



STUDENTS' OPINION TOWARDS CLOSURE OF LIQUOR SHOPS IN TAMILNADU

KEYWORDS

Youth alcoholism, liquor free state

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ABSTRACT *Alcoholism is one of the major social problems of any society from the beginning of civilization through various forms of beverages. Tamilnadu, a south Indian state with great tradition and culture is highly prone to alcoholism in the midst of its people in today's picture. This social problem is chiefly concentrates on student community of the state, which jeopardizes the future of the young citizens of the nation. Though many protests and social actions by the public is staged to close the retail liquor outlets completely owned by the Tamilnadu State Marketing Corporation Ltd (TASMAC), the Government of Tamilnadu still thinks about the closure of outlets because of its generation of maximum revenue to the government. This quantitative study concentrates on the opinion of students' community towards closure of liquor shop in Tamilnadu.*

Introduction

Alcoholism is a broad term for problems with alcohol, and is generally used to mean compulsive and uncontrolled consumption of alcoholic beverages, usually to the detriment of the drinker's health, personal relationship, and social standing. It is medically considered as a disease and addictive illness. Many criminal and civil cases have been reported, which are mainly because of the alcoholic convicts and consumers of alcoholic beverage during the action of the offence/s. Cases related to alcoholic students, like gang rape[1], drink and drive, misbehaviour in family, and un-acceptable actions in schools & colleges [2] were record by the police departments. This clearly shows us that the young students were highly prone to alcoholism and alcohol abuse in the society of Tamilnadu.

In Tamilnadu, the government of the state sell alcoholic beverages through government owned corporation called Tamilnadu State Marketing Corporation Ltd (TASMAC). This corporation plays as a monopoly in selling the alcohols all over the state. The retail outlets of this corporation have been increased, that obviously increased the sale of liquor in the state. The TASMAC has gained the revenue of 60,094 crores in the years between 2010 and 2014 (by The Hindu report). The uncontrolled growth of the liquor sales in the state has increased the selling of liquor. This also causes many general public to get addicted to alcohol. Due to this, many problems and issues arise in today's scenario in Tamil nadu. The problems range from individual psychological problems, family issues and various social problems. This study mainly concentrates of students' opinion towards closure of liquor shop in Tamilnadu, to reduce or completely abolish the alcoholism in Tamilnadu state.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

- COLLEGE GIRL GANG-RAPED, a special correspondent by the Hindu, on 9th November 2015, a college girl was allegedly abducted and raped by a gang of at least six youths at Kattur in Tiruvallur district near Chennai early on Sunday. The victim was rescued and shifted to a hospital by the local police who also arrested three suspects based on preliminary investigation. According to police sources, some youths under the influence of liquor chased her uncle away late on Saturday night and took the girl to a secluded place and raped her. Two motorcycle-borne police personnel, who were on night patrol, found the victim in a semi-conscious state.

- FOUR TN SCHOOL STUDENTS ATTEND CLASSES AFTER DRINKING LIQUOR and DISMISSED, news article by Times of India on 23rd July 2015. Four Class 12 students studying at a government higher secondary school in Manickampalayam in the Namakkal district of Tamil Nadu have been dismissed from the school for allegedly attending classes after drinking liquor.
- Alcohol is an important factor in suicide, accidents, social family disorganization, crime and loss of productivity. Increasing percentage of young people has started drinking alcohol in increased frequency and quantity thus constituting serious hazards to health, welfare and life [5]. Singh G. (1989) Proceedings of the Indo-US Symposium on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. R.Ray and R.W. Pickens (Eds), NIMHANS, Bangalore.

Methods & Materials

Objectives of the Study

- To study the demographic details of the respondent
- To study the knowledge of students about alcohol and TASMAC
- To study the personal drinking habit of the respondents
- To study the respondent's knowledge towards effect of alcohol in individual and society
- To study perception towards the alcohol consumers
- To study the student opinion towards government role on alcoholism
- To learn about the opinion of the respondents towards the closure of liquor shop in Tamilnadu

The problems related to alcoholism in Tamilnadu are growing in extreme pace. Many agitations and protest against the closure of liquor shops in Tamilnadu are increasing day by day. Due to alcoholism many direct and indirect problems related to health, family, and other psychosocial problems arise a lot which jeopardize the happy society in Tamilnadu. Thus the study addresses the problem of alcoholism and closure of liquor shop in the state of Tamilnadu.

The research design used for this study is descriptive research. The quantitative research technique is also used to quantify the findings from the respondents. The researcher chooses the students aged between 18 and 26 as the universe of the study. The respondents include both UG and PG students. The total respondent of the study were 291 numbers of students study-

ing in colleges of Coimbatore. According to the socio demographic details the respondents include 107 (36.7%) male students and 184(63.3%) of female students has responded the survey questionnaire. The demographic details also shows that 154 (53%) respondents were brought up from urban community, 70 (24%) respondents are from semi urban community, 60 (20.6%) respondents and 7 (2.4%) respondents are from rural community and tribal community respectively. Since the study is quantitative in nature the data collection is mainly through primary data, which is collected through self constructed E-mail questionnaire (online survey method). A self-constructed questionnaire consists of 15 questions which are formulated for the primary data collection. The data were collected the platform of online Google Forms application and the online forms were circulated through electronic mail. The non-probability sampling method and convenience sampling method were used in collecting the responses from the respondents. The collected data were edited and coded quantitatively and analyzed through MS Excel and SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) applications.

Results & Discussion

Table 1, explains the distribution of Socio Demographic details of the study,

TABLE 1: SOCIO DEMOGRAPHIC DETAILS			
S.no	VARIABLES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Gender		
a	Male	107	36.70%
b	Female	184	63.30%
2	Age		
a	18-20	261	89.60%
b	21-23	25	8.60%
c	24-26	5	1.80%
3	Education		
a	12th	36	12.30%
b	Under Graduate	232	79.80%
c	Post Graduate	23	7.90%
4	Family type		
a	Joint family	72	24.80%
b	Nuclear Family	211	72.60%
c	Living with friends	4	1.30%
d	Living alone	4	1.30%
5	Geographical community		
a	Urban	154	53%
b	Semi-Urban	70	24%
c	Rural	60	20.60%
d	Tribal	7	2.40%

From the above Socio Demographic details table, Female participants (63.3%) were higher than the male participants. The majority of respondents belong to the age group 18-20 (89.6%). 79.8% of the respondents were studying undergraduates degree. 72.6 % of the respondents were from nuclear family and 52% of the respondents were from urban community.

Table 2, Explains the variables related to students knowledge related to alcohol, source of alcohol to consumers and other effects of alcoholism with reference to the response of the participants.

TABLE 2			
S.no	VARIABLES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Alcohol is a psychoactive drug		
a	Agree	188	64.6%
b	Not sure	62	21.3%
c	Disagree	41	14.1%
2	TASMAC is a monopoly corporation that sells liquor in Tamilnadu		
a	Agree	221	75.9%
b	Not sure	58	19.9%
c	Disagree	12	4.2%
3	Alcohol affects family peace and societal harmony		
a	Agree	268	92.1%
b	Not sure	7	2.4%
c	Disagree	16	5.5%
4	Alcohol is injurious to health		
a	Agree	250	85.9%
b	Not sure	13	4.5%
c	Disagree	28	9.6%

From the above table 2, the maximum respondent (64.6 %) agrees that alcohol is a psychoactive drug. This shows that the other 35.4 % of the respondents need more awareness and clear knowledge about the alcohol and its effects.

From the second variable 75.9% of the respondents knows TASMAC a monopoly corporation that sell IMFL (Indian made foreign liquors) to the people in Tamilnadu.

The third and fourth variable explains that 92.1 % of the respondent agrees that alcohol affects family peace & societal harmony and 85.9% of respondents agree that alcohol is injurious to health respectively. 7.9% of the respondents of third variable and 14.1% of respondents from fourth variable need more awareness about the affects of alcohol on the grounds of individual health, family peace and societal harmony.

Table 3 explains the distribution of opinion of the respondents towards their personal drinking behaviour, perception towards alcohol drinkers, alcoholic behaviour of their future/present spouse or special friend, opinion towards government role on alcoholism and opinion towards closure of liquor shops in Tamilnadu.

TABLE 3			
S.no	VARIABLES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Personal drinking habit		
a	Frequent drinker	0	0.0%
b	occasional drinker	12	4.1%
c	under friends compulsion	4	1.4%
d	never been drunk	275	94.5%

2	Perception towards alcohol drinkers		
a	Motivate them to drinker	1	0.3%
b	Join them to drink along	0	0.0%
c	Pity them	70	24.1%
d	Blame the government	129	44.3%
e	Upset on the society	74	25.4%
f	others	17	5.8%
3	Expected alcoholic behaviour of their future/present spouse		
a	To drink frequently	0	0.0%
b	To drink occasionally	25	8.6%
c	To be Non Drinker	255	87.6%
d	Never bother	11	3.8%
4	Opinion towards government role on alcoholism		
a	Increase the liquor retail outlets	2	0.7%
b	Regulate through strict laws	12	4.1%
c	reduce or restrict the sales	41	14.1%
d	create awareness about alcoholism	56	19.2%
e	All B,C and D	172	59.1%
f	others	8	2.7%
5	Opinion towards closure of liquor shops in Tamilnadu		
a	close the outlets completely	163	56.0%
b	Increase the liquor retail outlets	1	0.3%
c	restrict license issuing	11	3.8%
d	strict rules and guidelines	23	7.9%
e	Both C and D	93	32.0%

From Table 3, The maximum respondents (94.5%) were non drinkers, and remaining 5.5 % of the respondents have drunk at-least once (the answers for this variable cannot be trusted completely, because the respondents may be little or more shy to expose their drinking habit).

The second variable explains the perception towards drinkers of the respondents. 44.3 % of the respondents blame the government for their alcohol dependency and addiction because of the increased availability of alcoholic liquor in the state. 25.4 % of the respondents feel bad about the society they live in and 24.1 % of the respondents feel disappointed towards the drinkers.

The third variable shows the respondents wish towards the behaviour of their future / present spouse's alcohol drinking behaviour. From this 87.6 % of the respondents never want their spouse to be an alcohol drinker.

The fourth variable elucidates the respondents' opinion towards the role of government towards fighting the alcoholism in the state of Tamilnadu. Here 59.1 % of the respondents accept that the government should regulate the alcoholism through strict laws in its social legislations, reduce or restrict the sale of the liquor in the state, and the government should create more awareness towards causes and effects of alcoholism among the people.

The fifth variable explains that 56 % of respondents want the TASMALC retail outlets that sells IMFL should be closed completely and 32 % of the respondents wants the government to restrict license granting to open retail liquor outlets under TASMALC and asks strict rules, regulations and guidelines to avoid TASMALC retail outlets near schools, colleges, hospitals, and other public places.

Major Findings

- 89.6 % of the respondents belong to the age group of 18 to 20.
- 63.3% of respondents were female students.
- 79.8% of respondents were undergraduates.
- 35.4 % of respondents don't know what exactly alcohol is.
- 75.9 % of respondents know what TASMALC is.
- 24.1% of respondents don't know what TASMALC is.
- 56 % of respondents want the TASMALC outlets have to be closed by the government.
- 32 % of respondents need more strict regulations and restrict license issuing to the TASMALC retail outlets in the state.
- 7.9 % of respondents disagree that alcohol affects family peace and societal harmony.
- 14.1 % of the respondents disagrees that alcohol is injurious to individual health.
- 87.6 % of respondents do not want their spouses or special friends to drink alcohol.

Suggestions

- The study should be done among more student respondents to know about their exactly opinion towards alcoholism.
- The opinion study on closure of liquor shops can be done among the other groups of the population the state. Those groups may be, house wives, working men & women, persons working at stressful jobs like police, Information technology employees, Industrial factory workers and workers of various unorganized sectors.
- This study suggests the government to consider the closure of TASMALC retail outlets completely to maintain peace and harmony in the state, through this opinion study on the student community.
- The government should provide more awareness programs related to alcohol and alcoholism.
- A study can be done among the student population of Tamilnadu about the health issues related to alcoholism.
- The government can consider allocating more funds and establishing more alcoholic de-addiction and rehabilitation centres to help people to live a happy life.

Conclusion

Alcoholism is a social blight to the society. Many studies by various researchers explained the cause, effect and consequences of the alcoholism among the people in the society. We, the individuals also witness various effects and consequence of this social problem. This alcoholism not only spoils the individual and their family, but also the development pace of the nation. The government should consider the amendments and social reforms to eradicate this social problem. The government and law makers should also remember that revenue through spoiling the population is not worth enough to lead a welfare state.

Will hope to look forward for the alcohol Free State and bring happiness among the people life and bring the dreams of developed India true.

REFERENCE

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