PROTECTION FROM EXPOSURE TO SECOND HAND SLT USE IN PUBLIC PLACES - SPITTING A PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN OR A PUBLIC NUISANCE?

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BACKGROUND
SLT use induced spitting in public places present a complex challenge to public health.

Globally experts are divided in their opinion about the adverse health consequences of exposure to public spitting.

SLT ban was also focused to curb the epidemic of tuberculosis from late 19th Century and Early 20th Century.

‘No Spitting’ sign were replaced by the ‘No Smoking’ signage.

➢ Spitting is considered public nuisance.
➢ Spitting after chewing or using other SLT products stains and defaces public vehicles, buildings and other public property.
➢ Spitting and ass dropping embarrassing in-front of others – cited reason to quit.

METHOD
A comprehensive review of existing literature on prohibition of spitting in public places was undertaken. Legislative and policy publications were reviewed for the reasons of such prohibition and punishments thereon.

RESULTS

Ban on Spitting continues

Preventing / reducing SLT use
Public cleanliness and hygiene
Communicable diseases

Ban on Spitting in India
➢ Indian Railways
➢ Metro Rail Corporations
➢ Several states (Goa, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh)
➢ Prime Minister of India called for nation-wide cleanliness drive on August 15, 2014 and launched the ‘Clean India Mission’
➢ Recently Uttar Pradesh Government has banned spitting in public buildings.

Ban on spitting under local (municipal) laws in India
✓ The Karnataka municipal law - fine of INR 100 at the first time and INR 200 subsequently.
✓ The Bombay Police Act, Section 116, prohibits smoking and spitting in government premises in Maharashtra.
✓ In Telangana, the Greater Hyderabad municipal law - fine of INR 500 upwards.
✓ The Bihar municipal law - penalty of INR 200.

CONCLUSIONS

Lack of scientific literature on the impact of SLT ban
Several countries and cities have norms against spitting in public
Need for further research on the effects of SLT & spitting ban