarette. The government creates a rule not to advertise the cigarette in television during the day, but instead at night, the advertising of tobacco is still allowed. The people and the kids can see the advertising too and they will curious about cigarette, that’s what making them trying to taste it. So, the government has to control the advertising of cigarette in television and in public areas.

The government can try to flip in the school to do socialization about tobacco. They can talk directly to the student to make them aware of the danger of tobacco. It can prevent them from consuming the tobacco from the very young age. The students especially in the young age will listen to an adult explanation clearly and they will plant it in their head so they have some
knowledge about the danger of tobacco.

Not only in school, the government and the other organizations can come to the village or community to talk and express the dangerous of tobacco to the people. There are many people that smoke within the community so if the government can come to this community and talk to them, they can make people to realize how bad the cigarette is.

Another thing that government can do to control the consumption of tobacco is they can raise the tax of tobacco. According to barbel, 2008; increase the price of cigarette from the increasing of tobacco tax is an effective method to control the consumption of cigarette. It will push down the consumption of tobacco in level of teenager or students. The students don’t earn a salary; they just have money from their parents and if the price of cigarette is raised they will not be able to buy it because it is too expensive.

The government is a rule maker. They can make a category of people that can smoke. They categorized people based on a characteristic that allow people to smoke or not, with these characteristic, the people that out of the category are not allowed to smoke and if they do so these people will get punish.