

PASSAGE 4

A. Read the passage given below for Note making :

The Trail of smoke in most cases inevitably leads to school. And college days-those adolescent times when mere lighting up gave them the thrill of indulging in the prohibited. And yes, they weren't mama's boy (or girls) anymore; they were macho and grown up beyond listening to nannies. Or so they thought, till they got addicted.

There is a clear link between the youth and tobacco addiction. Statistics reveal that many children are initiated into the habit of smoking at the tender age of 10 years, according to Dr. Srinath Reddy, a researcher-activist.

That's why it makes sense to stop them young, when they are vulnerable to peer pressure. Smoking, which often starts as an experiment in the company of friends often transforms into addiction.

According to the Non-Smoker's Health Protection Act 1997 nobody is allowed to store, sell or distribute cigarettes, beedies or any other tobacco product within an area of 100 m around colleges, schools and other educational institutions. The Indian Parliament passed another comprehensive legislation, the Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act, a few years ago banning the sale of tobacco products to minors.

Has that made any difference? "You have to go to north campus to see if any law is followed."

Many students even argue that it is a matter of personal choice. "Once in college, a student is old enough to take decisions. It is clearly mentioned on cigarette packs that 'smoking is injurious to health' and after that if someone smokes, it is completely the individual's choice," says Manu Singh, a student at JNU.

Sad reality is that nothing has been able to stop students from smoking in schools and colleges. It's fashion.

The law enforcement agencies takes refuge behind pleas like they have large areas to cover with a small team. Their strength, they say, is not adequate to enforce laws. "Sometimes people pay the fine (Rs 200), which is hardly a big amount. In universities and colleges, raids are not possible. With just one person from the police, it becomes impossible to control them," said Dr. M.D. Thapa, Chief District Medical Officer, Northwest district.

Advocate Ashok Agarwal does not buy the argument. According to him, there is a clear lack of interest on the part of the lawmakers. "The police and the administration have their own priorities hence they have little time to look into these sensitive issues. The situation in this case is that of accepted and agreed violation where just nobody is bothered," he says.

The one answer the experts agree on is; the government. "There is no effort to implement the laws," complains advocate Ashok Agarwal. When society does not care, the government becomes duty-bound to make them care. "There is a direct link between the youth and tobacco addiction. They are the key targets for the MNCs," says Bijon Mishra, a social activist involved with the NGO, Voice. While society and its institution ignore those mischievous puffs in school canteens, the biggest beneficiaries are the tobacco companies.

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using recognizable abbreviations (minimum 4) wherever necessary. Use a format you consider appropriate. Supply a suitable Title. (5 Marks)
 - (b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. (3 Marks)
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