



Issues Related To Alcohol Consumption with Special Reference to Scheduled Caste

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ABSTRACT

this paper provides studies issue related to alcohol consumption with special reference to scheduled caste.alcoholism have adverse effect not only on the individual but also on the social well being.it mostly affects women and children in different manner. present study concentrated on the alcoholism on the sc community, one of the financially backward sections of India.the main aim of the paper is to investigate the effect of alcohol consumption and suggesting some remedies.

Keywords: alcoholism,drunkards,issues

1.1 Introduction

Alcoholism is a diseased condition due to the excessive use of alcoholic beverage. It is also known as family disease. Each member of the family may be affected by alcohol differently. Alcoholism is characterized by an increased tolerance of and physical dependence on alcohol, affecting an individual's ability to control alcohol consumption safely.

Alcoholism can have adverse effect not only on the individual physical and mental health but also on the social well being. There is a general notion that alcohol consumption and financial backwardness are positively related. Hence These continuous alcohol abuse not only effects of the individual but also family members, especially the spouse who faces many emotional problems and stressful life events. Every people are using sufficient income to meet there basic needs but in the case of drinkers mostly they consume more income to buy alcohol so alcohol can totally disrupt family life and cause harmful effects that can last a life time. Alcohol consumption harmfully leads to children and he also faces mental abuse from their fathers.

In India the socio-cultural conditions, social values, amount of social support and type of stressors are different from that in the western world. The WHO estimates that one-fourth to one-third of the male population in south East Asian countries drink alcohol users in 2005 was 62.5 million. Alcohol not only affects the individual drinker but also people around them and society as a whole. It has a big impact in workplace with absenteeism, work accidents, and lower performance, which can lead to unemployment. Alcohol costs the employee, employer and social security system largely. It also affects the productivity of a person. The regular Drinkers have a lower productivity rate than those of the unaffected workers. Alcoholism may also lead to loss of job. This could have a cascading effect because if they are idle, it may lead to increased drinking.

Alcoholism is not just a problem that affects the individual. Families are also significantly affected. It is a important risk factors of ill health and disability. The alcoholic family members facing many problems and their condition are miserable in socially and economically. This project examine the issues related to alcohol consumption with special reference to scheduled caste; A case study of Thrikkalangode panchayath. This project also refers to that the general notion of scheduled caste on alcoholism.

1.2 Objectives

- ❖ To assess the socio-economic conditions of drunkard's family
- ❖ To identify social issues connected to alcoholism of the family
- ❖ To examine the economic issues related to alcoholism of the family.

1.3 Methodology

Alcohol consumption is important problem. The present study examines the issues related to the alcohol consumption with special reference to SC communities. The methodologies for data collection followed in a format that employs a combination of primary and secondary data. Primary data, issues related to Alcohol consumption, where gathered to survey schedule and interviews. Secondary data from article, journals book, web and news paper etc...were used to collect general information about drunkards.

The sampling for the study was designed to select representative household's .present study focusing on sc community in pulpatta panchayath. There is a general notion that most of the drunkards are belongs to sc community which resulted from their poor economic condition. In order to find out drinker's family or households; snow ball sampling technique was selected. Here the respondents are requested to suggest other sampling units until 30 samples are obtained.

After collecting information, primary data were classified tabulated and statistical tools such as average, percentage is used .Data presentation is done through diagram, tables, graph etc.

1.4 DATA ANALYSIS

Primary data is collected from different wards in pulpatta panchayath. This study focus on the drunkard's family. The present study focuses on the sc communities. The important analyses of the study are given below;

Socio-economic condition of drunkard's family

Age wise classification of the drunkards

We have collected the personal data of each drunkard's wives. The data which is necessary for research can be classified and studied in detailed. Individual reactions to alcohol vary and are influenced by many factors such as age, gender, race or ethnicity, physical condition (weight, fitness level, etc), family history of alcohol problems etc. Among which, age is one of the most important variable examined. The present study has made an effort to include respondents in the different age categories.

Table No. 1
Age wise classification of the drunkards

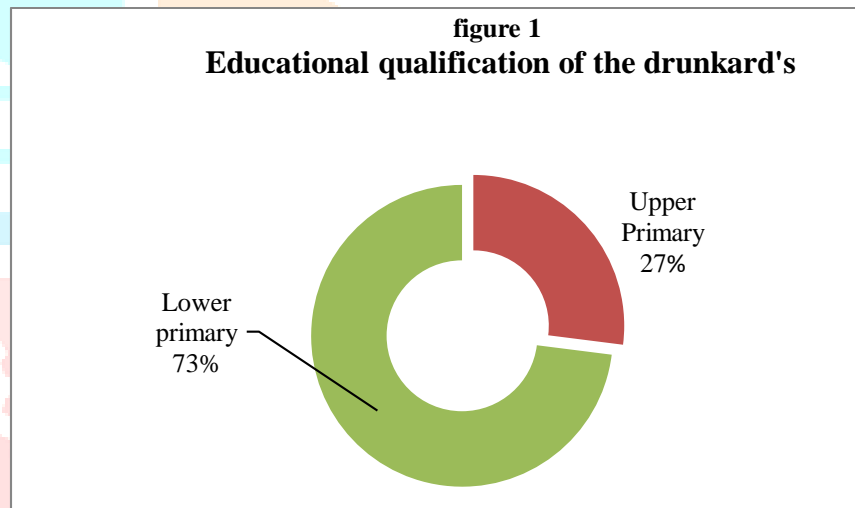
Sl No	Age	No. of drunkards	Percentage
1	Below 20	-	-
2	20-30	12	40
3	30-40	8	27
	40-50	7	23
	Above50	3	10

Source: primary data

From table 2 it can be seen that most of the drunkards who are under age group of 20-30, constitute 40% of the sample .60% of the drunkards they are become old age people are less consumption in alcohol.

Educational Qualification of the drunkards

Education plays an extremely vital role in the healthy functioning family. The educational status of the drunkards can be revealed in the following table.



Source: primary Data

Most of the drunkard's have a lower primary education they addicted to alcohol compare to educated people.

Educational Qualification of the drunkard's spouse.

The educational qualifications of the respondents are very important factor. The educational qualification divided into five groups. They are College, secondary school, primary school and less.

Table No 2

Educational Qualification of the drunkard's spouse

SI no	Education	No of respondent	Percentage
1	College	2	7
2	Secondary	11	37
3	Primary	17	57
	Total	30	100

Source: primary Data

Majority women they have primary education 37% of the respondent's have secondary education and rest belonged to college education.

Occupation of the drunkard's

Both employed and unemployed engage in drinking irrespective of their financial stability. Mainly drunkard's occupation is coolie, drivers, and self employees. The daily wage earners believe that drinking is good to take away their fatigue. The immediate action of alcohol makes them think that it is fit to be energetic. Later they may become fatigued.

Table No 3

Occupation status of the drunkard's

SI No	Occupation	No of drunkard's	Percentage
1	Self employee	4	13
2	Coolie	20	67
3	Driver	3	10
4	Govt	2	7
5	No job	1	3
Total	Total	30	100

Source: primary Data

The table reveals that 67% of the drunkard's are coolie workers, 13% of the alcohol users are self employees, 10% of the drunkard's are divers, 7% of the alcohol users are govt employee especially they are working in agricultural departments employee .So 93% of the drunkards working in unorganized sectors and they doing low level of jobs.

Occupation of the drunkard's spouse**Table No.4****Occupation of the drunkard's spouse**

SI NO	Occupation	No of respondents	Percentage
1	Servant	5	17
2	MGNREGA	10	33
3	Private employee	8	27
4	No job	7	23
	Total	30	100

Source: primary Data

The above table shows that 33% of the respondents are working in Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment guarantee act (MGNREGA), and 27% women are private employee and 23% of the respondents not employed. So the majority respondent working in (MGNREGA) so majority of women (77%) are doing job to find out their means of life. It implies that women are doing hard work for supporting their family; their husbands are irresponsible in home matters.

Asset ownership of the household

Mainly there are two type of houses are owned they are owned and rent house. The most of the families are living in owned families.

Types of house**Table No 5****Types of house**

SI No	Type of house	No of respondents	Percentage
1	Concrete	25	83
2	Tiled	5	17
3	Mud	-	-
	Total	30	100

Source: primary Data

Above table revealed that 83% of the respondents living in concrete home it shows that most of the respondent's house gets from housing scheme of INDIRA AVAS YOJANA and 17% of the respondents have tiled house.

Consumer durables**Table No 6****Consumer durables**

Particulars	No of family owned	Percentage
Radio	15	50
TV	28	93
Bicycle	-	-
Television set		-
Motor cycle	1	3
Refrigerator	-	-
Four wheeler	-	-
Gas, electronic stove or cooker	4	13
Furniture	15	50

Source: primary data

Most of the sample households were poor families and the women itself found finance for meeting daily expenses. So they own only such items like radio, TV, Gas etc. they didn't possess luxury items like refrigerator, AC and costly furniture etc.

monthly Income

Economic status of the family can be understood from the monthly income of the household.

Table No.7**Monthly income**

SI No	Monthly income	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Below 5000	3	10
2	5000-10000	25	83
3	10000 above	2	7
	Total	30	100

Source: primary Data

This table reveals the economic status of drunkard's family. It shows that about 83 percent of families belong to a category of 5000-10000. 10% of the families earn monthly income is below 5000. Only 7 percent respondents are earning 10000 above. The table shows that lower living condition in terms of income of the family.

Social issues

Usual Place of drink

When and where a person drink, the number of times a person drinks heavily, the activities associated with drinking; the types of drinks one consume and the drinking expectations and behaviors make up one's drinking culture. Drunkard's preferred to drink mainly bar, home and other places like friends homes, other destinations.

Table No 8**Usual Place of drink**

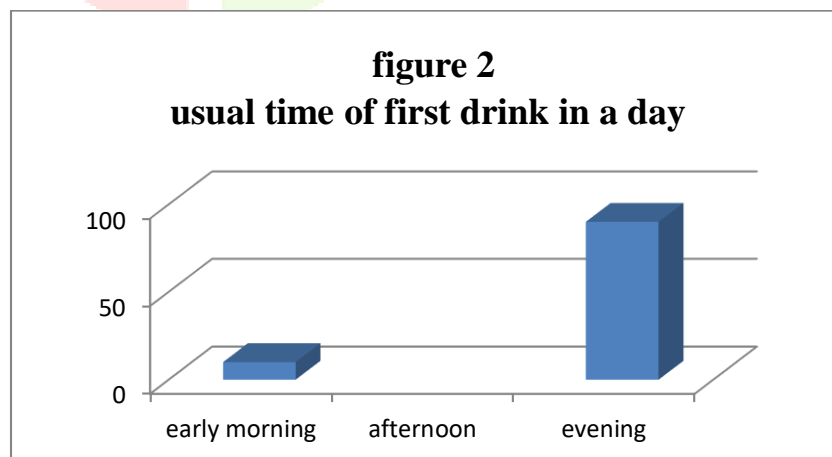
Place	No of drunkard's	Percentage
Bar	5	17
Home	7	23
Open place	18	60
Total	30	100

Source: primary data

Above table revealed that 17% of the drunkard's preferred to drink in bar, 23% of alcohol user's drink in our home and 60%of the preferred to drink in other places like friend's homes and open place. Alcohol drinking in the open place creates negative externality.

Usual time of first drink in a day

Time of first drink in a day is an important variable to be verified as early morning drinking is considered as a habit of harmful drinkers.

**Source :primary data**

Most (90%) of the drinkers had their first drink at evening hours. It shows that most of the people they are fully addicted to alcohol and the rest of them were found to be starting their drink at early morning (10%). Early morning drinking has to be seen seriously because those who consume alcohol at early morning have

problems in performing day-to-day tasks. Morning drinking, in some cases is a resort to handle the hangover i.e. the feeling of illness and unpleasant physical symptoms in the morning after an evening of heavy drinking. The regular drinking in the early hours of the day can leave the person more alcohol dependent and later weaken the organism.

3. Drinking pattern

Drinking pattern of the drunkard's mainly divided into 3 groups. They are daily users, once in a week and occasionally drinkers. Drinking pattern of the drunkard's can be revealed in the following diagram.

Table No.9

Drinking pattern of drunkards

Sl no	Pattern of drinking	No of drunkards	Percentage
1	Daily	30	100
2	Once in a week	-	-
3	Occasionally	-	-
	total	30	100

Source: primary Data

From the above table we can understand 100% of the drunkards is using alcohol daily. So persons are addicted to alcohol.

4. Use of other substances

The long-term effects of drug and alcohol abuse can be very severe and adverse. Substance and alcohol abuse can cause irreversible damage to various organs of the body including the brain. Substance abuse affects the central nervous system of the brain. Memory loss, ability to judge properly, blackouts are some of the most common problems who are heavily into substance abuse. It happens because if the concentration of drugs and alcohol increases to a very high level in the blood, the oxygen carrying capacity of the blood is reduced and thereby a very low amount of blood reaches the brain. This results in the death of brain cells. Here, an attempt has been made to find out the type and extent of substance abuse among the Alcoholics.

Table No 10

Uses of other substances

Sl no	Use of other substances	No of drunkards	Percentage
1	Smoking tobacco	30	100
2	Pan parag	-	
	Total	30	100

Source: primary data

Smoking tobacco was found to be the most common among them. It is to be noted that the Alcohol Users were not only affected by the alcohol but also by the substance abuse as most of them had a habit of using other harmful substances.

5. Problems faced by the women

Major problem related to drinking habit of her husband's are abuse towards her, fight, sexual violence and damage the property. Problems related to drinking habit of husbands can be revealed in following table.

Table No.11

Problems faced by the respondents

Sl No	Problems with drinking	Noof respondents	Percentage
1	Abuse	20	67
2	Fight	16	53
3	Sexual violence	-	-
4	Damage to the property	15	50

Source: primary Data

Above table shows that 67% of the respondents facing abuse from her husbands, 53% of the women facing fight from her husband's and 50% of the respondents facing problem with their husband's they create damage their home property.

6. Problems faced by children's due to drinking habit of their fathers

Major problem related with drinking of habit of their father is abuse, beating, violence towards daughter and reluctant to support for education

Table No.12

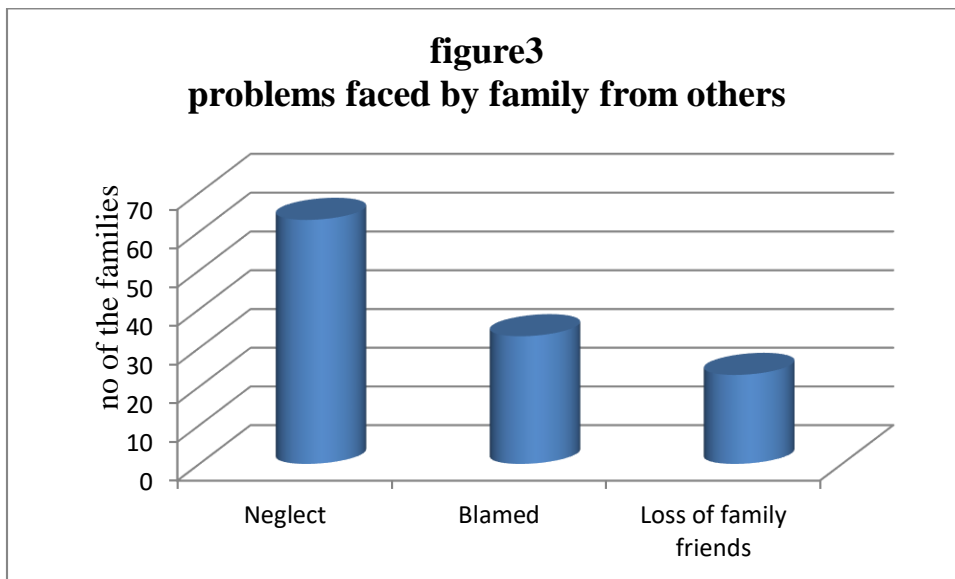
Problems faced by children's due to drinking habit of their fathers

Sl No	Problems	No of children's	Percentage
1	Abuse	16	43
2	Beating	8	27
3	Sexual Violence towards daughter	-	-
4	Reluctant to support for education	20	67
5	No problems	15	50

Source: primary data

Tables revealed that 43% of the children are facing abuse from drinking habit of their fathers, 27% of the children are facing beating from her fathers and 67% of the children's face problem with her father's he reluctant to support for education.

7. Problem faced by family from others



Source: primary Data

Here the figure shows the problem faced the family from others due to husband’s drinking. Majority of the families faced so many problems such as neglect by others, isolated from others, blamed by others and loss of family friend’s etc.23% of the families lost their family friends due to their husbands drinking, 63% of the families neglect by others and 33% of the families have faced from other due to drinking.

Economic issues

Amount spend for alcohol

Drunkards mainly spend their major portion of income for alcohol purpose.

Table No.13

Amount spend for alcohol

Sl No	Category	Drunkards	Percentage
1	Below 100	-	
2	100-200	4	13
3	200-300	6	20
4	300-400	9	30
5	400-500	11	37
5	More than 500	-	-
	Total	30	100

Source: primary Data

The above table shows that 13% of the drunkards spend in between 100-200 income for alcohol consumption. 87% of the drunkards spent major portion of their income for alcoholic purpose.

Health problems of drunkards

It is generally observed that excess alcohol intake can lead to conditions such as cirrhosis of the liver, cancer, strokes, stomach diseases, pancreatitis, gastritis, high blood pressure, impotence, nerve problems, dementia, mental health problems, blood omitting, heart problems etc. health problems are revealed in below table

Table No.14

Health problems due to drinking habits

Sl No	Health problems	No of drunkard's	Percentage
1	Liver diseases	-	-
2	Stomach diseases	8	25
3	Blood vomiting	2	7
4	Heart problems	-	-
5	No diseases	20	67
	Total	30	100

Source: primary data

The table shows the health problems arises due to drinking because of the alcoholic consumption there were more chances to diseases like cancer, liver diseases etc. So the majority of the samples have no diseases due to drinking habit that is 67%, then only 7% have blood vomiting due to drinking and 25% have stomach diseases. Majority have no problems related to alcohol consumption.

5. Sources financial support for children's education

Table No.15

Sources of financial support for children's education

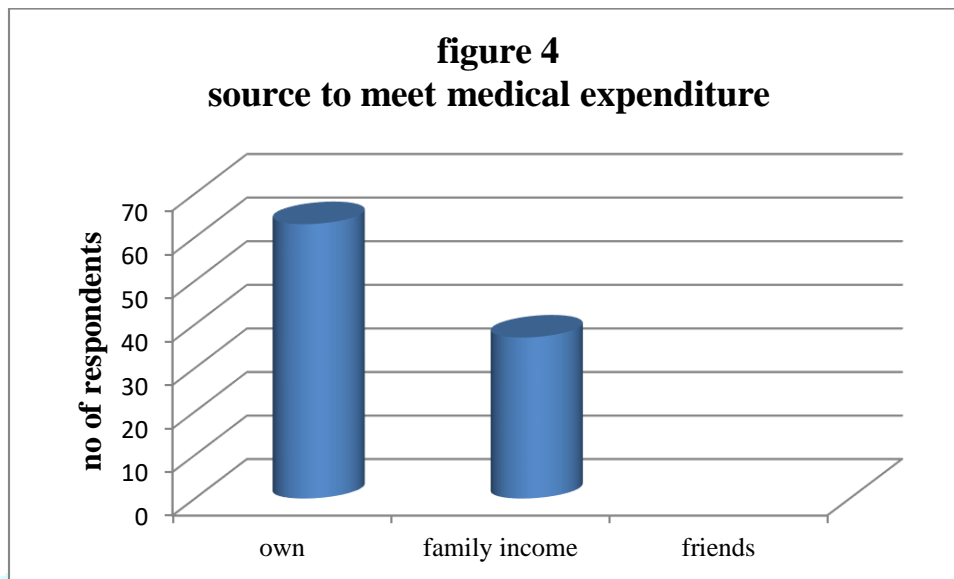
Sl no	Sources	No of children's	percentage
1	Scholarship	-	-
2	Friends	-	-
3	Gift	-	-
4	Spouses	25	83
5	income from the person	19	63

Source: primary data

The table shows various source of financial support for children's education. The women it self found a way to make money for their children's education. Here the sample survey shows that 63% of the families meet their daily expenses from their husband's income and 83% of the families' daily expenses met by them.

6. Source of income to meet daily expenses

Major source of income to meet daily expenses are income from spouses, income got from relatives, income from family properties and credit.



Source: primary data

The diagram revealed that 63% of the women have met their medical expenditure, 37% of the respondent medical expenditure met by their partners.

Major Findings of the study

Alcohol plays too significant a role in society today and should be an afterthought as opposed to the most essential addition to any social event. Alcohol creates numerous social, economic, and health problems that could very easily be stopped if it plays a less influential role in everyday events. The present study examines the issues related to alcohol consumption with special reference to Thrikkalangode grama Panchayat. The primary data for the study were collected through a sample survey with the help of a questionnaire. And the data were analyzed. The study leads to the following findings.

- ❖ Most of the drunkards who are under age group of 20-30, constitute 40% of the sample .60% of the drunkards they are become old age people are less consumption in alcohol.
- ❖ Most of the drunkard's have a lower primary education they addicted to alcohol compare to educated people.
- ❖ Majority women they have primary education 37% of the women have secondary education and rest belonged to college education.
- ❖ 93% of the drunkards working in unorganized sector and they doing low level of jobs.
- ❖ Occupation status of the women mainly engage in the (MGNREGA) so the women get less income .These income are not sufficient for meeting their daily expenses. It implies that women are doing hard work for supporting their family; their husbands are irresponsible in home matters.
- ❖ Majority (83%) of the families living in concrete home it shows that most of the families house gets from housing scheme of INDIRA AVAS YOJANA and 17% of the respondents have tiled house.
- ❖ Most of the sample households were poor families and the women itself found finance for meeting daily expenses. So they own only such items like radio, TV, motor cycle etc.they didn't posses luxury items like refrigerator, AC and costly furniture etc.
- ❖ Most of the families earn income which is greater than 5000per month.

- ❖ Most of the drunkard's preferred to drink at open place. It creates negative externality.
- ❖ Most (90%) of the drinkers had their first drink at evening hours. It shows that most of the people they are fully addicted to alcohol. The regular drinking in the evening hours of the day can leave the person more alcohol dependent and later weaken the organism.
- ❖ Smoking tobacco was found to be the most common among them. It is to be noted that the Alcohol Users were not only affected by the alcohol but also by the substance abuse as most of them had a habit of using other harmful substances.
- ❖ Most of the women facing abuse from her husband's
- ❖ Most of the drunkards are reluctant to support for their children's education
- ❖ 87% of the drunkards spent major portion of their income for alcoholic purpose.
- ❖ More than 30% of the drunkard's are facing stomach disease and blood vomiting.
- ❖ 90% of the women are facing mental and physical problems.
- ❖ 83% of the families' daily expense is met by them.
- ❖ 63% of the women have meet medical expenditure itself, the rest of them met by their partners, her family members.
- ❖ Most of the drunkards they could not go for treatment and rest of the drunkards take counseling for reducing their drinking habit.

1.5 Suggestions

- Massive awareness programmes on the negative impact of alcoholism should be organized at local bodies.
- Put an age limit for alcoholic consumption.
- Reduce and cut down the sources of availability
- Implement necessary restrictions on the sale of alcohol
- Fix quota for alcohol consumption.

1.6 Conclusion

The conclusion derived from the study '**Issued Related to Alcohol Consumption with Special Reference to SC Community**' is that alcohol consumption of an individual, especially the head of the family affects the entire socio-economic condition of a family. Even though the most of the drunkard are coolie workers they are spending their major portion of income for drinking purpose so it is the responsibility of their spouse to meet basic needs. The most of the women are working in MGNREGA and they get fewer amounts. Even though housing condition of drunkard's families is better but facilities available to them are worse. Alcoholism is usually recognized as factors of family disaggregation. The study realizes that most of the women are facing abuse from her husbands and also children are facing abuse from their father. The effects of alcoholism on families can cause more damage and pain than any other internal or external influence on the family unit. The drinking problem affects the family in every respect. The Physical, Emotional, Psychological and spiritual aspects of the family Member especially their spouses suffers a lot.

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