

A Letter To The Editor

6A Giselle Che

Dear Editor,

I'm writing to express my opinions on a controversial issue, which is the banning of smoking in all eating places starting from 2007.

This issue has aroused a lot of discussions in the community. Those who smoke think that it is unfair to them as they have to pay to eat in the restaurant as well, just like other customers. So, why does the government care about only non-smokers? As smoking is not allowed in restaurants, smokers will have to smoke outside restaurants and they find this very inconvenient. Moreover, owners of restaurants are afraid that the ban may affect their business.

Smokers also think that they have paid tax to the government when buying cigarettes. Shouldn't there be policies to protect their rights? Hong Kong residents enjoy freedom of speech and freedom of press, but why not freedom of smoking?

For me, I totally agree with the policy. First of all, smoking is harmful to the health of not just the person who smokes, but that of the people around. In fact, it affects non-smokers more seriously than those who smoke. Smoking also causes diseases like lung cancer and heart diseases.

Secondly, customers go to restaurants for delicious food, but not second-hand smoke. In fact, more and more people will choose a place where smoking is not allowed, so they can really enjoy their food without having to be irritated by the smell of smoke.

Thirdly, smoking affects not only the people around, but the whole world. It releases a chemical substance which causes air pollution. Have you ever heard about the greenhouse effect? It is the process in which heat is being trapped inside the earth's atmosphere causing the rise of temperatures around the world. Smoking might be one of the main reasons for it. Banning of smoking in all eating places is good not just for non-smokers, but also for smokers. I hope all smokers will give up smoking as it has so many bad effects!

The policy is to protect non-smokers and also smokers. So, I strongly agree that it should be applauded!

Yours faithfully,
Giselle

Teacher's Feedback : You have shown concerns about the policy. (Miss Amy Lai)

Food For Thought : Should the government be able to tell restaurant owners how to run their business with reference to the smoking ban?