

A STUDY TO ASSESS THE ATTITUDE AMONG THE WIVES OF ALCOHOLICS TOWARDS THE TREATMENT OF ALCOHOLISM

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ABSTRACT

AIM: To assess the attitude among the wives of alcoholic towards the treatment of alcoholism. **Methods:** A Non experimental research Design was adopted. The study was conducted OPD at selected hospital. The population of the study was wives of alcoholics attending the OPD with their husbands in selected hospital selected by using convenient sampling technique. A total of 20 sample were selected. Structured interviewed consisted of two section. Section I dealt with demographic profile and section 2 dealt with the problem of alcoholism. The data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. **Result:** The data revealed that majority of the study subjects

(60%) had positive attitude towards the treatment of alcoholism and 40% of sample had negative attitude towards the treatment of alcoholism. **Conclusion:** The finding of the study concluded that the spouse had both positive and negative attitude during and after treatment of their alcoholic husbands.

KEYWORDS: To assess the attitude among the wives of their alcoholic husbands.

INTRODUCTION

Alcoholism is major health problem. This problem has been used for centuries to relieve discomfort, anxiety and tension. It is a modern health problem everywhere, in every society both in developed and developing countries. A large number of alcoholics are found in USA, UK, Ireland and India. Over 90% of the adult population drink alcohol to some extent.^[6] Average men consume one and a half pegs of beer a day or equivalent. Young adults drink more than other groups especially men. Alcoholism is major problem in United States and Soviet Union. In India the different drug surveys have shown the prevalence of alcoholism as

20%-50% currently the annual consumption of pure alcohol in the united states in about three gallons per person over fourteen years age (beer, wine and distilled spirits are commonly used). There are more than hundred million users of alcohol in the United States.^[4] Out of this twelve to fifteen million experience episode of abusive use of alcohol and are Labelled as alcoholics. Individual who are drinking seriously impairs their life adjustment, in term of health, personal relationship and occupational functioning. There are more than two lakhs of new cases each year. The alcoholic is more common in males and shows an increase in prevalence with the age. In our country many men are alcoholics, so the wives are also physically, mentally and psychologically affected in order to assess the attitude of wives of alcoholic towards the treatment of alcoholism and motivate their participation in their treatment this study was conducted. A study was conducted on assessment of the quality of life among alcoholics attending selected de-addiction centers (2003), Kerala. A standardized tool was used with self-administered questionnaire. 80 alcoholic subjects were selected with convenient sampling technique. The obtained chi square value 0.178($p>0.05$) was not significant. Majority 57 (71.2%) alcoholics had moderate quality of life. Least number of alcoholics 23(28.8%) reported high quality of life. Results shows that association between age and quality of life, education & quality of life, income. & quality of life, duration of habituation & quality of life, age of dependent life & quality of life is 0.504($p>0.05$), 2.03($p>0.05$), 1.738($p>0.05$), 0.178($p>0.05$), 5.99($p>0.05$) respectively.^[9]

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In order to accomplish the main objective to assess the attitude among the wives of alcoholics towards the treatment of alcoholism. A non-experimental descriptive study survey method was used. A sample size was 20 selected using non-probability convenient sampling technique used to select the study participants. The procedure for data collection period was 1 month. Wives of alcoholics attending the OPD for the treatment of their husband were interviewed, by the investigator and those who fulfilled the inclusion criteria were selected for the study.

Description of Research Tools

Methods used: structured interview method which consist of two section.

Section-1: This section dealt with demographics details of alcoholics which includes name, age, number of children, educational qualification, occupational, income, religion, economic status and place of stay.

Section-2: This section dealt with both positive and negative question about the attitude of wives of alcoholic regarding their treatment of alcoholism of their husband hence it includes seven positive question and seven negative question about treatment of alcoholics. Totally this section has fourteen question. The tool was prepared in English and translated in Tamil.

RESULTS

Table. I: Frequency and percentage distribution of wives of alcoholics by their demographics variables.

S. No	Demographic Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1	Age		
	(a)20-30 years	6	30%
	(b)30-40 years	6	30%
	(c)40-50 years	7	35%
	(d)above 50 years	1	5%
2	Number of children		
	(a)One	8	40%
	(b)Two	8	40%
	(c)Three	3	15%
	Above 3	1	5%
3	Religion		
	(a)Hindu	15	75%
	(b)Muslim	2	10%
	(c)Christian	3	15%
	(d)Others	0	0%
4	Economic status		
	(a)low	6	30%
	(b)Middle	13	65%
	(c)Upper class	1	5%
5	Place of stay		
	(a)Town	10	50%
	(b)Corporation	9	45%
	(c)Municipality	1	5%
6	Educational qualification		
	Illiterate	3	15%
	Primary	8	40%
	Secondary	5	25%
	Higher secondary	4	20%
7	Occupation		
	Agriculture	3	15%
	Business	2	10%
	Government servant	2	10%
	Private employee	13	65%
8	Income		
	Below Rs.1500 p.m.	6	30%
	Rs.1500-3000 p.m.	5	25%
	Rs.3000-6000 p.m.	8	40%

	Above Rs.6000 p.m.	1	5%
9	Alcoholic person in your House		
	None	-	-
	Father	5	25%
	Brother	8	40%
	Son	7	35%

N=20

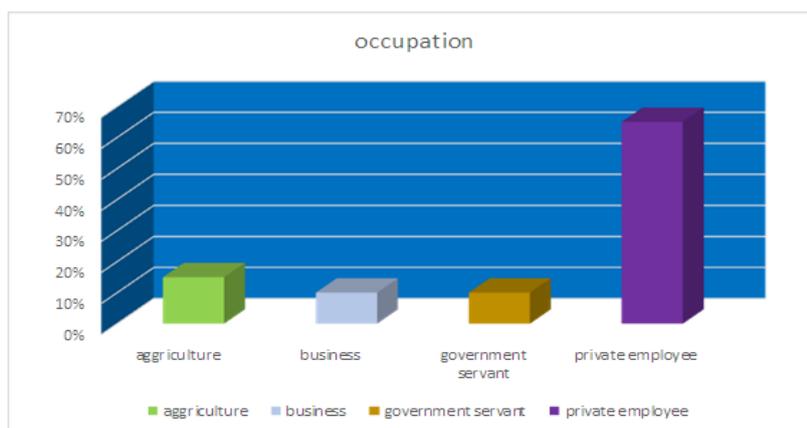
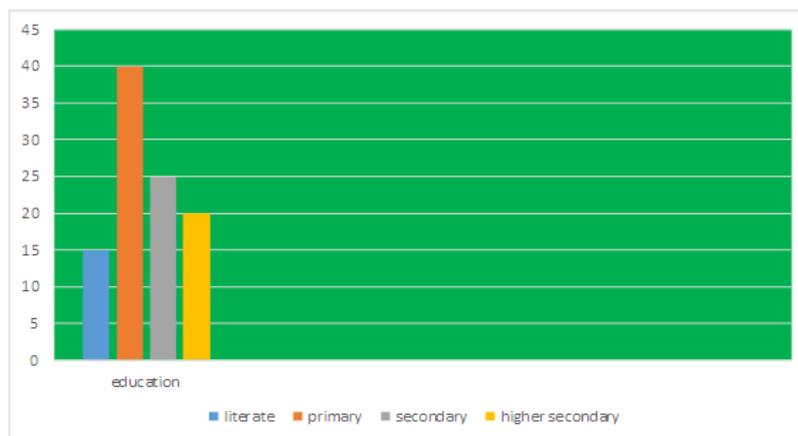


Table. 2: Frequency and percentage score of wives of alcoholic regarding positive question.

S. No	Positive question	Always	Some times	Never
1.	I like to take my husband to the hospital for treatment	13 (65%)	7 (35%)	- (0%)
2.	I accept counselling should be given to my husband	14 (70%)	6 (30%)	- (10%)
3.	I want to keep the treatment confidential	11 (55%)	6 (30%)	3 (15%)
4.	I think after taking treatment my husband will be cured	17 (85%)	6 (30%)	- (0%)
5.	I think that alcoholism will decrease the society value	12 (60%)	3 (15%)	- (0%)
6.	I don't want my husband to have friendship with an alcoholic persons	19 (95%)	8 (40%)	1 (5%)

N=20

Table. 3: Frequency and percentage score of wives of alcoholics regarding negative questions.

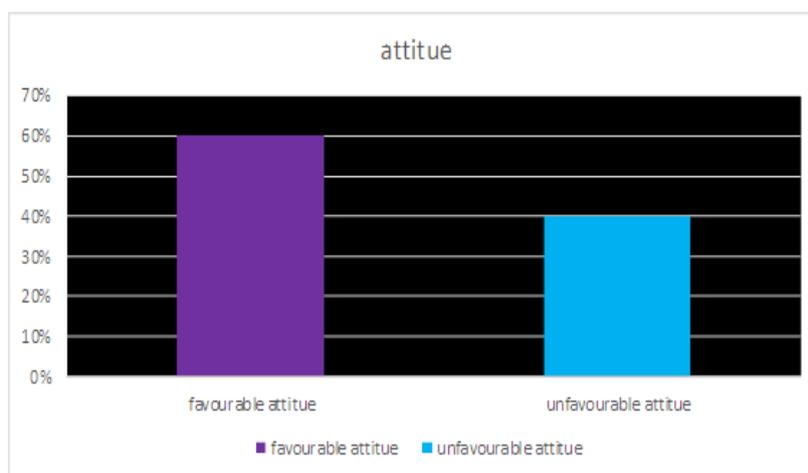
S. No	Negative question	Always	Some times	Never
1.	I feel my husband will not be happy with the treatment	6 (30%)	9 (45%)	5 (25%)
2.	I feel that the treatment is of no worth	8 (40%)	3 (15%)	9 (45%)
3.	I am scared about the complication	4 (20%)	11 (55%)	5 (25%)
4.	I am embarrassed to go with my husband for treatment	6 (30%)	4 (20%)	10 (50%)
5.	I think my husband will not stop drinking after treatment	6 (30%)	3 (15%)	11 (55%)

N=20

Overall Attitude of Wives of Alcoholics Towards the Treatment of Alcoholic Patient.

S. No	Variable	Favorable Attitude (>30)	%	Unfavorable Attitude (< 29)	%
1	Overall attitude of wives of alcoholics towards the treatment of alcoholic patient	12	60%	8	40%

N=20

**DISCUSSION**

The objective of the study was to assess the attitude of the wives of alcoholics about the treatment of alcoholism. While assessing the attitude of wives of alcoholics it was found that the majority of wives of alcoholics had positive attitude (60%). The wives of alcoholic have basic education and they are previously exposed to alcoholic problem by their own family members. Hence they have developed positive attitude. Since the alcoholics are private employees and the income is between 3000-6000 per month, the wives are able to manage the

financial support for their husband's treatment. The samples were taking treatment in government set up, where the cost of treatment is minimum. This also might have influenced their positive attitude. The minority of alcoholics were illiterate and had no previous exposure to the alcoholic problem. Hence they have developed negative attitude (40%) towards the treatment of alcoholism. Very few of them are business area employed as government workers and the monthly income is below 1500-3000 p.m. so, the wives are unable to support financially for their husband's treatment. Hence this might have influenced their negative attitude. Suman and Nagalakshimi et al (1993)^[10] studied the personality dimensions of alcohol dependent individual's spouses and administer EPQ to them. The result showed that this spouses were less extroverted than normal wives who were more sociable, carefree and relaxed in interpersonal relationship. They were more inhibited, more withdrawn and less assertive in interpersonal relationship.

CONCLUSION

The study showed that the spouse had both positive and negative attitude during and after treatment of their alcoholic's husbands.

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