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THE INFLUENCE OF FAMILY RELATED ISSUES ON ALCOHOLISM AMONG CONSTRUCTION LABOURERS

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ABSTRACT:

Aim: To study the influence of family related issues on alcoholism among construction labourers in Tiruchirappalli city, Tamil Nadu.

Design: This study is an exploratory study. 100 construction labourers were selected through Proportionate Random Sampling Method. Interview Schedule was the tool used to collect the primary data. Percentage, Chi Square and One Way Anova were used to analyse the data with the help of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

Findings: Based on the response, 52 per cent of the respondents drink alcohol at least two times a day in weekends. 58 per cent of the respondents purchase in black market during the alcohol dry days. 48 percent of the respondents drink alcohol 180ml (i.e., quarter) with 41.1 per cent of above the average level of drink in a sitting in weekday. 56 percent of the respondents were in high level impact on family related issues on alcoholism.

Conclusion: People drink. Some people drink too much, in a bing pattern that is both learned and negative coping tool. Most alcohol-related personal, social and family problems are the

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result of this periodic heavy consumption rather than addiction. In India the socioeconomic spectrum, alcohol consumption may be the only leisure activity for many.

Key words: alcoholism, country liquor, family influence, construction labourers, drinking.

INTRODUCTION:

Alcohol use and the problems associated with it are on the increase in India. Although India is considered to be a 'dry' culture, alcohol use in some form or the other has always existed in the country. But during the past two to three decades the pattern of alcohol use has been changing. Unlike the Western industrialized countries, reliable data on alcohol production, marketing and various alcohol related problems are not readily available. There is no systematic recording of most of the necessary information. Research on various aspects of alcoholism, particularly with a public health perspective, has been minimal. However, a variety of indicators point to the changing scenario of alcohol use in the country. The quality of the statistics and research data which exists now is uneven, and with such data it is difficult to make generalizations for the whole country. The most striking evidence of large-scale production and sale of illicit distilled liquor are the frequently reported mortality and morbidity, especially blindness, due to poisoning by various types of "hooch". Illicit liquor deaths are reported from almost every state in the country (Mohan Isaac, 1998).

One of the widespread and generally accepted clinical beliefs in the alcoholism field is that alcoholism has a negative impact on family life. That is, patterns of communication, interpersonal relationship, personal growth activities and structural arrangements are significantly impacted in a negative and, at times, destructive way (Ablon, 1976). This belief is based primarily on clinical impressions, speculations and research of varying quality and sophistication. These and other writers characterized alcohol involved families as being highly conflictual, having fragmented processes of communication and expression, being non-cohesive and in general, impairing the ability of individual family members from participating in personal activities (Jacob, 1978).

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

Overall Objective:

1. To study the influence of family related issues on alcoholism among construction labourers in Tiruchirappalli City, Tamil Nadu.

Specific Objectives:

1. To analyse the extent to which family burden drives the respondents to alcoholism.
2. To understand the effect of the tolerance of the parents towards drinking as an encouragement to alcoholism.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:

Explorative Research Design has been used in this study to explore the influence of family related issues on alcoholism among construction labourers. The universe of the study is the construction workers in Tiruchirappalli City. Proportionate Random Sampling Method was used and the sample size of this study is 100 construction labourers. This study is made with the help of primary as well as secondary data.

The Structured Interview Schedule Method was used to collect the primary data and this schedule was prepared in Tamil language so that it could be understood by the respondents. The study period is seven months - between July and December 2017. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) has been used to analyse the data.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

In families belonging to the lower socio economic strata with fixed and limited income, frequent alcohol use by any member leads to serious financial difficulties and deprivation of basic needs for the rest of the family. In a study of health behavior of rural population in 19 villages (in the states of Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal), Benerji (1982) reported that the highest percentage of daily alcohol consumers were the Harijans (Scheduled Castes), the landless, and the poor labourers.

Philips and Sumana (1991), who studied regular alcohol consumers at the Sakalawara rural health center near Bangalore, report that 60 percent of lower socioeconomic class people spend more than Rs. 500 a month on alcohol, 30 percent between Rs. 250 and 500 and 10 percent spend less than Rs. 250. Based on the usual monthly incomes of families belonging to the lower socio economic class, these amounts represent approximately 15 to 40 percent of the family income.

A comparison of regular drinkers and non-drinkers among workers at Madras Port Trust showed that non-drinkers "spend 8 percent more on food, 30 percent more on clothing, 168 percent more on health care and 300 percent more on children's education" (Sankaran, 1986). This startling data reveals how much the family of the alcoholics is deprived of their basic needs.

In the early stages of alcoholism, the spouses tend to deny the problem drinking by their husbands and to a great extent may try to cover up or justify his drinking. Claudia Black, lists three rules that governed the behavior of children in families affected by alcoholism; 'Don't talk, don't trust and don't feel' (Black, 2002). These three rules in a very precise way describe the restrictions placed in a family affected by drinking. Talking about drinking may be seen as betrayal or disloyalty to one's own family. What starts of as silence about drinking soon extends to other areas and communication with other non-drinking family members may also become limited. Communication can become restricted and members may communicate about only essential issues. As the disease of alcoholism progresses, communication between the spouses may be dominated with alcohol related issues (Ranganathan, Jayaraman and Thirumagal, 2002). The conversations about alcohol generally tend to grow into arguments and conflicts and possibly end in violence. The level of expressiveness was shown to be lower in families affected by alcoholism (Moos and Moos, 1984).

Addiction is a progressive disease wherein problems faced by the alcohol dependent as well as family increases as the disease progresses. The family and the spouse in particular, struggle to maintain its stability by a series of adjustments. The process is so insidious and gradual that the family members do not even notice the extent to which they stretch themselves to cope. Gradually, even day to day functioning can be affected. Alcohol dependence by even one

individual in the family can affect other family members and change the way they interact and carry out their tasks (Colombo Plan, 2003).

Eighty five percent of men who were violent towards their wives were frequent or daily users of alcohol. Most of the abusive incidents occurred in the families that are under the influence of alcohol. If the breadwinner (caregiver) becomes an alcoholic, his children will be unable to get food or education and this may also lead to severe problems like indebtedness, domestic violence, divorces and hardships. But if the alcoholics go for treatments, definitely these problems can vanish away (Alcohol Related Harm in India-A fact sheet 2008).

ANALYSIS OF THE DATA:

Table – 01 Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Variables	**Response**	**Percentage**
Age	24 to 34yrs	32
	35 to 44yrs	36
	45 to 54yrs	20
	55 to 67yrs	12
Domicile	Rural	78
	Urban	22
Marital Status	Bachelor	18
	Married	74
	Widower	2
	Single	6
Educational Status	Primary level	50
	Middle level	32
	Secondary level	12
	Higher Secondary level	4
	Diploma Course	2
Occupation	Mason	34
	Form worker	30

	Electrician	4
	Plumber	8
	Helper	24
Monthly Income (Rs.)	Below Rs.10,000	32
	Rs.10,001 to 15,000	36
	Rs.15,001 to 20,000	20
	Rs.20,001 to 25,000	8
	Above 25,001	4

Source: Field Data

Table – 01 shows that 32 percent of the respondents in the age group between 24 and 34 years, 36 percent of the respondents are between 35 and 44 years, 20 percent of the respondents are between 45 and 54 years and 12 percent of the respondents are between 55 and 67 years. The researcher collects the data for this study 78 percent of the respondents from rural and 22 percent of the respondents from urban.

In this study 18 percent of the respondents are bachelor, 74 percent of the respondents married, 2 percent of the respondents are widower and 6 percent of the respondents are single. Half of the respondents (50 percent) are studied primary level school education, 32 percent of the respondents at middle level school education, 12 percent of the respondents at secondary level school education, 4 percent of the respondents at higher secondary level school education and only 2 percent of the respondents are studied diploma course.

From the above table inferred that 34 percent of the respondents are currently working as a mason, 30 percent of the respondents are form workers, 4 percent of the respondents are electrician, 8 percent of the respondents are plumber and 24 percent of the respondents are working as a helper.

Table – 01 indicates that 32 percent of the respondents are earn below Rs.10,000 per month, 36 percent of the respondents are between Rs. 10,001 and 15,000 per month, 20 percent of the respondents are between Rs. 15,001 and 20,000, 8 percent of the respondents are between Rs. 20,001 and 25,000 and 4 percent of the respondents are earns more than Rs. 25,000.

Hypothesis: 1

Null Hypothesis H_0: There is no difference between the influences of family related issues on alcoholism among construction labourers according to their marital status.

Alternate Hypothesis H_1: There is difference between the influences of family related issues on alcoholism among construction labourers according to their marital status.

Table No – 02 ONEWAY ANOVA on the existence of the difference in the influence of family related issues on alcoholism among construction labourers according to their marital status

Marital status	**Mean**	**SD**	**SS**	**Df**	**MS**	**Statistical Inference**
Family related issues						
Between Groups			15.727	3	5.242	
Bachelor (n=18)	17.11	4.283				F=.373
Married (n=74)	16.43	3.664				.773>0.05
Widower (n=2)	17.00	.000				Not Significant
Single (n=6)	15.33	3.386				
Within Groups			1349.273	96	14.055	

Source: Field Data

From the table-02 indicates that the calculated value 0.773 is more than the level of significance 0.05, the null hypothesis (H_o) is accepted and the alternate hypothesis (H_1) is rejected. Hence it is proved that there is no significant difference between the influences of family related issues on alcoholism among construction labourers according to their marital status.

Hypothesis: 2

Null Hypothesis H_0: There is no significant difference between the influences of family related issues on alcoholism among construction labourers according to their educational status.

Alternate Hypothesis H_1: There is significant difference between the influences of family related issues on alcoholism among construction labourers according to their educational status.

Table – 03 ONEWAY ANOVA on the existence of the difference in the influence of family related issues on alcoholism of respondents according to their educational status

Educational status	**Mean**	**S.D**	**SS**	**Df**	**MS**	**Statistical Inference**
Family related issues						
Between Groups			252.645	4	63.161	
Below 5th std (n=50)	17.52	3.112				
5th to 8th (n=32)	14.81	3.728				F=5.394
9th to 10th (n=12)	16.50	3.943				.001<0.05
11th to 12th (n=4)	14.00	3.464				Significant
Above 12th (n=2)	23.00	.000				
Within Groups			1112.355	95	11.709	

Source: Field Data

Table-03 shows that the calculated value 0.001 is less than the level of significance 0.05, the null hypothesis (H_o) is rejected and the alternate hypothesis (H_1) is accepted. Hence it is proved that there is significant difference between the influences of family related issues on alcoholism among construction labourers according to their educational status.

Hypothesis: 3

Null Hypothesis H_0: There is no significant difference between the influences of family related issues on the alcoholism among construction labourers according to their occupation.

Alternate Hypothesis H_1: There is significant difference between the influences of family related issues on the alcoholism among construction labourers according to their occupation.

Table – 04 ONEWAY ANOVA on the existence of the difference in the influence of family related issues on alcoholism of respondents according to their occupation

Occupation	**Mean**	**S.D**	**SS**	**Df**	**MS**	**Statistical Inference**
Family related factors						
Between Groups			46.631	4	11.658	F=.840
Mason (n=34)	16.41	2.996				.503>0.05

Form worker (n=30)	16.80	4.413				Not Significant
Electrician (n=4)	19.00	1.155				
Plumber (n=8)	15.00	4.840				
Helper (n=24)	16.33	3.547				
Within Groups			1318.369	95	13.878	

Source: Field Data

From the results in the table-04, the calculated value 0.503 is more than the level of significance 0.05, the null hypothesis (H_o) is accepted and the alternate hypothesis (H_1) is rejected. Hence it is proved that there is no significant difference between the influences of family related issues on alcoholism among construction labourers according to their occupation.

Hypothesis: 4

Null Hypothesis H_0: There is no significant difference the influence of family related issues on alcoholism of respondents according to amounts of money spent on drinking per month.

Alternate Hypothesis H_1: There is significant difference between the influences of family related issues on alcoholism of respondents according to amounts of money spent on drinking per month.

Table – 05 ONEWAY ANOVA on the existence of the difference in the influence of family related issues on alcoholism of respondents according to amounts of money spent on drinking per month

Amounts of money normally spent on drinking per month (Rs)	**Mean**	**S.D**	**SS**	**Df**	**MS**	**Statistical Inference**
Family related factors						
Between Groups			20.414	4	5.103	
Below Rs.1,000 (n=8)	16.75	3.370				
Rs.1,001 to 5,000 (n=26)	16.85	2.824				F=.361
Rs.5,001 to 10,000 (n=38)	16.74	4.118				.836>0.05
Rs.10,001 to 15,000 (n=24)	15.83	4.361				Not Significant
Above Rs.15,000 (n=4)	15.50	.577				
Within Groups			1344.586	95	14.154	

Source: Field Data

From the results in the table-05, the calculated value 0.836 is less than the level of significance 0.05, the null hypothesis (H_0) is accepted and the alternate hypothesis (H_1) is rejected. Hence it is proved that there is no significant difference the influence of family related issues on alcoholism of respondents according to amounts of money spent on drinking per month.

Hypothesis: 5

Null Hypothesis H_0: There is no significant association between age and the influence of family related issues on alcoholism among construction labourers.

Alternate Hypothesis H_1: There is significant association between age and the influence of family related issues on alcoholism among construction labourers.

Table – 06 Chi Square test on the association between age and the influence of family related issues on alcoholism among construction labourers.

Age	**Family Related Issues**						**Statistical inference**
	Low		**High**		**Total**		
	(n=44)	***(100%)***	***(n=56)***	***(100%)***	***(n=100)***	***(100%)***	
24 to 34yrs	15	34.1%	17	30.4%	32	32.0%	X^2=3.378 Df=3 .337>0.05 Not Significant
35 to 44yrs	19	43.2%	17	30.4%	36	36.0%	
45 to 54yrs	6	13.6%	14	25.0%	20	20.0%	
55 to 67yrs	4	9.1%	8	14.3%	12	12.0%	

Source: Field Data

Table-06 indicates that 36 percent of the respondents belong to the age group of 35-44 years with 30.4 percent of above the average level in the influence of family related issues on alcoholism. Similarly 32 percent to the age group of 24-34 years with 30.4 percent of more than the average level, 20 percent to the age group of 45-54 years with 25 percent of above the average level and only 12 percent to the age group of 55-67 years with 14.3 percent of more the than the average level.

Since the calculated value 0.337 is less than the level of significance 0.05, the null hypothesis (H_0) is accepted and the alternate hypothesis (H_1) is rejected. And we came understand that there

is no significant association between age and the influence of family related issues on the alcoholism among construction labourers.

Hypothesis: 6

Null Hypothesis H_0: There is no significant association between domicile and the influence of family related issues on alcoholism among construction labourers.

Alternate Hypothesis H_1: There is significant association between domicile and the influence of family related issues on alcoholism among construction labourers.

Table – 07 Chi Square test on the association between domicile and the influence of family related issues on alcoholism among construction labourers.

	Family Related Factors						**Statistical inference**
	Low		**High**		**Total**		
	(n=44)	***(100%)***	***(n=56)***	***(100%)***	***(n=100)***	***(100%)***	
Domicile							
Rural	29	65.9%	49	87.5%	78	78.0%	X^2=6.694 Df=1 .010<0.05 Significant
Urban	15	34.1%	7	12.5%	22	22.0%	

Source: Field Data

Table-07 reveals that most (78%) of the respondents from rural area with 87.5 percent of more than the average level in the influence of family related issues on the alcoholism. Only 22 percent of the respondents from urban area with 12.5 percent of more than the average level.

Since the calculated value 0.010 is more than the level of significance 0.05, the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected and the alternate hypothesis (H_1) is accepted. And we came to understand that there is significant association between domicile and the influence of alcoholism on their family related issues on the alcoholism among construction labourers.

Hypothesis: 7

Null Hypothesis H_0: There is no significant association between how many times they drink per day in weekdays and the influence of family related issues on the alcoholism among construction labourers.

Alternate Hypothesis H_1: There is significant association between how many times they drink per day in weekdays and the influence of family related issues on the alcoholism among construction labourers.

Table – 08 Chi Square test on the association between number of times drink per alcohol day in weekdays and the influence of family related issues on the alcoholism among construction labourers.

How many times the respondents are drink per day in weekdays	Family Related Issues						Statistical inference
	Low		High		Total		
	(n=44)	*(100%)*	*(n=56)*	*(100%)*	*(n=100)*	*(100%)*	
One	18	40.9%	34	60.7%	52	52.0%	X^2=18.077
Two	15	34.1%	15	26.8%	30	30.0%	Df=3
Three	11	25.0%	1	1.8%	12	12.0%	.001<0.05
4 & More	0	.0%	6	10.7%	6	6.0%	Significant

Source: Field Data

From the results in the table-08, 52 percent of the respondents drink at least one time per day in weekdays with 60.7 percent of more than the average level. Followed by 30 percent drink two times per day with 26.8 percent of more than the average level, 12 percent drink three times per day with 25 percent of below the average level and 6 percent drink four and more than four times per day with 10.7 percent of above the average level.

Since the calculated value 0.001 is more than the level of significance 0.05, the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected and the alternate hypothesis (H_1) is accepted. And we came understand that there is significant association between how many times they drink per day in weekdays and the influence of family related issues on the alcoholism among construction labourers.

Hypothesis: 8

Null Hypothesis H_0: There is no association relationship between alternate source of purchase during the alcohol dry days and the influence of family related issues on the alcoholism among construction labourers.

Alternate Hypothesis H_1: There is significant association between alternate source of purchase during the alcohol dry days and the influence of family related issues on the alcoholism among construction labourers.

Table – 09 Chi Square test on the association between alternate source of purchase during the alcohol dry days and the influence of family related issues on the alcoholism among construction labourers

Alternate source of purchase during the alcohol dry days	**Family Related Factors**						**Statistical inference**
	Low		**High**		**Total**		
	(n=44)	***(100%)***	***(n=56)***	***(100%)***	***(n=100)***	***(100%)***	
Store	13	29.5%	13	23.2%	26	26.0%	X^2=4.032Df=2
Black Purchase	21	47.7%	37	66.1%	58	58.0%	.133>0.05
Don't Drink	10	22.7%	6	10.7%	16	16.0%	Not Significant

Source: Field Data

Table-09, shows that 58 percent of the respondents doing black purchasing during the alcohol dry days with 66.1 percent of above the average level. Similarly 26 percent purchase the previous day itself and keep in store with 23.2 percent of more than the average level and 16 percent don't drink with 22.7 percent of below the average level.

Since the calculated value 0.133 is more than the level of significance 0.05, the null hypothesis (H_0) is accepted and the alternate rejected (H_1) is rejected. And we came understand that there is no significant relationship between alternate sources of purchase during the alcohol dry days and the influence of family related issues on alcoholism among construction labourers.

Hypothesis: 9

Null Hypothesis H_0: There is no significant association between family related issues and the overall influence on the alcoholism among construction labourers.

Alternate Hypothesis H_1: There is significant association between family related issues and the overall influence on the alcoholism among construction labourers.

Table – 10 Chi Square test on the association between family related issues and the overall influence of the alcoholism among construction labourers

Family related issues	Overall influence of alcoholism			Statistical Inference
	Low (n=38)	High (n=62)	Total (n=100)	
Low	23(60.5%)	21(33.9%)	44(44%)	X^2=6.794 Df=1 .009<0.05 Significant
High	15(39.5%)	41(66.1%)	56(56%)	

Source: Field Data

Table-10 shows that in overall 56 percent of the respondents were family related issues have high level influence of alcoholism among construction labourers and remaining 44 percent of the respondents were in low level.

Since the calculated value 0.009 is less than the level of significance 0.05, the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected and the alternate rejected (H_1) is accepted. And we came understand that there is significant association between family related issues and the overall influence of alcoholism among construction labourers.

DISCUSSION:

Our study also shows similar results with another study made by Chakravarthy (1990) who reported that 26-50 percent of adult males in rural areas of Tamil Nadu are alcohol consumers and most of them are illiterate.

In our study as well as the Bangalore study (2006) the respondents are regular alcohol users (every day or nearly every day). Also our study findings is in close relation to the WHO global status report on alcohol (2004) which says 40% of the people are daily users of alcohol.

This study closely agrees with the WHO global status report on alcohol (2004) which says that the domestic violence and alcohol consumption have a significance association. Our study agreed with Norman scotch (1981) report which reveals that divorce is also one of the causes for alcoholism.

Benegal's (2005) study report findings are closely related with our study; IMFL (Indian Made Foreign Liquors) with high percentage of alcohol is mostly consumed in India. Beer which has a

lesser percentage of alcohol is consumed by less than 5% of the population. Amongst them, stronger beers constituted more than 70% of the sales. This present study is in conflict with the findings of Gupta et al and Bangalore study (2004) which showed that country liquor is a preferred drink. Despite the fact that the type of beverage most often consumed is spirit, a noticeable trend in India is the appearance of wine and beer in the spectrum of alcohol use especially during the late eighties and early nineties (WHO, 2004a) and from the year 2004 have seen a steady 20% growth in wine sales. This corresponds to the immense socio-political and economic changes in India.

The present study is in conflict with the findings of the Haider and Chaudhary who showed that urban population was mainly affected. The present study is in agreement with the WHO (2004) report which says that rural population frequently gets affected by alcoholism.

Another study made by Rahman (2003) report also has similar findings that households that consume alcohol spend on an average 5.1 percent of the budget on alcohol. Five and half percent of households spend more than 15 percent while 0.5 percent spend more than 30% on alcohol.
Our study finding agrees with V. Thirumagal's (2008) study report which states that celebrations of special events like birthdays or festivals may be disrupted either because the drinker is missing or because of his disruptive behavior. While some families may give up the celebration altogether, some may do so partially with a few changes to accommodate the alcohol dependent or carry on and celebrate by making a conscious decision to exclude the drinker. No relevant studies were available for comparison with the rest of the parameters studied in the present study.

CONCLUSION:

Most Indian wives tend to hush up the fact of their husband's drinking problem. Once again, upbringing has a great deal to do with this. A woman is expected to put up a front and never disclose her husband's drinking to the outside world. Many wives try to hide their problem from others, even from their own parents for as long as possible. Pride very often prevents her from confiding in her parents, because it is considered undignified to run to her parents for help. In spite of the fact that her marriage was probably an arranged marriage, thus making the parents in a way responsible for the present situation, the wife very rarely blames them. She tries to battle

with the situation alone, until it goes beyond her control, and she can no longer hide the fact that her husband is well on the road to alcoholism.

People drink. Some people drink too much, in a bing pattern that is both learned and negative coping tool. Most alcohol-related personal, social and family problems are the result of this periodic heavy consumption rather than addiction. In India the socioeconomic spectrum, alcohol consumption may be the only leisure activity for many. For a large number of poor people, alcohol may be initially a means of coping with deprivation, poverty and harsh realities of life. It is likely that alcohol-related health, family and social problems are on the rise in India. In Tamil Nadu illicit liquors, cheap liquors and arrack are banned but still these types of liquors are available.

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