

Editorial.....

Alcoholism in Chhattisgarh: A breaker of development

Alcohol is being used as common drink in so-called modern human society to enjoy any occasion and it is the one of most commonly abused substance. Alcoholism has various adverse and harmful consequences to the individual, family as well as society. Empirical evidences show a causal relationship between more than 60 types of diseases and alcohol. Some of the consequences of alcohol abuse are interpersonal violence with partner, violence in family and society, road traffic accident, financial source depletion, excessive burden on health cost, employment's problem etc. In addition alcoholism leads to significant impairment in attention, executive functions, visuo-constructive ability and verbal-visual learning and memory. This problem is more critical in some specific areas like Chhattisgarh. Addressing and discussing above critical aspects of behaviour and cognitive function may be useful to conduct awareness programs about problems of alcoholism in turn to enhance well-being of people as they can participate in the process of development with their maximum capacity.

Human being is suffering worldwide from over and uncontrolled consumption of different kind of substances. Alcohol is one of most common substances being used for various causes. It is well known for us that, nearly all the medicines and many packaged drink/foods contain a limited alcohol base. Can say that, perhaps no one on the earth without taking alcohol in any form, but ones breaks the natural limit it is considered as abuse.

Alcohol abuse is a critical national issue, but it is more serious in Chhattisgarh state. State-wise details of a survey regarding drug abuse were made public by the Social Justice Ministry. The data shows a high proportion of children have reported alcohol use. Dr Atul Ambekar, Head of AIIMS National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre have said that, this is highly worrying trend and immediately needs intervention by social workers, NGOs and government. He also added that more than half of the male population of Chhattisgarh, Tripura and Punjab are uses alcohol.

A report was published by Aditi Tandon, 2019 through www.tribuneindia.com, in which it is mentioned that Researchers have found a considerable variation regarding prevalence of alcohol abuse in the country and the states with high prevalence of alcohol use are Chhattisgarh (35.6 per cent), Tripura (34.7 per cent) and Punjab (28.5 per cent) in comparison to India's average of 14.6 per cent. Bigger details of this report disclose that Indians are intensive drinkers which are evident from the choice of drink and high concentration products preferred over low ones as well as from the quantity of alcohol consumed during a single occasion. Approximately

2 / Alcoholism in Chhattisgarh: A breaker of development

half (43 per cent) of alcohol users consume more than four drinks all through a single occasion, which indicates heavy episodic drinking. High proportion of alcohol abusers experience problems like getting involved in physical clash after drinking (26.8 per cent), day time uses of alcohol (21.2 per cent) and drunken road accidents (4.1 per cent) the survey findings show. A report of National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) shows that alcoholism plays a major role in 70 to 85 per cent of offences against women.

Although no empirical studies are available, but increasing incidence of alcoholism in the villages of Chhattisgarh stems from the far-too-easy, 24x7 availability of liquor. This is because of the Kochia (the sales agents appointed in villages by liquor contractors) who illegally stock and trade liquor all the day and night. It is very common to see comparably a big crowd before any shop of alcohol and a long queue of people selling and drinking Desi alcohol like Salfi and Mahua in daily local markets.

This editorial discussion is an attempt to focus of attention towards one of the major issues of Chhattisgarh, especially tribal society like unstoppable consumption of Salfi (a type of alcohol get by a specific type of tree) and alcohol made by rice/mahua. Tribal people both male/female are increasingly involved in this anti-welfare act on the cost of their food items, forest products, vegetable, wages, etc. Hope, this discussion will draw the attention of researchers, social workers, NGO's and policy makers of Government towards such a critical issue of alcoholism which considerably affects individuals wellbeing and put a break in the development of family, community, state as well as nation.

Date :

Dr. Jay Singh
Associate Editor
Dr. Basant Kumar Sonber
Managing & Joint Editor