

Keeping the city of Almaty alive

Spring. The time when everything blossoms and I, personally, love to a walk watching beautiful mountains, flowers, and.....yuck....eeuuuu.....I hate to see people spitting out. It is really disgusting. When I see human beings expectorating in my city I feel like they spit out into my sole. My city will not be alive while it is spitted out again and again.

This problem exists for a long time already. In late 1800s when it was generally known that tuberculosis could be transmitted through sputum, America has struggled with enforcing laws against spitting, but everybody knew that it would be ineffective, because of "those who would enforce the law were already guilty of breaking it and would have no intension of mending their way".

(<http://sallystrove.hubpages.com/hub/Do-American-Laws-Against-Spitting-Do-any-Good>)

Why is this so? Some can say it is a disease, another it is a culture. But as I think it is all depends on culture of human behavior, starting from your family, environment you grow up in, people you communicate with. Not only Almaty city has this problem. A lot of cities around the world have it. It will be hard to collect necessary statistic on how much of salvia was spitted out today in particular place, but it is very obvious that we do have this problem.

"It is my belief that most people find spitting a wholly obnoxious, filthy habit which can spread germs and causes health issues," Bond says.

Here I sitting behind in a dark place, a lady spit backward upon me by a mistake, not seeing me, but after seeing her to be a very pretty lady, I was not troubled at it at all"

Diarist Samuel Pepys

During the 1940s, when tuberculosis was widespread it was common to see "Spitting Prohibited" signs on the buses, says Sir Hugh Pennington, emeritus professor of bacteriology at Aberdeen University.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-13134283>

I think almost everybody in Almaty would like to live in a clean and tidy city. Social attitudes toward spitting have changed a lot in Western Europe since middle Ages. Around 1700s, spitting was considered as vulgar. People there started to use

spittoons, but then they became less common. Europe now is considered as the most non-spitting place. We can learn something from them.

First of all – we can make social videos like showing happy children playing on the spitted ground and unhappy parents seeing it, or where popular and famous peoples of Kazakhstan speak about minuses of spitting and show this video all across the city and of course the web.

Also, we should contact with city authorities asking them to make inscriptions like “Do not spit on yourself”, “Do not spit in the bowl of water you might drink”, all over the city.

We can involve production companies, and ask them to have signs and inscriptions on their products. For example, “Enjoy drinking, but do not spit after” (Coca-cola).

We do have cameras that tape cars behavior. We can have cameras that will tape people’s behavior and then translate through channels.

We can produce spittoons, but they will not help. We need to make influence on people’s mind.

There are different people who spit out in public. Most of them are old men, who like to use naswar (a type of dripping tobacco), smokers and teenagers who think it is cool to spit. I think the most difficult will be to reach teenagers, who do not listen to anybody. As almost of them are all in love with the internet, we can use their love and spread social videos and make funny and interesting websites, write different blogs regarding not spitting.

I do not remember any big campaigns regarding spitting problem and, probably, this is why I think people in my city are still indifferent to this problem. We can use blogs in the internet, make articles where people can comment and see how people react to what we will do. We cannot measure the indicators of success or failure. I think this is already a success that about 20 people will make this work and think about: “Well, I am not spitting any more”.

We do not have time to wait. We should have started yesterday. As much people will see, hear, think about this problem, more they will understand that this is really a problem and it is time to deal with it.

Let’s keep our city alive. Let’s keep ourselves alive.