

Toual Abdeleaziz, Toumi Belkacem, Habba Ouadia, Haouari Fouzi Djamel Eddine, Kheiri Nouh  
Sociological Representations of the Phenomenon of Smoking in Arab Research Study of a Sample of  
Articles Published on the ASJP Website

## Sociological Representations of the Phenomenon of Smoking in Arab Research Study of a Sample of Articles Published on the ASJP Website

Toual Abdeleaziz<sup>1</sup>, Toumi Belkacem<sup>2</sup>, Habba Ouadia<sup>3</sup>, Haouari Fouzi djamel eddine<sup>4</sup>, Kheiri  
Nouh<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ziane Achour University Of Djelfa (Algeria), [abdeleaziz.toual@univ-djelfa.dz](mailto:abdeleaziz.toual@univ-djelfa.dz)

<sup>2</sup> Ziane Achour University Of Djelfa (Algeria), [b.toumi@univ-djelfa.dz](mailto:b.toumi@univ-djelfa.dz)

<sup>3</sup> Ziane Achour University Of Djelfa (Algeria), [o.habba@univ-djelfa.dz](mailto:o.habba@univ-djelfa.dz)

<sup>4</sup> Mohamed El Bachir El Ibrahimi University of Bordj Bou Arréridj (Algeria),  
[faouzidjameleddine.haouari@univ-bba.dz](mailto:faouzidjameleddine.haouari@univ-bba.dz)

<sup>5</sup> Ziane Achour University Of Djelfa (Algeria), [kheirinouh@gmail.com](mailto:kheirinouh@gmail.com)

Received: 10/2022

Published: 11/2022

### Abstract

Smoking is a social concept in all of its forms, and it has an impact on people's lives, whether they smoke themselves, are affected by smoking, or are interested in the academic field of research on smoking's effects, where a variety of disparate and conflicting interests come together to discuss theoretical and empirical arguments about the practice's effects. In the present study, which is based on the literature review approach for a sample of studies published on the Algerian Scientific Journals Portal (ASJP) website, we will review the researchers' opinions and perspectives on smoking; these different perspectives come from various sciences and intellectual premises; to be analyzed, benefited from, and discussed.

**Keywords:** smoking; representations; social dimensions.

**Tob Regul Sci.** <sup>TM</sup> 2022;8(1): 2414-2423

**DOI:** [doi.org/10.18001/TRS.8.1.179](https://doi.org/10.18001/TRS.8.1.179)

### 1. Introduction

Smoking is the act of combusting a substance—typically tobacco—and then tasting or inhaling the resulting smoke. Through the use of drugs, this process is primarily carried out as a

recreational activity, where the combustion of the drug's active ingredient, such as nicotine, releases it and makes it available for inhalation through the lungs. There are thousands of chemicals that affect the central nervous system, and cigarettes are the most common means. It is very common to smoke today, whether the cigarette is industrially produced or hand-rolled from loose tobacco and cigarette rolling papers. Other means of smoking are pipes, cigars, hookahs, and bongos. (Wikipedia), Tobacco smoking, long practiced by Native Americans, was introduced to Europe by Christopher Columbus and other explorers. Smoking quickly spread to other areas, and today it is widely practiced all over the world despite the medical, social, and religious arguments against it (J. Hilton, 2022).

According to historians, the origins of tobacco go back ten centuries, or before the discovery of the American continent. The native people of North and South America held some respect for tobacco. After it was thought that the tobacco herb was a gift from the Creator, it was connected with the practice of some religious rituals as a method of interacting with spirits.

From a historical point of view, at the beginning of the sixteenth century, Europeans discovered the tobacco plant after Christopher Columbus returned carrying tobacco leaves gifted to him by the Native Americans after his exploratory visit to the Americas. including a spiritual drink with pleasure after drying its leaves, and smoking by inhaling the smoke emitted from it by a two-hole tube called "tobacco," which is the source of the word "Tavaco." In the same regard, from the beginning of the seventeenth century until the eighteenth century, tobacco was a major crop for both Virginia and Maryland as well as North Carolina, and since the barter system was the main system of trade prevailing at the time, tobacco was used as a commodity currency in transactions along with flour, corn, cattle,... etc. (Shanna & Talouti, 2022, pp. 31–32)

Arab researchers have given a lot of attention to the issue of smoking, as it affects many aspects of life, and many sciences overlap with it in order to solve its religious, legal, social, economic, psychological, and health problems. So we will try in this scientific paper to present a theoretical study based on a literature review in academic research Arabic, to explore the social representations of the smoking phenomenon.

## 2. Research Methodology

Establishing scientific research and connecting it to current knowledge is the cornerstone of all academic research activities, and the production of knowledge in the field of academic research is accelerating quickly (Toual et al., 2022, p. 191). Scientific research follows a practical and rational approach based on identifying the scientific gap to achieve addition (Toual et al., 2022, p. 191). This makes it challenging to keep up with the most recent research, be on the cutting edge, and assess the body of evidence in a particular field of study, which is why literature review as a research method is more crucial than ever. However, formidable while remaining fragmented and

interdisciplinary, this makes it difficult to keep up with the latest research and be on the cutting edge. From (Baumeister & Leary, 1997; Tranfield, Denyer, & Smart, 2003), the literature review can be broadly described as a fairly systematic way of synthesizing and synthesizing previous research (Snyder, 2019, p. 333). Well, conducted as A literature review is a research method that creates a solid foundation for developing knowledge and facilitates theory development by integrating findings and viewpoints from many empirical and theoretical findings. A literature review can address research questions with a power that a single study does not have (Snyder, 2019, p. 333).

In pursuance of this aim, we used the literature review method in our research and selected a sample of academic studies from the Arab world that had been published on the Algerian Portal of Scientific Journals (ASJP) website.

### 3. Results

The study of Fatima Al-Zahra Tobal reveals sociological representations in historical analyses of smoking in Algerian society. "The Phenomenon of Smoking in Historical Writing in the Ottoman Era, the Manuscript 'Mehed Sinan' by Ibn al-Fakun as a Model" (Toubal, 2018). The researcher deals with the spread of the phenomenon of smoking in Algerian society during the Ottoman era in the 16th century AD, when the phenomenon of smoking spread terribly in Algerian society, which led to the outbreak of disputes between senior scholars and leaders of Sufi movements over the rule of its prohibition, which led to sharp divisions between them and resulted in the emergence of rival camps.

There were numerous jurisprudential works on this subject, such as those by Muhammad bin Suleiman, that represented the broadest authoritative movement on this phenomenon. the author of the book Kaaba al-Ta'if, and Abdul Qadir al-Rashdi wrote about him in "The Masterpiece of the Brotherhood in the Prohibition of Smoke" and Ahmed al-Maqri, the author of the book "Nafh al-Tayyib" wrote about him and wrote about him Algerian scholarly families, led by Ibn al-Fakun in "Mudd al-Sinan" and they did not reach a single opinion on it until Abd al-Ghani al-Nabulsi concluded in writing his letter 1143 AH, "Reconciliation between the Brothers in the ruling on the permissibility of smoke" (Toubal, 2018, p. 85).

The personality of Ibn al-Fakun emerged in Constantine during this historical period (BC-16 AD), as the situation, there was unstable due to the Ottoman presence at the time because the Ottomans brought hookahs and "Essebsi" used to smoke and other similar things. Ibn al-Fakoun led the opposition among Algerian academics (Toubal, 2018, p. 85).

Ibn al-Fakun begins his manuscript on smoke by defining this strange social phenomenon and mentioning the reason for writing his book, which came to refute the evidence of the scholars who solved this scourge and named it the scourge because of the halal rule that It eating or smoking, became known among people. The researcher deals with the definition of smoking as a social

phenomenon between the 16th and 17th centuries AD through a specific manuscript of the tooth. The aforementioned is not an intoxicant at all, because an intoxicant is something that is hidden from the mind..." Ibn al-Fakun is not satisfied with presenting this fatwa but rather takes an opposing position to it. And he rejects what the famous Egyptian scientist Al-Ajhuri said, stating with arguments and proof of its sanctity and harmfulness that it is one of the bad habits that began to spread in his time (Toubal, 2018, p. 87). The jaws also give us a picture in which he describes the smoking sessions when people used to gather with a smoking machine in their midst and inhale its smoke, which is known in the east as the hookah (Toubal, 2018, p. 87).

As a result of the spread of this phenomenon and its effects on the religious social structure, as well as the inability of the texts of prohibition to stop it, the researcher presented the historical social dimensions of smoking in society at the time of this study. In order for some people to avoid internal conflict due to the sanctity of smoking, they turned to other methods. Some religious writings do not rob him.

#### **4. Sociological representations in legal studies on smoking:**

a study (Zawawi Shanna and Othman Talouti, 2022) "*The problem of smoking and its legal treatment*" (Shanna & Talouti, 2022). In this study, the researchers deal with the effect of smoking and its legal consequences, how the legal legislator dealt with the harm caused by smoking, and the sociological dimensions of the smoking phenomenon, where smoking is no longer a cause of diseases only, but has become an essential factor in building and defining social relations, and the law has an important role in the event of disruption of these relations. For example, smoking became a major reason for the wife's refusal to continue living with her smoking husband, and some studies conducted in Saudi Arabia, for example, proved that more than a hundred divorce cases were filed by women who refused to continue with their smoking husbands.

In this regard, a member of the Court of Appeal, Dr Ibrahim Al-Khudairi said, "If a woman married a man and found out that he was a smoker, and she mentioned in the lawsuit that she had a chest disease and severe allergies, and made it clear that she did not want a man who smoked in the first place because this is considered a legitimate defect, the husband must be separated from the wife because of the damage." and the lack of continuity of married life" (Shanna & Talouti, 2022, p. 38).

For women, smoking has become one of the important questions that should be asked before marriage, because it determines the continuation or cessation of the relationship since many women believe that smoking will harm themselves, their husbands, or their children, which is something the researchers discussed smoking and the interests of the child. There is no doubt that foster care is the care and protection of the child from harm, and Sharia and law gave it to the mother because she is more tender, patient, and caring for the children and their upbringing. Hence,

a foster child does not accept the hand of someone who does not protect him and fix him for missing the purpose and purpose of the nursery. The custody is taken away from the custodian as a matter of course if the custodian harms the interests of the custodian because the custody has conditions that must be met.

In order to make this clear, Drs. Nabil Ghaneim and Abu Saree Abdul-Hadi came to the conclusion that "if it is proven that the incubator smokes, then the nursery is taken from her and transferred to the next if the harm is proven." ( 2022, p. 39), the fact that the child is in the "passive smoker" category, which is the category that harms smoking without smoking, and this category expands to include everyone who surrounds the smoker, and the number of smokers increases day by day, and the number of those affected by smoking increases successively. The negative result of their presence in closed public places, which constitutes an infringement on the part of the active smoker on the right of the non-smoker to breathe fresh air; If the international legislation related to the environment distinguishes in the field of environmental pollution between the damage that affects humans and their property and the damage that affects the environment directly, which is called pure environmental damage, and the researchers (Zawawi Shanna and Othman Talouti, 2022) mention in this place that in 1990 a medical committee in Australia discovered that A non-smoking Italian parish who contracted cancer as a result of daily inhalation of smoked tobacco smoke by bus passengers as a driver of a passenger bus; He sued the insured's the insurance company, and the court responded to his request by ordering the insurance company to pay him \$60,000 in compensation (Shanna & Talouti, 2022, p. 40).

##### 5. Effects of smoking on the social environment and smokers' representations:

A study (Abdelkader Alaaq) "*The phenomenon of smoking from an environmental health perspective, and legal legitimacy*" (Alag, 2014) In this study, the researcher deals with the impact of smoking from an environmental and social point of view. Tobacco smoke is one of the most causes of environmental pollution because it contains toxic atoms and gases. Addiction to Tobacco or nicotine harms society as a whole, starting with the smoker and those around him. Smoking causes pollution of the environment in general, and the closed environment in particular. in which the smoker smokes, in particular, whether it is a restaurant or a café, a room or an office, a hall or a stadium, a bus or a car, in addition to the unpleasant smell emanating from the smoker that is attached to him and his clothes, there is no comparison between clean natural air and air polluted with concentrated toxic gases, and in this regard, medical research has confirmed that sitting A four-hour stay in a closed smoking room is equivalent to consuming ten whole cigarettes (Alag, 2014, p. 55).

The substances used in smoking are the root cause of numerous fires that occur in public spaces, hotels, restaurants, clubs, parks, and forests around the world. Smoking residues, such as

empty cigarettes, cigarette butts, and matches, contribute greatly to the pollution of the environment in which humans live. The amount of wood required to treat one kilogram of tobacco leaves is estimated to be between one hundred and one hundred thirty kilograms, which entails burning about fifty trees. It is one of the main causes of house fires, increases the amount of dirt, and raises the cost of ventilation and maintenance. (Alag, 2014, p. 56).

All these damages create an unhealthy atmosphere and make the social environment incompatible with smokers, which often makes the smoker involve, or search for other smokers in order to practice smoking freely and without feeling rejected.

#### 6. Psychological representations that cause smoking in adolescents:

A study (Wassila Zaidi and Lamiya Kholoufi) (Zaidi & Kholofi, 2019) "*Smoking is the Gateway to Addiction.*"

Psychological factors play a key role in the tendency of adolescents and young adults to smoke, as these factors lead to making some people more susceptible to abuse and addiction than others. Among the factors and reasons, according to the researcher, that make young people and adolescents tend to smoke and be more prepared for early use (Zaidi & Kholofi, 2019, p. 107):

Adolescence and youth are a time when a person is developing physically, emotionally, and emotionally. External influences on teenagers are made easier during this time by people like his friends or the media, which may cause them to imitate the heroines of certain movies who smoke, use drugs, or abuse alcohol.

Young people and adolescents have erroneous inner feelings and beliefs that smoking completes their manhood, and increases their ability and social acceptance, and some may view it as a kind of search for self-fulfilment. Some adolescents also think that they started smoking only out of experience and curiosity, and thus want to try what others are doing, especially their companions or family members, but later find that they continue to do so to become part of their usual behaviour.

In particular, if the teenage boy is young, it is easy to influence him, and the psychological construction of his personality is not fully developed. The influence of fellowship, or a group of companions or peers, has the most significant role and the greatest influence on adolescent behaviour. (Zaidi & Kholofi, 2019, p. 107).

The researcher claims that smoking style has a strong relationship to personality and has an unreasonable amount of influence. As a result, the researcher says, the teenager who smokes their first cigarette feels the need to express their personality to their family and friends because smoking may be seen by some of them as a sign of progress, a symbol of letting go of the past and parental authority because it is associated with a key aspect of childhood. (Zaidi & Kholofi, 2019, p. 107).

**7. The role of social and psychological beliefs in the practice of smoking among high school students:**

A study (Halima Akseh) "*Perceptions of Secondary School Adolescents about Smoking Behavior*" (Aksa, 2020)

According to the researcher, the psychological causes of the problems, crises, frustration, and troubles that the individual smoker is exposed to, as well as his consumption of cigarettes as a confrontation and alleviation of some of these problems, are the primary reasons for the beliefs of educated adolescents about the reasons for starting to smoke. Then comes the role of friends in starting smoking, and curiosity on the part of the smoker. As for their beliefs about the motives of continuing to smoke, they were represented by stimulating the smoker's nerves when abstaining from smoking, feeling anxious, headaches and dizziness while stopping smoking, and the motive to smoke and quit depends primarily on the smoker's desire and will, according to the beliefs of adolescents in secondary education.

Regarding their perceptions of smoking's effects, including the illnesses it causes, such as cancer, heart disease, breathing problems, and high blood pressure, as well as their anticipation of other risky behaviours like drug abuse that increase the risk of death. The sample members' perceptions of the smoker's personality traits were only partially reflected in their belief that the smoker is an anxious and tense individual. Finally, their beliefs about the effect of smoking on social relationships were that smoking is forbidden religiously, and children's smoking leads to a bad relationship with their parents and leads to many family problems. Then it is a shame for a person to smoke in front of an older person, and smoking cigarettes causes annoyance to others, especially in places where their beliefs are that smoking is permissible for men but prohibited for women (Aksa, 2020, pp. 88–89).

The researcher includes suggestions based on her research, including surveys on the frequency of risk behaviors in the school setting, attention to and research into the problems of the adolescent population in the school setting, and raising awareness of the negative effects of smoking among the adolescent group. (Aksa, 2020, p. 89)

**8. Suggestions and policies to combat smoking in Algeria:**

A study (Ben Talha Saliha and Hamdani Moussa) "*Policies to Reduce the Economic and Health Effects of Smoking in Algeria*" (Saliha & Moussa, 2017).

The two researchers suggest that in addition to the steps and laws Algeria has already taken, the country can take advantage of some efficient policies to reduce smoking. In some nations, you can eat it, including (Saliha & Mousa, 2017, p. 62):

### **8.1. Activating the role of civil society:**

Through sporting events and intellectual and prestigious competitions about the risks of smoking and how crucial it is to stop, the civil society represented by sports and intellectual associations, as well as consumer protection associations, can play a significant role in the fight against smoking in Algeria, as the World Health Organization recognizes in one of the principles it has set to protect people from tobacco smoke has a pivotal role for civil society in creating and ensuring compliance with special measures for tobacco smoke and should be included as an active partner in the process of legislative development and implementation (Saliha & Mousa, 2017, p. 63);

### **8.2. Combating smuggling and counterfeiting:**

It is one of the most significant issues facing Algeria's economy, which is a part of the unofficial (parallel) economy. A significant portion of cigarettes consumed in the country are smuggled or adulterated; the latter cost the state treasury more than 167 billion dinars annually as a result of tax evasion (Saliha & Mousa, 2017, p. 62).

### **8.3. Activating health investment:**

health investment does not mean only expenditures devoted to the health of individuals, but also includes investment in cigarette packs by increasing:

Hygienic packaging with the dangers of smoking on cigarette packs as compensation for modern photo writing;

Abolishing trademarks and standardizing their form on all tobacco-producing partners will reduce tobacco consumption, as both Australia and New Zealand succeeded in following this policy and yielded fruit in reducing tobacco.

These policies are known as plain packaging, as these policies contributed to a 34% reduction in tobacco consumption. in Australia in 2011.

### **8.4. Adoption of electronic cigarettes:**

If governments and health organizations set standards and methods of production, electronic cigarettes are seen as a product that aids in quitting smoking rather than an alternative because, in the opinion of the World Health Organization, they are less harmful than conventional cigarettes (Saliha & Mousa, 2017, p. 63).

Discuss the results

It can be said that one of the main topics that drew academics from different fields together was smoking. Due to the fact that this phenomenon affected many people in society and that the legal system had to deal with numerous religious issues, the topic was thoroughly discussed in the past and attracted the interest of many historians. Religions generally forbid smoking, while some resorted to contentment with its hatred, and despite the controversy between prohibition and hatred, the practice of smoking has become so overwhelming that it has legal consequences, which has



affected marital and family relations, and the relationship of parents with their children, in which families often resort to the law from To solve the social problems arising from smoking.

Perhaps the groups most likely to fall under the threat of addiction are adolescents because their representations of smoking are positive representations that motivate them to practice this behaviour, as the adolescent sees his strength and authority and his superiority over his peers in blowing smoke. Many governments have resorted to developing policies to reduce its negative effects, which we find in activating laws and seeking the help of civil society organizations.

## 9. Conclusion

Smoking is no longer a personal choice; due to its psychological and social effects smokers must be seen as rehabilitable victims rather than as suspects or criminals who should be shunned and despised. As a result, smokers become more alienated and alone, which increases their vulnerability to deviations. It is always important to point out the health damage that accompanies smoking, as smoking is known as the leading cause of preventable death. Smoking can harm fertility, make pregnancy more difficult, and can interfere with fetal development during pregnancy. It accounts for an estimated 14% of premature births and 10% of infant deaths (The Free Dictionary, 2022), and there is some evidence that smoking may cause ED in some men. Smokers are deficient in vitamins and suffer from oxidative damage caused by free radicals. Although some cigarettes are marketed as "low tar," no cigarette is actually risk-free. If he switches to a low-tar cigarette, he'll probably inhale more slowly and deeply to get the chemicals his body needs.

## List of references

1. Aksa, H. (2020). Beliefs of adolescents studying in secondary education about smoking behavior—A field study in some secondary schools in the state of Batna. *Journal of Psychological and Educational Sciences*, 6(4), 76–89.
2. Alag, A. (2014). The phenomenon of smoking from an environmental health perspective, and legal legitimacy. *Journal of Scientific Research in Environmental Legislation*, 4(2), 49–63.
3. J. Hilton, M. (2022). Smoking | Definition, Types, Effects, History, & Facts | Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/smoking-tobacco>
4. Saliha, bin T., & Mousa, H. (2017). Policies to reduce the economic and health effects of smoking in Algeria. *Scientific research notebooks*, 5(1), 50–66.
5. Shanna, Z., & Talouti, O. (2022). The problem of smoking and its legal treatment. *Mediterranean Dialogue*, 13(1), 29–52.
6. Snyder, H. (2019). Literature review as a research methodology: An overview and guidelines. *Journal of Business Research*, 104, 333–339. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbusres.2019.07.039>

Toual Abdeleaziz, Toumi Belkacem, Habba Ouadia, Haouari Fouzi Djamel Eddine, Kheiri Nouh  
Sociological Representations of the Phenomenon of Smoking in Arab Research Study of a Sample of  
Articles Published on the ASJP Website

7. The Free Dictionary. (2022). Smoking. In The Free Dictionary. <https://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/smoking>
8. Toual, A., Toumi, B., & Kheiri, N. (2022). Literature reviews in sociological research. *ALMEAIAR*, 13(1), 190–199.
9. Toubal, F. Z. (2018). The Phenomenon of Smoking in Historical Writing in the Ottoman Era is a “Specific Sinan” manuscript by Ibn al-Fakkun as a model. *Journal of Scientific Observer*, 5(1), 84–89.
10. Zaidi, W., & Kholofi, L. (2019). Smoking is the gateway to addiction. *Journal of Legal and Social Sciences*, 4(3), 102–114.