

# Linkages of alcohol use with sexual risk behavior

H.K.Sharma\* , R.Sharma

\*Advisor, SANYAM&

Senior Research Officer (Former)  
AIIMS, New Delhi

Email : [harikeshaiims@rediffmail.com](mailto:harikeshaiims@rediffmail.com)

# Focus

- **Link between alcohol use and Sexual risk behaviors**
- **Alcohol use – extent & nature of problem**
- **Sexual risk behaviors in general population and risk groups**
- **Qualitative study**
- **Implications**

# Changing alcohol scene

- Multi-dimensional changes occur from 1990's onwards
- Many fold increase in production, availability of high content alcoholic beverages & association with economic development.
- Challenge to all stakeholders, including researchers, public health planners and policy makers

# Alcohol production/consumption 2010-11

Type of beverage	Million Liters	Million Liters( Ethanol)
Indian Made Foreign Liquor(IMFL)	1548.0	499.2(@40%)
Indian Made Country Liquor(IMCL)	3267.0	980.1(@30%)
Beer	1560.0	62.4(@4%)

# Repercussions

- Health and social repercussions emerge in a big way
- Latest example is rage and furor over and incident of gang rape and her death by a group of men, including a juvenile under the influence of alcohol.
- This brings an unexplored aspect of present alcohol policy, unrestricted availability of alcohol, drunken behavior and association with sexual risk behavior, violence and assault.

# Role of alcohol

- This also brings need to study role of alcohol in enhancing sociability, sensuality, desire and sexuality, sexual engagement and sexual risk.
- Effects of alcohol on social and contextual factors enhancing risk behavior.

# Research work

- A qualitative research study was conducted among vulnerable groups to explore linkages of alcohol use with risk taking behavior ( Tripathi, et al,2004)
- Ethnographic study ( Sharma,2010)
- Content analysis of leading newspapers from capital city.

## Link between alcohol use and sexual behaviour

### Focussed Group Discussions

Sex worker, Trucker, Restaurant workers, Industrial workers, Folk artist

### In-depth Interviews

Industrial worker, Truck driver, Auto-driver, Lift-man, Rickshaw puller, Alcohol seller, Alcohol user, student

### Key Informant Interviews

High income group, call girl, Trucker, Non brothel based sex worker, student

### Observations

**Data Analysis** -Descriptive analysis, Thematic/Conceptual, Immersion/crystallizing, Interaction, and Idiographic analysis



# Alcohol sexual behavior.....

- **Alcohol and sexual behaviour: (Industrial workers)**
- Absence of spouse increases risk of extramarital sex with neighbours/ acquaintances
- Visit to NBB-FCSW adjoining slums, poor destitute and sex workers at designated spots. Visit to BB-FCSW rare.
- Alcohol use before sex with regular (50%) & casual partner (70%)

# Alcohol sexual behavior

- **Alcohol and sexual behaviour(Truck Drivers)**
- No sexual encounters after heavy alcohol use.
- Under the influence of moderate intake, like to have sex with wayside women/ csw
- Do not search actively for a woman (sex worker) while on wheel.

# Alcohol sexual behavior

- **Alcohol and sexual behaviour: (Resturant Dhaba workers)**
- Sex an art, alcohol adds pleasure
- Peer influence
- Alcohol use before casual sex

# Alcohol sexual behavior

- **Linkage to alcohol and sexual behaviour:(Sex workers)**
- Prolonged sexual intercourse with customers to extract extra money.
- Risk taking behavior increases
- Sex in odd situations.
- Sex work, 8-10 clients/day, .Sex gives no enjoyment but alcohol helps in relieving tension.
- Whole thing is mechanical. Drinks with clients.

# Alcohol sexual behavior

- **Alcohol and sexual behaviour( Traditional folk artisans)**
- Alcohol use and extra- marital sex socially acceptable
- Social gain under influence of liquor
- Try to please woman of liking & develop physical relationships

# Factors:

- Combinations of factors play a role in initiation, maintenance of alcohol use and risk behaviors.
- Peer network has an important bearing on alcohol use and indulgence in high risk behaviors

# Role of alcohol

- Alcohol is viewed as ‘facilitator’ as well as ‘disinhibitor’ and increases probability of risky sexual encounters, oral, anal and group sex and other unsafe sexual practices.
- Sex workers attribute functional aspects of alcohol like prolong sex, acceptance of risky sexual acts and situations; cope with guilt feelings and to overcome monotonous life.

# Role of alcohol

- Long period of stay away from home, modeling of others' behavior, association of masculinity were some other factors for alcohol and sex risk behaviors in sub-groups.
- Alcohol use before the last sex with regular partners and almost every time alcohol use prior to commercial sex was frequent in risk groups.



# Inference

- Difficult to establish exclusive role in risk behaviour, sexual assault
- Host of factors: Psychological (Disinhibition) and social, environment emerged significant.
- Social contextual settings of alcohol intake become a key issue in risk taking behaviour and sexual assault.

# Conclusion

- Main qualitative study and analytical review bear important implications for public policies, health & psycho-social interventions & future research

# Conclusion....

- Alcoholic beverages assumes new significance as state policy
- Marketing strategies make availability to every corner, association with economic development, ambiguity in normative behavior & absence of coherent policy at national level.
- Challenge to all stakeholders

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- Thank you