

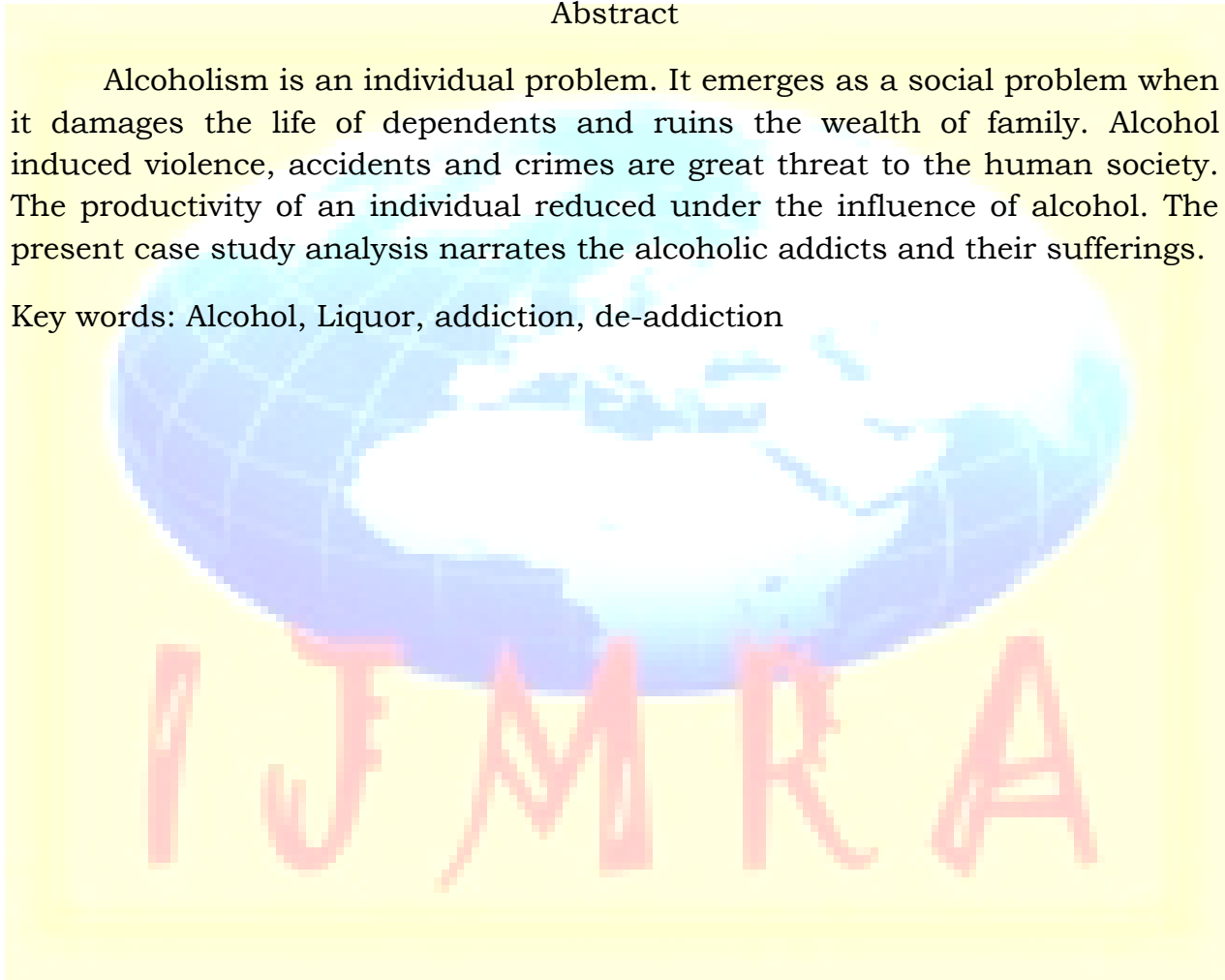
ALCOHOLIC ADDICTION: A SOCIOLOGICAL CASE STUDY ANALYSIS

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Abstract

Alcoholism is an individual problem. It emerges as a social problem when it damages the life of dependents and ruins the wealth of family. Alcohol induced violence, accidents and crimes are great threat to the human society. The productivity of an individual reduced under the influence of alcohol. The present case study analysis narrates the alcoholic addicts and their sufferings.

Key words: Alcohol, Liquor, addiction, de-addiction



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Introduction

Alcohol is one of the substances being taken by the human society from time immemorial for the purpose of physical sensations. The consumption of toddy or *Kallu*, the palm wine traditional beverages is being recorded in the various literatures even in the Indian epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata. It is taken for the purpose of pleasure or relief from the pains of work. In those days the arrack or liquors are being sold in the outskirts of the habitations. There were strong systems of values which criticize and looked down upon the individual who consume alcohol. Later on, the impact of globalization, urbanization, industrialization, media influence and changing life styles, alcohol has entered into the lives of Indians in a big and unrestricted manner. Alcohol use is relatively high in north-eastern and southern states of India and Goa as compared to other parts of country. Commonly IMFL (Indian made Foreign Liquors) and beer are the preferred drinks in younger age groups, while country-made liquor and rum are common in rural India. Home-made or local brews continue to be popular in select communities especially in north eastern parts of India, Goa etc. (Gururaj G. Et al, 2011). The consumption of alcohol is going beyond the alarming level in the present society. The official statistics of The Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAC) is a company owned by the Government of Tamil Nadu, which has a monopoly over wholesale and retail vending of alcoholic beverages in the state, shows that the sales of liquor are increasing day by day in leaps and bounds. 27% of the revenue generated by Tamil Nadu in 2012-13 came from sale of alcohol. From very tender age, the people become prey to this monster. Alcoholism or alcohol abuse is viewed as a social problem since it affects the dependent's family. It has social ramifications also. The person under influence of alcohol loss his self control and inflict havoc on society. It leads petty offences to serious crimes. So it requires a serious concern from the policy makers and administrators to impose prohibition on it. On the part of government, it is not an ethical and right way to generate revenue.

Materials and Methods

The present case studies were conducted in the Holy Cross Hospital, Vellodu.A of Dindigul District. A.Vellodu was once notoriously known for illicit arrack. Now it is TASMAC free village. Even a single TASMAC shop is not available in the village. The motto of the hospital is to offer a best medical service to the needy and weary people. The hospital is established for the general purpose and now being known for its de-addiction process. Since it is a medical institution, there is no wider advertisement for hospital. The

beneficiaries or those who recovered from the alcoholic abuses are being acted as ambassadors and they refer the needy people. The sufferers, addicts or patients from various parts of Tamil Nadu flock there in order to recover from the addiction. The study tried to explore the causes of addiction, to know the situation which made them to seek treatment, to understand the psychological trauma of addicts' families. These form as main objectives of this study. There were more than fifty patients. Of which the unique and distinguished cases were selected for the analysis. In order to maintain anonymity, the names of the respondents are not obviously mentioned.

Case1: Mr.A, 35 who survives with his wife and two children, is hailing from Esanattam village of Dindigul District. He belongs to Hindu faith and scheduled caste community. He owns sound service system (audio service). His brothers also live in the same village. He started to consume alcohol for the sake of peer group members. He used to get the liquor at free of cost while he visits to village festival where he operates audio system. Since he offered service to the village, the organizers offered him the liquor at free of cost. It also prompted him to have liquor frequently. Slowly he turned as a habitual drunker which disturbed his profession. Later on, his family members also suffered a lot due to his habitual drinking. His daughter was afraid to approach him while he was under the influence of alcohol. Only regular plea of his daughter made him to admit in the hospital for the deaddiction process.

Case 2: Mr.B, 29, survives with his wife and two girl children. He is working as load man in the railway goods shed. He studied up to fifth standard. At the very tender age, he used to have liquor. His father, who brews the illicit arrack, made him to acquaint with liquor. After got into this profession, the pain of the work propelled him towards the alcohol. He is the habitual drunker. He starts the day with liquor in the dawn itself. His family became the victim of his habit. The peace and equilibrium was constantly disturbed. In order to wane this practice, he adopted various methods. Sometimes he wore *jabammalai*, the sacred beads to detain himself from alcohol. But there was a failure to control over the liquor. Due to addiction, he experienced serious headache as aftermath of liquor. The deterioration of his health poses him to resort to discard this practice.

Case 3: Mr.C, 33, hailed from Avaniyapuram of Madurai. He educated up to eighth standard. He survives with his wife and three children. Of which, two male children and one female. He is currently working as a mason. Previously, after marriage he indulged in milk vending business. He came to acquaint with this practice while he offered a party to his friends on the occasion of his first

baby's birth. Later on, he turned a habitual drunker. According to his wife, he started his day with alcohol. He consumed it as tea and coffee. It disturbed his profession and he quit the profession and switched over to mason work. In the inebriated condition he often picked quarrel with his wife. He indulged in manhandling his wife. He migrated to other nearby state in order to eke out a living. He said that during the working hours he never consumed liquor even if induced by his friends. There was a turning point which triggered him to think about admission in the de addiction centres. His wife observed that while he returns from neighbouring state, inebriated condition which was beyond the tolerance level. The expectations of his wife and family members failed. They were frustrated. Then his consumption level increased and he lost all his control which created a great commotion in the family. He was advised to get admission to the de addiction centre. He adamantly refused. On one fine morning he himself asked his family members to take him to de addiction centre. It was found that the respondent started this practice of consumption as a fun but ended in addiction.

Case 4: Mr.D hailing from V.Mettupatty of Dindigul District. He is surviving with his wife and one daughter. He has one sister who is settled well. He does live along with his father and mother in a joint family. He educated up to ninth standard. He is currently running a hotel in his native place. Previously, fourteen years back, he worked as employee in a knit wear company at Tirupur, popularly known as textile city and often offer asylum to migrant workers. Besides, he got knowledge in bike repairing at *Tirpur* for the fun he started taking alcohol. He continued this practice for many years which resulted in various problems in the family. There was a psychological trauma among the family members when they heard the respondent acquainted himself with alcohol. Since the native town has more friends, the situation becomes very worst. He spent nearly three hundred rupees per day for the purpose of liquor. In order to divert his attention from the alcohol his parents got him married. The parents asked him to look after business but he didn't concentrate on the business. The respondent said that his father also a party leader lost his position in the party due to habitual drinking. He usually observes some religious practices namely religious offering to lord *Ayyapa* in order to get off from this practice. But every attempt became vain. According to him his friends, peer group induced and pushed him towards this practice. When the situation becomes much averse, he himself wants to recovers from the situation. His decision brought happiness in the minds of his family members. Now he is undergoing treatment and taking oath to discard the practice.

Case 5: Mr.E, 26, native of Natham village of Dindigul district. The unmarried respondent studied up to tenth standard and running a cable network business. He consumed alcohol for the sake of friends. He also markets sugar tablets. He often gets tension and it increased his blood pressure. He also pointed out that he could not sleep since there were some night mares which threaten him. It has driven him towards alcoholism. According to him, he was very stubborn and averse the advice of his kith and kin. It irked him more and inclined to alcohol. As a man of Islamic faith, he failed to observe fasting during the holy month of Ramzan. Initially he made some inquires at *errvadi* and he was asked to stay for more than twenty days. So he turned his back. He corrected his friends who often gave company but found very difficult to restrain himself from such practices. He felt very unhappy. He liked to discard this practice. One fine morning, he had a severe vomiting and giddiness which made him took asylum in the hospital where deaddiction processes are going on. When he conveyed this message to his family members, they felt immensely happy and gave warm welcome to his decision and subsequently admitted him in the hospital.

Case 6: Mr.F, 54, a farmer who survives with his son and daughter. His daughter is working in the government office and son is working in the private concern in Kerala. The respondent said that for the past thirty years he is consuming alcohol. According to him, there were no problems owing to his drinking habit. He came to the de-addiction hospital on account of sudden demise of his beloved wife. His relatives felt that bereavement trigger him to commit any untoward incidents like suicide attempt. His relatives took fear over him and admitted him in the hospital for the sake of security reasons.

CONCLUSION

Alcohol is one of the substances which give physical sensation. It ruins the entire life of an individual when it goes beyond the tolerable limits. Consuming alcohol and other narcotic substances are started for the sake of fun or peer team at initial stage. Later on, it becomes habitual and restrain from it is herculean task. Mean time, it consumed all our happiness, family peace and reputation. The case study analysis indicated that the respondents started for the purpose of fun and turned as tragedy. The peer group pleasure made them to taste alcohol. Self realisation was found among the addicts. One point of time, they realised themselves addict and tried to come out from the mess. It was found that in all cases, the family paid high devedent. It ruined the entire equilibrium and happiness of the family disturbed lot. It was also found that the easy availability and accessibility of liquor turn the weak

hearted as prey. It is suggested there should be a stringent enforcement by the necessary agencies. The number of liquor shops ought to be reduced. We have to realise that human life is fantastic one. We have this life only one time.

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