



SOCIO ECONOMIC STATUS OF ALCOHOLICS IN THEJOMAYA DE-ADDICTION AND FAMILY COUNSELING CENTRE, MYSORE

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Abstract

Alcoholism is a progressive disease, characterized by excessive and repetitive consumption of alcohol despite repeated alcohol related problems, such as health, social or economic functioning of the individual. Alcoholism is a serious disease in which people have an overwhelming desire for the mental and physical effects of drinking alcoholic beverages. The formal term for alcoholism is alcohol dependence. Here in this study, the researcher is going to find out the Socio-economic Status of Alcoholics in Thejomaya Deaddiction and Family Counseling centre, Mysore. Descriptive research design has been opted for the study. The universe of the study extends to all the alcoholics of Thejomaya De-addiction and Family counseling centre. All the clients of the centre are the respondents for the study. The total number of the respondents is 50. Interview Schedule was the tool used to collect the data. Percentage method was used to analyze the data. Results are discussed.

Key words: Alcohol, Deaddiction, Family, Counseling.

Introduction

“Alcohol can ruin your life and the lives of others, so why even take one drink?” Said by Duane Alan Hahn. Alcoholism is a progressive disease. Characterized by excessive and repetitive consumption of alcohol despite repeated alcohol related problems, such as health, social or economic functioning of the individual. Alcoholism is a serious disease in which people have an overwhelming desire for the mental and physical effects of drinking alcoholic beverages. The formal term for alcoholism is alcohol dependence.

Alcoholics: Any person concerned with the consumption of alcohol is an alcoholic. An alcoholic is different from an occasional drinker. Any person who takes alcohol is a drinker, while a compulsive drinker who cannot live without taking alcohol is called an alcoholic.

Alcoholism: Alcoholism is the excessive use of alcohol to an extent that measurably impairs the person’s health, social functioning or occasional adjustments. Alcoholism is a condition in which an individual does not have control over his alcohol intake in that he is constantly unable to refrain from drinking once he begins. According to Keller and Efron, alcoholism is characterized by repeated drinking of an alcoholic community and that adversely affects the drinker’s health or interferes with his social or economic functioning.

Problems of Alcoholism

The problems of alcoholism in terms of personal misery, family budget, family discard, loss of wages, failure of health, accidents and cost in damage claims, cost of hospital treatment, cost in custodial treatment in jail, etc... a good number of persons arrested for crimes like rape, burglary, murder and theft are those who committed them while under the influence of alcohol. Alcohol is a major factor in highway accidents besides it contributes to thousands of death every year. Alcoholics directly affect four or five other persons (wife, parents, children, siblings, close friends, co-workers). So alcoholism is a crucial condition which can be seen in the life of individual disorganization, family disorganization, community disorganization.

People who are not alcoholics may also have serious problems caused by excessive drinking. These problems include difficulties at work or school, neglect of family responsibilities, and strain in personal relationship. Drinking that causes problems but does not meet the formal definition for alcoholism is called alcohol abuse.

Causes of Alcoholism

Scientists do not yet fully understand what causes alcoholism. Although many people use alcohol at times, only a small percentage develops drinking problems. Psycho-analysis claims oral fixation as a cause of alcoholism. Sociologists consider the social insecurity and disorganization as the cause of alcoholism. Robert R Bell suggests three reasons.

- General social disorganization and lowliness.
- Developing industrialization, urbanization and heavy migration.
- Increasing availability.



Today drinking has been given social acceptance and more and better opportunities are , provided in restaurants, cinemas, masses, clubs etc. the people young, aged both men and women are attracted towards alcoholism. Alcoholism available in every cities, towns, slums, villages and people are more attracted towards alcoholism thinking it is a fashion and style of modern day living.

Review of Literature

In the book of Indian social problems which was published in the year 1987 the author G.R. Madan writes “Alcoholism and drug addiction are harmful not only for the individual but also for his family, the society at large and also history of drinking in India can be seen”.

Rameshwari Devi and Ravi Prakash did a critical study on social work and social welfare administration and was published in the year of 2001: Alcohol represents certain behaviour and attitude usually repressed or exhibited by a person who drinks alcohol and also alcohol is generally, socially accepted, although alcoholism is one of the most prevalent addictions and major health problems in this country.

Giskes, K., had done a study on alcoholism and they did a research which has been found that people of higher socioeconomic status are more likely to consume alcohol than are those of lower status.

Kalyan Pal had done a intensive study on Alcoholism and was publish in Herald of Health-1996:Many consume it regularly for an enthusiasm to work for showing sophistication, in some cases because of frustration, yet others sharing to keep friendship. It may relief and enthusiasm to life temporarily.

S .K. Mangal, had conducted a critical study on Abnormal psychology and it was published in the year 2003: People drink for many reasons and many ways, situations and style. They should not all be considered alcoholics. The world health organization (WHO) has defined alcoholics as excessive drinkers whose dependence on alcohol has attained such a degree that they show noticeable mental disturbance or interference with their mental and body health, their inter-personal relations and their smooth social and economic functioning.

Research Methodology

Objectives of the Study

- To know the health and family conditions of the alcoholics.
- To know their economic and social status.
- To know about the origin and influence of alcohol on the alcoholics.
- To know what they feel about their problems.

Research Design

Descriptive research design is opted for the study.

Universe and Sampling

The universe of the study extends to all the alcoholics of Thejomaya De-addiction and Family counseling centre. All the clients of the centre are the respondents for the study. The total number of the respondents is 50.

Data Collection Tool

Interview Schedule was the tool used to collect the data. Percentage method was used to analyze the data

Research Findings

Table No 1: Gender of the Respondents

Gender	Number of Persons	Percentage
Male	48	96%
Female	02	4%
Total	50	100%

Table 1 describes the gender of respondents. This table shows 96% (48) are males and 4% (02) are females.



Table No 2: Age When Respondent Started Drinking

Age	Number of Persons	Percentage
15 – 25	29	58%
25 – 35	20	40%
35 - 45	1	2%
45 and above	0	0%
Total	50	100%

Table 2 describes the age when respondents started drinking. This table shows 58% (29) started drinking at the age group between 15 – 25, 40%(20) started drinking at the age group between 25 – 35, 2%(1) started drinking at the age group 35 – 45 and no respondents were there for the age group 45 and above.

Table No 3: Reasons to Start Consuming Alcohol

Reason	Numbers of Persons	Percentage
Peer pressure	19	38%
Curiosity	16	32%
Financial problem	5	10%
Family problem	10	20%
Total	50	100%

Table – 3 describes the reason for which respondents started consuming alcohol. In which 38% (19) started because of peer pressure, 32% (16) started because of curiosity, 10% (5) started because of financial problems and 20% (10) started because of family problems.

Table No 4: For Which Alcoholic Group Does the Respondent Belongs

Name of the group	Number of persons	Percentage
Occasional drinker	23	46%
Social drinker	11	22%
Professional drinker	16	32%
Total	50	100

Table – 4 indicates for which alcoholic group does the respondents belongs. In which 46% (23) belongs to the group of occasional drinker, 22% (11) belongs to the group of social drinkers and 32% (16) belongs to the group of professional drinker.

Major Findings

- Among 50 respondents, 46% are drinking occasionally, 22% were social drinkers and 32% were frequent drinkers.
- The study shows that 38% are drinking by the influence of their friends, 32% because of curiosity, 10% because of financial problems and 20% due to family problems.
- The study shows that most of the respondents do not know that alcoholism is a sickness like any other sickness.
- Many respondents (20%) are drinking due to family problems.
- As we came across number of the respondent's, sometimes neglect towards family responsibilities.
- Most of the respondents enjoy good health to some extent.
- The majority of the respondents i.e. almost 80% are finding it difficult to some extent to enjoy in social gathering if there is no drink.
- It is very clear that few of the respondents sometimes sell their property or asset for the sake alcohol.
- Among 50 respondents, almost of them have said that drinking is not accepted by the society.
- Most of the total respondents are happy to some extent towards their family.
- Most of the respondents willingly said that they want to quit from drinking to some extent.
- Few said “after leaving this organization henceforth they will not touch alcohol”.

To tackle this social evil every one's duty to educate others in this matter and to help them to come out of this addiction. Especially the youth have to be made aware of the problems of consuming alcohol and their effects. Social workers have to sensitize the community and the ill effects of it.



Conclusion

An alcoholic is a social problem. Alcohol consumption and the numbers of the alcoholics is growing concern of society. The study aims to know their socio- economic condition and most of the respondents have said the of drinking certainly causes poverty, unhappiness, morally and economically weak. And most of the respondents are living below poverty line and very hard to maintain their family but because of the addiction to drinks they are spending lots of money together instead of spending for their family welfare.

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