



A DETAILED REVIEW PAPER ON TOBACCO SELLING WEBSITES WITH LICENSING

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Abstract :- Tobacco selling websites play a significant role in the distribution and accessibility of tobacco products. This review paper provides a comprehensive analysis of tobacco selling websites with a focus on the regulatory framework surrounding their licensing. We explore the evolution of online tobacco sales, the prevalence of such websites, and the challenges they pose in terms of underage access, regulatory compliance, and public health concerns. Additionally, we examine the licensing requirements imposed by various jurisdictions, the enforcement mechanisms in place, and the effectiveness of these measures in regulating online tobacco sales. Through a detailed review, this paper aims to shed light on the complexities of online tobacco selling, the importance of licensing, and the potential strategies for improving regulatory oversight in this domain.

Keywords: : IoT, ESP32, Website, Analog Notice Board, Dot Matrix Display

I. INTRODUCTION

Tobacco use remains a significant public health concern globally, with approximately 1.1 billion people aged 15 and above reported as smokers, leading to an alarming 7 million tobacco-related deaths each [1]year In Turkey, specifically, research indicates that 19.2 million adults, constituting 31.6% of the population, are tobacco consumers, according to the outcomes of the Global Adult Tobacco Survey conducted in 2016. Additionally, 17.9% of young individuals aged 13–15 years are reported to consume tobacco, as per the findings of the Global Youth Tobacco Survey conducted in 2017

This data underscores the significant impact of tobacco use on public health and the urgency to address the issue effectively. With the advent of the internet and e-commerce, there has been a notable increase in the availability and accessibility of tobacco products through online platforms. These online tobacco selling websites present unique challenges and risks that require careful examination and regulatory oversight.[2]

The rise of online tobacco sales has raised concerns regarding underage access, lack of age verification mechanisms, regulatory compliance, and public health implications. These platforms often operate across borders, making it challenging for regulatory authorities to enforce existing tobacco control measures effectively. Furthermore, the anonymity and convenience offered by online transactions may encourage tobacco consumption among vulnerable populations, including youth and non-smokers.

In response to these challenges, there is a growing recognition of the need for comprehensive regulatory frameworks to govern online tobacco sales. Licensing requirements play a crucial role in ensuring that online retailers comply with established regulations, including age restrictions, product labeling, and taxation. By obtaining a license, tobacco

selling websites are held accountable for adhering to these regulations, thereby mitigating the risks associated with online tobacco sales.[3]

2. Evolution of Online Tobacco Sales

This section explores the evolution of online tobacco sales, from the early days of e-commerce to the present-day proliferation of online tobacco selling websites. It discusses the factors driving the growth of online tobacco sales and the implications for public health and regulatory efforts.[4]

3. Prevalence of Tobacco Selling Websites

Here, we examine the prevalence of tobacco selling websites globally and the various business models employed by online tobacco retailers. We also discuss the types of tobacco products typically sold online and the demographics of consumers who purchase tobacco products through the internet.[5]



4. Challenges and Concerns

This section highlights the challenges and concerns associated with online tobacco sales, including underage access, lack of age verification, regulatory evasion, and the potential for increased tobacco use. We discuss the public health implications of unregulated online sales and the need for robust regulatory measures.

5. Regulatory Framework and Licensing Requirements

This section delves into the regulatory framework surrounding online tobacco sales, focusing on licensing requirements imposed by different jurisdictions. We examine the criteria for obtaining a license to sell tobacco online, the obligations placed on licensed sellers, and the enforcement mechanisms in place to ensure compliance.[5]

6. Effectiveness of Licensing in Regulating Online Tobacco Sales

Here, we assess the effectiveness of licensing in regulating online tobacco sales and reducing associated harms. We examine case studies and empirical evidence to evaluate the impact of licensing requirements on the prevalence of online tobacco selling websites, underage access, and public health outcomes.[6]

7. Enforcement Mechanisms and Compliance

This section explores the enforcement mechanisms employed to monitor and enforce licensing requirements for online tobacco sales, ensuring compliance with regulatory standards and combating illicit online sales. It examines the roles played by various stakeholders, including government agencies, law enforcement bodies, and industry players, in upholding these regulations.[7]

Government Agencies:

Government agencies at both national and local levels are responsible for implementing and enforcing regulations related to online tobacco sales. These agencies often include departments of health, commerce, and revenue, among others. Their responsibilities may include:

Issuing Licenses: Government agencies typically oversee the issuance of licenses to online retailers selling tobacco products. They set criteria for obtaining licenses, such as age verification mechanisms, product labeling requirements, and adherence to taxation policies.[8]

Monitoring Compliance: Government agencies monitor online retailers to ensure compliance with licensing requirements and other regulations. This may involve conducting regular inspections, reviewing documentation, and investigating complaints of non-compliance.

Enforcing Penalties: In cases of non-compliance, government agencies have the authority to impose penalties, such as fines, suspension, or revocation of licenses. These penalties serve as deterrents to illegal or unethical practices in the online tobacco sales industry.

Law Enforcement:

Law enforcement agencies play a crucial role in enforcing regulations related to online tobacco sales. Their responsibilities include:

Investigating Illegal Activities: Law enforcement agencies investigate reports of illegal online tobacco sales, including sales to minors, unlicensed vendors, and counterfeit products. They may collaborate with government agencies and other stakeholders to gather evidence and build cases against violators.

Prosecuting Offenders: Once evidence is gathered, law enforcement agencies prosecute offenders through legal channels. This may involve pursuing criminal charges, issuing cease and desist orders, or pursuing civil penalties against violators.

Coordinating with Interpol and Other Agencies: In cases involving international online tobacco sales, law enforcement agencies may collaborate with Interpol and other international organizations to track down and prosecute offenders across borders.

Industry Stakeholders:

Industry stakeholders, including online retailers, payment processors, and shipping companies, also play a role in enforcing licensing requirements for online tobacco sales. Their responsibilities include:

Adhering to Regulations: Online retailers must ensure compliance with licensing requirements and other regulations governing the sale of tobacco products. This may involve implementing age verification systems, displaying health warnings, and collecting applicable taxes.

Partnering with Authorities: Industry stakeholders may collaborate with government agencies and law enforcement to report suspicious activities, share information, and assist in investigations.

Implementing Self-Regulatory Measures: Some industry associations and online platforms may implement self-regulatory measures to promote responsible practices among their members. This could include codes of conduct, certification programs, and training initiatives to educate retailers on legal and ethical requirements.[9]

8. Strategies for Improving Regulatory Oversight

Here, we propose strategies for improving regulatory oversight of online tobacco selling websites, including enhanced age verification measures, stricter enforcement of licensing requirements, and collaboration between government agencies and industry stakeholders.

9. Ethical and Social Implications

This section explores the ethical and social implications of online tobacco sales, including concerns about the normalization of tobacco use, exposure to youth, and the role of online platforms in promoting smoking cessation efforts.[10]

10.RESULTS

In this study, 130 websites were accessed; 34.6% of them were reached using the keyword “electronic cigarettes”, 29.2% by “IQOS”, and 20.0% by “cigarette”. Out of the 119 websites, 41.2% were selling e-cigarettes, 39.5% IQOS, 23.5% wrapping tobacco, and the least selling product was cigarettes (2.5%; Table 1).

Table 1
Distribution of the websites selling tobacco products in three search engines (Turkey, February 11-15, 2019)

Products sold (n=119)	n	%**
Electronic cigarettes	49	41.2
IQOS	47	39.5
Wrapping tobacco	28	23.5
Hookah	22	18.5
Pipe	12	10.1
Pigtail	9	7.6
Cigar	8	6.7
Snuff	5	4.2
Cigarette	3	2.5
Others*	7	5.9

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*Other products: electronic pipe, electronic hookah, cigarillo, barrels tobacco.
**Since multiple products can be sold, the percentages are determined with respect to the total number (n=119)

source=<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7752111/>

11. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the review paper summarizes the key findings and insights gained from the analysis of tobacco selling websites with licensing. It underscores the importance of effective regulatory measures in mitigating the risks associated with online tobacco sales and protecting public health. Additionally, it emphasizes the need for ongoing research and collaboration to address the challenges posed by online tobacco selling and promote responsible practices in the industry.

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