

Alcohol, Sexual violence and HIV/AIDS in India: Exploring the Possible Relationship

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Rational of the study:

Though India is traditionally perceived to be a 'dry' culture, but alcohol use in some form has always existed in the country. The view of alcohol as impure and polluting, that many middle class Indians have been predominantly influenced by Western temperance campaigners in the 19th century. A view which acquired greater popularity during the Nationalist movement and was shaped into a generally held belief that drinking alcohol was alien to Indian culture. However, the link between alcohol use and sexual behaviour has serious implications for the health of populations particularly due to the advent of HIV infection. WHO coordinated a multi-country study to identify factors related to risky sexual behaviour among alcohol users in diverse cultural settings. The countries involved Belarus, India, Mexico, Kenya, Romania, the Russian Federation, South Africa and Zambia. The results of the study presented in a form of report are likely to be useful to respond in specific and appropriate ways to the problem of alcohol use and sexual risk behaviour.

Need for the study:

In recent time there are many studies at global level to prove the seriousness of alcohol consumption on sexual life and risk of HIV/AIDS. It is known that there are few studies available in India to support the seriousness of alcohol consumption on risk of HIV/AIDS. Here NFHS-3 provides an opportunity to analyse the data and to prove the risk of HIV and Alcohol consumption with appropriate evidence.

Objective:

Based on the above conceptual built up, an attempt was made in this article to study the role of alcohol in contribution sexual and HIV/AIDS risk in different settings and populations across the country. However, in order to meet the above objective the NFHS -3 India data was used for the analysis purpose. Moreover the important forms of violence to be considered are physical, sexual and emotional one, are tried to test and analyzed in the forth coming paragraph.

Data source

Data for this study has been obtained from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3), conducted in 2005-06. National sample survey designed to provide information on population, family planning, maternal and child health, child survival, AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), nutrition of children, women and men and women's status in India. NFHS-3 collected information from a nationally representative sample of 1,09,041 households, 124,385 women age 15-49, and 74,369 men age 15-54, from among all the

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women and men interviewed in India. NFHS-3 provides estimates of HIV prevalence for adult women and men at the state level, 102975 (52855 women and 50121 men) were tested for HIV. The available data on women aged 15-49 years were analyzed to find out the whether partner or Husband consume alcohol. NFHS-3 collected information from married and unmarried women age 15-49 about their experience of physical and sexual violence. Married women were also asked about their experience of emotional violence

Methodology

Bi-variate analysis has been carried out to see differential in husband's alcohol consumption by selected socio-economic and demographic variables and to see the risk of HIV and STD on women because of husband's alcohol conception. Further, in order to isolate the effects of independent variables on dependent variable, Multivariate analysis resorting to logistic regression is carried out. In logistic regression was used to see the controlled effect of alcohol consumption on HIV risk and STD. It was decided to use the socio-economic and demographic variables as controlling variables. All the analysis done in this paper is for those currently married women who were interviewed for household relation section.

Results and Discussion:

The study shows that women those husband drink alcohol are 2.09 times more likely to get HIV/AIDS compare to those women whose husband don't drink alcohol. The women who reported her husband drink alcohols are 1.02 more likely to experience the genital discharge compare to women whose husband doesn't drink alcohol. It was found that those women reported her husband drink alcohol are 3.5 times more likely to experience sexual violence compare to non drinkers wife and it is significant at 1 percent level. The study shows that strong relation with alcohol consumption to have more than one wife. Those women who reported her husband drink alcohol are 7 times more likely to have more than one wife compare to non drinking husband. At the same it is statistically proved that having more than one wife has more risk of sexual diseases, It was found that those women's husband have more than one wife are 2.5 more likely to experience genital discharge.