

Families of alcoholic and social development: A sociological study

¹ AD Dayananda, ² Dr. GD Narayana

¹ Research Scholar, Dept. of PG studies and research Sociology, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

² Research Supervisor, Dept. of PG studies and research Sociology, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

Abstract

Alcohol Addiction is a family disease that stresses the family to the breaking point, impacts the stability of the home, the family's unity, mental health, physical health, finances, and overall family dynamics. Living with addiction can put family members under unusual stress. Normal routines are constantly being interrupted by unexpected or even frightening kinds of experiences that are part of living with alcohol and drug use. Family members react to the alcoholic with particular behavioural patterns. They may enable the addiction to continue by shielding the addict from the negative consequences of his actions. Such behaviours are referred to as co-dependency. In this way, the alcoholic is said to suffer from the disease of addiction, whereas the family members suffer from the disease of co-dependency and alcoholic families suffer from a range of problems. Spouses can live in constant conflict. Children may develop low self-esteem, loneliness and fear of abandonment. Infants may even be born with lifelong birth defects and other members of the families like father, mother, siblings, grandpa and grandmother so on. When support is not sought out, the results can be severe. Alcoholics have difficulty taking an objective view on life, and they may not realise that they are acting in an unfair or even abusive manner. The Alcoholism mainly causes to familial dysfunctions rather than others like conflict between spouses, infidelity, domestic violence, economic hardships, isolation or divorce, jealousy, resentments, fear, suicides, suspecting by alcoholics, education problems, so on hence the families of alcoholics are facing encounters to be developed in the society

We have objectives in this study to avail the information about families of Alcoholics and their status. And asses their problems through the structural and functional perspectives. And also we have hypotheses that families of Alcoholics are having obstacle to be developed.

Keywords: families of alcoholics, problems, developments, alcoholism

1. Introduction

The concept of social development is more concerned with the overall development of human beings. The social development aims at total development of people. And it is inter-sectoral, inter-regional and inter-disciplinary and visualizes institutional and structural reforms to provide greater social justice. The social development refers to the progressive improvement in the living conditions and quality of life enjoyed by the society and shared by its members. According to Bilance (1997.) Social development is the promotion of sustainable society that is worthy of human dignity by empowering marginalized group, women and men to undertake their own development to improve their social and economic position and to acquire their rightful place in society.

Alcoholism a chronic behavior disorder manifested by repeated drinking of alcoholic beverages in excess of the dietary and social uses of the community, and to the extent that interferes with the drinker health or his social or economic function. (Zimberg 1982) Alcoholism in family systems refers to the conditions in families that enable alcoholism, and the effects of alcoholic behavior by one or more family members on the rest of the family. It is a family disease that stresses the family to the breaking point, impacts the stability of the home, the family's unity, mental health, physical health, finances, and overall family dynamics. Living with addiction can put family members under unusual stress. Normal routines are constantly being interrupted by unexpected or even frightening kinds of

experiences that are part of living with alcohol and drug use. Family members react to the alcoholic with particular behavioral patterns. They may enable the addiction to continue by shielding the addict from the negative consequences of his actions. Such behaviors are referred to as co-dependency. In this way, the alcoholic is said to suffer from the disease of addiction, whereas the family members suffer from the disease of co-dependency.

Alcoholism is one of the leading causes of a dysfunctional family rather than others and also ruins the lives of family members. Alcoholism does not have uniform effects on all families. The levels of dysfunction Alcoholic families suffer from a range of problems. Like conflicts between spouses, infidelity, domestic violence, economic hardships, isolation or divorce, jealousy, resentments, fear, suicides, suspecting by alcoholics, education problems, so on. Spouses can live in constant conflict. Children may develop low self-esteem, loneliness and fear of abandonment. Infants may even be born with lifelong birth defects and rest of the members of his families like father, mother, siblings, grandpa and grandmother so on. When support is not sought out, the results can be severe. Alcoholics have difficulty taking an objective view on life, and they may not realize that they are acting in an unfair or even abusive manner. Alcoholism usually has strong negative effects on marital relationships. Separated and divorced men and women were three times as likely as married men and women to say they had been married to an

alcoholic or problem of drinker. Many arguments about drinking, such as money problems, staying out late, not taking care of responsibilities in the home, and so forth. With all this said, here are a few reasons why wives of alcoholics stays in a relationship with the alcoholic husband. 1) Gripped with fear as to what life might be. 2) Feeling that children are better off with two parents rather than one, regardless of the discomfort and tension in the household. 3) The alcoholic/addict is the chief money maker and you would be left financially compromised. 4) Fear of retribution. 5) Fear of being alone. 6) Embarrassed and ashamed. 7) What will people say: gossip. 8) Made a commitment -- religious constraints. 9) Poor reflection on self and self-esteem. So on these are the main factors to the wives living with the alcohol addicted husband. Hence the families of alcoholics are facing encounters to the development in the society.

Review of related literature:

- 1) *Robert j. Ackerman. PhD (Alcoholism and family)*- living with a alcoholic is a family affair. Because it subjects all members of a household to constant stress and fear of various kinds, it has often been referred to as a "family illness". To one degree or another degree. All members of the family are affected. However not all alcoholic families nor all members of the same family are affected in a similar manner.
- 2) *James and Goldman (1971)*- found out that the wives of alcoholic used all sorts of coping they themselves were more quarrelsome, they felt angry, they felt helplessness on other occasions, they adopted a strategy of withdrawing or avoiding the husband altogether. They had tried to get drunk themselves to show them what it was like or they had locked the husband out of the home.

Objective of the study

The objectives of this research study are

- To collect the information's of social development of Alcoholic families through the Structural - functional perspectives.
- To identify factors influencing the hindrance of social development of alcoholic families.

Hypothesis of the study

The hypothesis of this research study is

- The families of alcoholics are encountering various problems in social development due to alcoholism.

Importance of the study

- Alcoholism is burning issues in our present society thus this study is on alcoholism has prominence.
- And it's also gains importance to know the families of alcoholics and social development and showing the picture of many problems they have been facing by alcoholism.
- Till now the research on families of alcoholics and social development was not studied in this area thus it gains importance
- This study is helpful to concerned persons, sociologists, students, research scalars, administrators, and reformers.

Methodology

In this present study we used simple random sampling method and selected 50 wives from the Alcoholics families. And used

direct interview, interview schedule, observation method and cross sectional methods and descriptive design was used to assess the problems of wives of Alcoholics in across Hassan district and also used secondary and primary resources.

Resources of information

- **Primary resources;** - The data will be collected by primary sources with the help of interview guide 50 wives of alcoholics and other members of the alcoholic's families will be interviewed for the present sociological study.
- **Secondary sources;**- Through secondary sources also data will be collected, in these articles, journal reviews, census reports, some community related study materials will be used for the study.

Statement clarification

- **Families of alcoholics:** Alcoholism in family systems refers to the conditions in families that enable alcoholism, and the effects of alcoholic behavior by one or more family members on the rest of the family. It is a family disease that stresses the family to the breaking point, impacts the stability of the home, the family's unity, mental health, physical health, finances, and overall family dynamics. Living with addiction can put family members under unusual stress.
- **Social development:** The concept of social development is more concerned with the overall development of human beings. The social development aims at total development of people. And it is inter-sector, inter-regional and inter-disciplinary and visualizes institutional and structural reforms to provide greater social justice.
- **Sociological Study:** It is the one of the scientific study method for the scientific analysis of the societal aspects. Its includes with the study perspectives like social, historical, educational, political, economical cultural, religious statistical and etc.

Theoretical frame work of the study

Preparation for research Paper on "families of alcoholics and social development" has been done on Structure- Functional perspectives

Topographical features of the study

Our research area is Hassan district. Hassan District is one of the 30 districts in Karnataka state located in the south-western part of Karnataka in India. The district has had an eventful and rich history. In the past, it reached the height of its glory during the rule of the Hoysala S who had their capital at Dwarasamudra, the modern Halebeed in Belur Taluk. The district, noted for its enchanting natural scenic beauty is also a veritable treasure-house of Hoysala architecture and sculpture, the best specimens of which are at Belur and Halebeed. Shraavanabelagola, in Channarayapatna taluk, which is studded with Jain monument, is a renowned centre of pilgrimage for the Jains. Population and growth trends: As per the 2011 census the population of Hassan district is 1,776,421. Out of which 1,399,658 is the rural population and 3,76,763 is urban population. The percentage of rural and urban population to the total population according to 2011 census is 6,95,583 is Male population in rural areas and 1,88,84 in urban areas in other hand 7,04.075 is female population in rural areas and

1,88,679 in urban areas respectively. Average literacy rate is 72.79%, in rural areas and 88.36% in urban areas. And 81.41% is male literacy rate in rural areas, 91.94% in urban areas and 64.29% is female literacy rate in rural areas, 84.81% in urban areas.

Data analysis

The data collected by using all the research methods, and others sources are analysis by essential statistical techniques by using analysis these data research report was finished on sociological framework

Table 1 Personal profile of the respondents

S. No.	Personal Profile of the Respondents					
1	Age	25-35	36-45	46-55	55+	
		16	22	08	04	
2	Gender	Male	Female			
		00	50			
3	Caste	Vakkaliga	SC-ST	kuruba	lingayatha	Others
		10	10	08	04	08
4	Religion	Hindu	Christian	Muslim		
		32	08	10		
5	Education	Illiterates	Primary	Secondary	Higher	
		8	22	12	08	
6	Profession	Farmers	Labors	Govt. officials	Housewives	
		18	20	02	10	
7	Monthly income	Up to 5000	5001-20000	20001-40000	40001-100000	100000+
		32	10	06	02	00
8	Marital status	Married	Unmarried	Separated		Widow
		38	00	04		08
9	Types of family	Nuclear family			Joint family	
		50			00	
10	Place of living	Rural			Urban	
		32			18	

In demographic information age, gender, education qualification, profession, marital status, income size of family, place of living etc, are various information's are followings:

- **Age;**- Age of respondents is important factor in the time of interviewee, Because if the respondents are below 18 years old they are may immature or minor it's denotes they have no legal entity and above 60 years old their mantle fitness may differ so in between the age 18 -60 its importance to the interview. Hence we have interviewed 32% of the wives of Alcoholic respondents were 25-35 years old. And 44% were 36-45 years old. 16% were 46-55 years old. 08% respondents were 55+ years old and above
- **Gender;** - Gender is also one of the major factor in the time of interview because male and female have different physical and mantle status. For this study we have interviewed 100% of female respondents.
- **Cast:** - Indian society is a complex society it's having different casts, tribes, and others. At the area of research in India casts has important role in interview alcoholism is various formed in different caste in India, 20% of vakkaliga respondents were found at the interview. 20% of SC-ST and 16% of kurubas, 08% of lingayats. 16% of the respondents were belongs to other categories.
- **Religion:**- India has comprising the different religions, it is renowned as land of religions. So people belonging to different religions in our society so it has important role in the interview. We have interviewed 64% of Hindu respondents of alcoholic families and 16% of Christian and 20% of Muslim women respondents were found
- **Education;** - Education is an important factor in the time of interview because in modern in educated respondents will clearly understand the question and situation of research so we have interviewed 16% of the respondent's

illiterates. 44% were having primary education. 24% having secondary education and only 16% were having higher education.

- **Professions;** - profession is also important element in the time of interview. It denotes the respondent's socio-economic conditions. So we found 36% of farmers. 40% of labors, 04% of Govt. employs, 20% of house wives.
- **Monthly income;** - monthly income is also important element in the time of interview it reveals the economic status of the respondents so we found 64% of the respondent family having income up to Rs 5000. 20% were having income from 5001-20000 Rs. 12% were having income up to 20001- 40000 Rs. 4% were having income up to 40000-100000.
- **Marital status;**- marital status of the respondents it explains accountability of the family, society and it reveals the respondents social backgrounds 76% of the wives of alcoholics respondents were married. 08% were separated. 16% of were widows.
- **Types of Family:** - family is also major influencing factor at the time of interview. Families have been divided in to two types as joint family and nuclear family. For concerning topic we have interviewed 100% of the respondents who were belong to nuclear family
- **Place of living;**- place of living is important factor at the time of interview, majorly place of living has classified in two type as rural and urban, for this study we have selected 64% of the respondents in rural and 36% of the respondents have interviewed in urban area

Thematic analysis of the study

Attitudes, opinions, experience and knowledge about effects of alcoholism on Families in social development

The families of alcoholics have been confronting the various problems since few decades ago; those families have beyond

of developing in the society. And they have been faced socio-economic hardship.

Table 2: Families of Alcoholic and Social Development.

S. No.	Hindrance of social development of alcoholic families.	Agree	Disagree
01	Alcoholic can lead to Domestic violence.	80%	20%
02	Disrespects from the society	80%	20%
03	Wife of alcoholic should get the job for get away from economic problems and being financially secure.	68%	32%
04	Alcohol can make one sick that have addicted to it.	66%	34%
05	Gradual withdrawal from main stream of the society.	80%	20%
06	Alcoholism can lead to family disorganization.	90%	10%
07	Alcoholism can lead to economically insolvency.	94%	06%
08	Children drunk due to the impacts of alcoholic father.	50%	50%
09	society is glorifying the alcoholism	40%	60%
10	Alcoholism can leads to problems of education and new marriage proposal for the children's	76%	24%
11	Alcoholism is a great hindrance to the social development.	92%	08%

- **Alcoholic can lead to domestic violence:** - 80% of the wives and rest of the members of Alcoholic family were agreed that he is the main cause of domestic violence, he is very often used to make arguments, fights with family members especially on wife rather than others for the different reasons. But in other 20% of the respondents disagreed because an alcoholic may be jovial/happy to intoxication or being silent.
- **Disrespects from the society:** - 80% of the families of alcoholics agreed that they having disrespects from society, neighbor, friends and relatives due to alcoholic in the family. Rest of the members of alcoholic families having limited opportunities because they are neglected and ignored by the main stream of society. The children of alcoholic families facing disrespects by the friends or peer group. In other hand 20% of the families of alcoholic have disagreed because they have lack of awareness about it.
- **Wife of alcoholic should get the job for get away from economic problems and being financially secure:** - 68% of wives of alcoholics are agree that wife of alcoholic should get the job for get away from economic problems and to be financial security of the family, because in patriarchal family men is the main financial sources of the family, where he is alcoholic he doesn't capable to work inside or outside of the home, hence it leads to financial burden of the family. Thus wife should get the job to survive in the society. 33% of respondents were disagreed because wives of alcoholics are not able to work out side of home because gender issue, illiteracy, physical disability,
- **Alcohol can make one sick that have addicted to it:** - Quite a number (64%) of respondents agreed that alcohol can make one. Sick who have addicted to it, as against only 36% of the respondents disagreed. The. Discussion were held with the wives of alcoholics, they revealed their alcoholic husband alcohol related diseases' like chronic diseases, nerves disorder, amnesia, cirrhosis of lever, insomnia, Anaemia, fatigue, cancer and road accidents it is too health risk posed by drinking.
- **Gradual withdrawal from main stream of the society:-** This statement was confirmed by 80% of the families of alcoholic have agreed that Rest of the members like wife, children, siblings, parents of in alcoholic experiences mental illness, discomfort, inferiority, fear, resentments, loss of self-respect, anxiety, isolation, and gradual social

- withdrawal from main stream of the society. In several cases they have committed to suicide. 20% of the respondents were disagreed to it.
- **Alcoholism can lead to family disorganization:** - The majority of alcoholic families (90%) have agreed that alcoholism is the main cause to the family disorganization. Alcoholism can dysfunction families, an alcoholic effects severely on rest of the members of the family it's results of marital conflicts, divorce, broken family, children's low self-esteem, suicide, crimes, malnutrition and domestic violence so on. 10% of the respondents disagreed. It seems like they are not aware of the addictive nature of alcohol.
- **Alcoholism can lead to economically insolvency:** - Quite a highest percentage (94%) of the respondents agreed that alcoholism is the main factor to economically insolvency of the family. An alcoholic puts his family towards financial hardship, he is incapable to work and earn the money, in spite of that he spends huge amount of money to consuming alcohol for a period by stole and sell the valuable things and property of his own family. In other hand 06% of the respondents disagreed because wives or children do not let alcoholic to do above.
- **Children drunk due to the impacts of alcoholic:-** Half of the percentage (50%) of respondents agreed to children are also becoming alcoholic because their parent drunk. Consumption of alcohol by the parents can effects directly on their children because the children are often used imitates their parents. But other half of the percentage (50%) of the respondents disagreed the children have aware of addictive nature of alcohol.
- **Society is glorifying the alcoholism:-**(40%) agreed that society is glorifying the alcoholism such as print media, electronic media and social Medias are encouraging alcoholism, and celebrities and icons can influence through the add of liquor brant on common people that is why huge number of people following them and consuming alcohol. And 60% of the respondents disagreed to it.
- **Alcoholism can leads to problems of education and new marriage proposal for the children:** - 76% of families of alcoholic are agreed that alcoholism in the family can lead to problems of education and new marriage proposal for the children. An alcoholic is not able remit the children's school/college fee, and make marry his children due the insolvency, and new marriage proposal won't come to his daughter/son because of alcoholic in the family. And 34%

of the respondents disagreed because mother has been financially supported to her children, separated from alcoholic husband and excluded him.

- **Alcoholism is a great hindrance to the social development:** - majority of the families of alcoholic (92%) agreed that alcoholism is a great hinderer to the social development. Alcoholism is one of the major problems in development of society, alcoholism can leads to family disorganization, family disorganization can cause the social disorganization, and also it is responsible for crimes, road disasters, murder, robing, deterioration of youth education, and poverty so on. But only 08% of the respondents disagreed. It seems like they are not aware of the addictive nature of alcohol. Hence it would be important to give them information about effects of alcoholism.

Findings

- The families of alcoholic are confronting various problems in the society.
- At the same time rest of the members of families of alcoholic such ad wives of alcoholics and children being inferiors, low self-esteem, low self-worthy, isolation and gradual social withdrawal.
- Families of Alcoholics are struggling every time to lead a life and survive in the society and to be developed.

Suggestions

- The problems of the wives of the alcoholics should be heard patiently with empathy by society.
- The society should think broadly, help and encourage the victim of alcoholic.
- The government has to open counseling centre at village, level, municipality and corporation ward level units and to appoint psychiatrist to counsel of victims of alcoholic husbands.
- The government should abolish the consumption of alcohol like which was done in Kerala state and the same was upheld by the apex court of India recently, same thing should be followed by the all respective states and union territories of India.
- The de-addiction centre should work effectively and efficiently.
- “Pana samyama madali” of Karnataka State government has to work efficiently to prevent the alcoholism.

Conclusions

Today the families of alcoholic are confronting various problems like, poverty, domestic violence, insecurity, isolation and gradual withdrawal from society, depression, mental illness and Often tries to hide and deny the existing problems of alcoholic, those families are under development in society and they have to be developed.

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