

Uses of Tobacco and Alcohol among Slum dwellers : A Study on Three Towns of Assam

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Abstract:

Tobacco and alcohol, the two leading factors are correlated with health hazards in slum areas. The present study is based on uses of tobacco and alcohol (intoxicating items) among slum dwellers in urban areas. The word intoxicating items are mostly directed to tobacco products and alcohol consumption. The objectives of the study were to examine the uses of different kind of tobacco products and the factors associated with act of dwellers deviant activities in slum areas. The three towns of Dibrugarh, Jorhat and Tinsukia

Note:

For the purpose of present study the words are used as (called as operational definition) :

Ever user: Respondents who have consumed tobacco and alcohol even once in their life.

Current user: Respondents who have consumed tobacco and alcohol even every day in their life (it is applicable only field survey time).

Never user: Respondents who have never consumed tobacco and alcohol even once in their life.

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slums area under municipality board has purposively selected for the study. All the information were collected either from the head of the household or from a responsible adult member. Data was collected through in-depth interview of at least two to four key informers and some case study about the respondent's problems through the use of intoxicating items.

Keywords : Slum, Alcohol, Tobacco

1.0. Introduction :

Slum dwellers are playing an important role in city life. Most of slum areas are resided with inner city forum and outskirts of the city. The positive and negative contribution would be negotiated with the slum formation history. **Thakur (1987)** has analyzed that slums are temporally settlements and who are not accumulated by expensive rented house. Therefore, they have moved in one to another living place. He has also discussed the movement of the dwellers. In that movement pattern of dwellers, Turner has defined three types like the early transition, mid transition and late transition.

In the developing country like India, over the years the slums have emerged as an integral such as controversial and almost unavoidable forms of urban morphology. As it has been observed that over the years some deviant activities led by the slum's environment. Consequently, such type of activities has provoked with some criminal behavior and creates some criminals in those areas and these activities tackle the problems of slum and their urban environment.

One of the prominent Chicago Sociologist Zorbaugh, has illustrated the disintegration and disorganization would be visible in the slums. Due to prostitute, criminal and out-laws are created slums conflict of people to people. **(Singh.et.al.2008)** studied the slums of Mumbai and substance use among of them. They have finalized that the high use of substance and alcohol men become more effected HIV/AIDS and such diseases. On the other hand, some types of cities, people have demanded that alcohol use is a tradition, but alcohol abuse is a health problem. Due to incidence of health, most of the urban developing countries the morbidity and mortality rate is also increased. Use of tobacco and consumption of beddi/ cigarette, pan and gutkha is mostly addictive in nature and dangerous for health. Mumbai slum dwellers were highly consuming tobacco and other intoxicating items. Men

and women both have used intoxicating items. About 250 million women in the world are daily smokers. About 22% of women in developed countries used smoke tobacco.

2.0. Field and Methodology:

This study is carried out in three towns of Upper Assam, under Dibrugarh, Jorhat and Tinsukia municipality board. Under these towns, nine slums were purposively selected from notified and non-notified area. Each household from one adult member is selected for the study. Therefore 5% of respondents from each slum household have been selected and sum total 321. In the present study qualitative and quantitative methods have been used. For the collection of data both primary and secondary sources were being used. Primary sources of data comprised of interview schedule, focus group discussion, and snowball sampling and observation method. Secondary sources of data were consisting of various sources of books, municipality records, articles and so on.

The study has emphasized on both male and female. From the collection of data 164 (51.09%) respondents are female and 157 (49%) belongs to male. (For the purpose of the study social evils also applied through the augmented social problems of slums. It has referred to some kind of deviant activities after the tobacco users, high use of alcohol creates over-crowding and promote such wife battering).

For the classification and analysis of data, SPSS for windows trial version 20 comprising of frequency and cross tabulation and chart has been used in the study.

2.1. Objectives:

1. To explain the uses of tobacco and other intoxicating items among of slum dwellers.
2. To analyzed the factors responsible for deviant activities through the high use of intoxicating items.

3.0. Analysis and Findings

3.1. Uses of Tobacco:

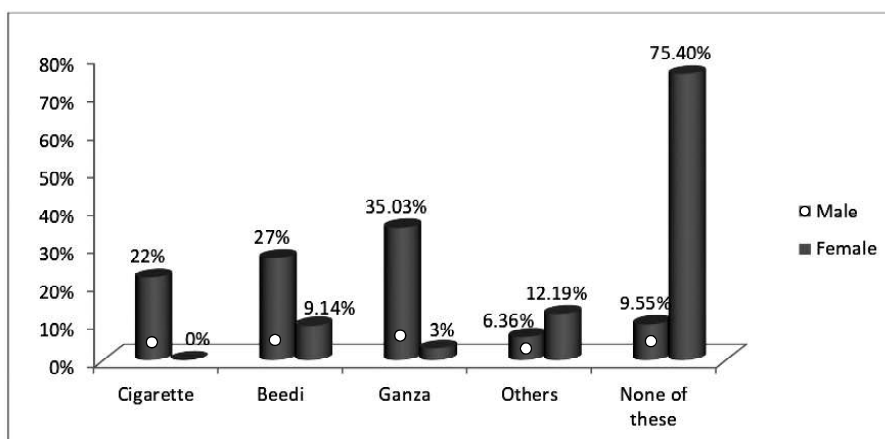
Tobacco consumption among the slum dwellers in urban slum is an emerging public health issue and over the years control of tobacco epidemic has become a major challenge

towards our society. Adolescence of today's era consume tobacco in a very high proportion. Another study in context of Assam reveals that the use of tobacco among school going adolescence is 26.5% which was much higher than the present study (Das, et.al 2017)

Throughout the world, 8 million people are killed each year due to the consumption of tobacco products. More than 7 million deaths are the result of direct use tobacco; while around 1.2 million people die of being non-smokers being exposed to second hand smoke (Mackay& Erikson, 2002).

Tobacco is of two types-Smoking form and smoke less form. Cigarette is the most common smoking product worldwide. Cigarette producing companies are always hazardous to our health in an environment, but people still consume cigarette. The addiction of bhang and ganga and other smoking products also hampers one's health. Smokeless tobacco products like gutkha, pan-masala, khaini and other traditional is highly addictive and damaging to health. It contains many cancer-causing toxins and its use increases the risk of cancers in head, neck, throat and various dental problems. The smokeless and smoking tobacco items by both male and female in slums is discussed in the following figure.

Figure 1 : Percentage wise distribution of respondent's current user according to smoking forms of tobacco both male and female



Sources: Primary

Figure 1 describes the intake of smoking and intoxicating items among the slum dwellers in the selected slums. It is seen that in the slums of all the three selected towns, the percent-

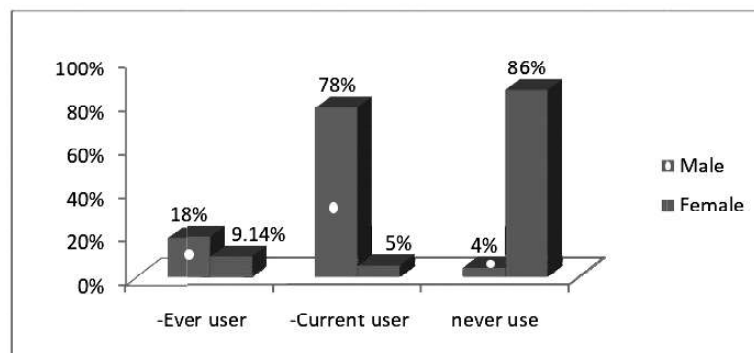
age of male consumers of cigarette are 22% and 27%. 9.14 percent of female. Beedi users male are 27 percent where male and 9.14 percent of female user. Remaining 3 percent of ganza users are female and 35.03 percent are male. 75.40 percent of total female (164 respondents) have not used any smoking form of tobacco.

3.1. Alcohol consumption among slum dwellers

Consumption of alcohol is a primary necessity of the society and a way to get relief from mental and physical stress. But high alcohol consumption sometimes creates common problems in our society as well. However, it depends on the pattern of drinking and the amount of alcohol consumed by the body. Without proper observation and experiment, drinking patterns could not be identified and at the very outset the quantity of alcohol is also a major factor to assess the drunkards. So, he or she may be a drunkard but it depends on how many times they drink, in what quantity and the time gap within each time they drink.

In regard to alcohol consumption, a large group of population confronts different health issues in the developing Countries as well as in developed. (Ghosh, et.al.2012) discusses the consumption of alcohol among the slum dwellers of Calcutta. They have clearly announced that chronic diseases like cancer, social consequences such as accidents, workplace issues, family related problems and domestic violence are highly dominated by

Figure 2 : Percentage wise distribution of alcohol use both male and female

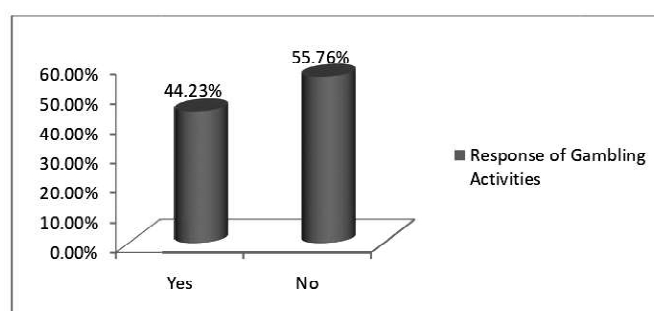


Sources: Primary alcohol consumption. Adult people and youth are mostly harmed by the high use of alcohol. While for the people those are used to it; alcohol has become their basic need. Eventually,

it frequently harms the family and society. On the other hand, alcohol abuse is the man killer in India. The present study claims that alcohol is the main problems in slums as the slum dwellers consume the high amount of alcohol items.

From the above figure it has been seen the alcohol users among of slum dwellers in urban environment. 78% of dwellers are male current alcohol user and only 5% of dwellers are female.

Figure3: Percentage wise response of gambling activities



Source : Primary

Figure 3 depicted the nine selected slums, dwellers total percentage of response of the gambling work. 44.23% of dwellers are associated with this activity. 55.76% of dwellers have not involved with this activity.

Present study found that after use of alcohol, dwellers are so violent and behavior is not good, and create hazard environment. Due to uses of alcohol and tobacco items create such types of deviant activities in that environment respectively. Gambling is one of them, in such area's gamblers are hampers to the local people and present study observed that many slum dwellers have used khaini and cigarette in that place. Therefore, the gambling is not a profession; it is the way to interact on other deviant activities. Present study also found that most of the grocery's sale alcohol at cheap price. But other dwellers who have not involved this kind of behavior, they were against to the selling of alcohol.

One of the important factors responsible for the high consume of alcohol and tobacco is illiteracy. Many dwellers did not know about the consequence of their economic background for the uses of intoxicating items. Secondly school drop-out children. After dropping out some of them have engaged with parent's occupation, some are with beggary

occupation, particularly girls were forced to get married and some of them have associated with planning and interaction with for deviant activities and act as criminal behavior with known criminals. Therefore, the theft and pick-pocketing are increased day by day in main town. Thirdly poor economic background, many of them engaged with daily wage earner and their monthly income level is below 5000. But they are not responsible for society and family, though they have consumed daily the intoxicating products. Fourthly lack of recreational facilities is also an important factor. After working the whole day, they have no leisure time and are not interested to solve the problems of family. So, to relieve from the stress (45%) of dwellers uses alcohol. Due to drunkard nature, they have used slang word and it hints to the lacking of family intimacy among of dwellers. Sometimes it leads to the broken family too. The present study observed that some of cases in that particular matter. Sometimes violence takes private therefore it is difficult to assist the victims. Wife battering since it occurs within the family and is treated as a private matter. There are several cases of wife battering due to abuse of alcohol and such deviant behavior. Two such cases are below as illustrations:

One of the dwellers from Dibrugarh slums, aged 48 years migrated from Bihar. He was a rickshaw puller; he often consumes alcohol on daily basis; He is working as a casual wage earner and his wife becomes a maid servant. Along with his family, he harassed his wife both mentally and physically.

His wife stated that after marriage he was came to Assam and their accommodation was not good. Then they have to stay at rental house till today. At present their house rent is 1000 monthly, and their monthly income is below 5000. But the lack of space (one room) and without electricity they have adjusted from 10 years. Poor background and illiteracy are the main cause for that situation.

There is another case of Tinsukia, aged 20 years with 2 children. Her husband was working as a driver and had the habit of coming home drunkard every night. She has narrated her condition “I was finished my school education at class vii. My family was very poor and we are 4 girls and 3 boys. When I was 16 my parents forced me to get marriage. My husband is a drunkard and coming home very late. I spend all my time doing housework. He beats me if I consulted my daily activities after he had arrived home. He consumed alcohol most of the time. My husband does not allow me to come for health check-up; if I consulted this matter to others, he beats me.”

Conclusion:

From the above analysis and finding it can be concluded that with the use of alcohol and other intoxicating consumption lead to the many problems among the dweller life and their society. Present study observed that the high amount of slum dwellers are belongs to outskirts of the town and their socio-economic condition is not good, health status is not hygienic, economic status is low, educational status is not good, broken family are seen and many problems of their society. □

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