

Presentation of Research findings by Dr Masenyani Manganyi

Study title:

Home-brewed alcohol as a public health
problem in Greater Tzaneen
Municipality, Mopani District of
Limpopo Province: A Social Work
Perspective

Introduction to the study

- Studies done Pitso (2007), Makhubele (2011), Morojele, Kachienga, Mokoko, Nkoko, Parry, Nkowane, Oshia and Saxena (2006) revealed numerous health and social challenges associated with alcohol use;
- The study by Pitso was very explicit in relation to the harm emanating from excessive use of home-brewed alcohol;
- Various media reports coming from Greater Tzaneen area were painting a very ugly picture on the excessive usage of alcohol and the effects it had upon its users;

Alcohol abuse on the rise in Greater Tzaneen Municipality

- Alcohol abuse, particularly home-brewed alcohol was on the rise among youth and young adults in that area representing 55% of the population studied;
- The usage was fast becoming a way of life as against use for leisure and to pass time;
- Females were accounting for 20% among the users in the community under review;

Who were brewers of Home-brewed alcohol?

- ✓ Elderly women
- ✓ Middle aged women and
- ✓ Young women
- ✓ And lately, men are fast entering the trade.

Who were the consumers of home-brewed alcohol?

- ✓ There was a major shift from what was traditionally known about the end users of home-brewed alcohol;
- ✓ Youths and young adults (male and female) were gradually being hooked and fast becoming the regular users;

The aim and objectives of this study were as follows:

Aim of the study:

- ✓ This was a baseline study aimed at exploring and describing the effects of home-brewed alcohol in Greater Tzaneen Municipality;

Objectives of the study included the following:

- ✓ To describe various ingredients used in home-brewed alcohol;
 - ✓ Profile brewers and consumers of home-brewed alcohol (HBA).
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.....Objectives continues.....

- ✓ To establish the lifestyle of home-brewed consumers;
- ✓ Highlight any existing relationship between home-brewed alcohol and safe sex;
- ✓ To describe the conditions under home-brewed alcohol was produced;
- ✓ To determine whether consumers were aware/concerned with their health.

Methods used for the study

- ✓ This was phenomenological study;
- ✓ Qualitative approach was used;
- ✓ Purposive and snow-balling sampling were used;
- ✓ Targeted areas for the study included among others, Dan village, Lusaka, Mbamba-mechisi, Mokgolobodu, Khunjana, Mhlaba-Cross and the surrounding farms. These are villages as well as informal dwellings in and around the Tzaneen Municipality.
- ✓ One-on-one interviews were conducted until saturation was reached.

Findings of the study in relation to set objectives

- ✓ Ingredients used in home-brewed alcohol were harmful;
- ✓ Users showed no concern over their health besides all warnings;
- ✓ Lifestyle of home-brewed alcohol users was unpleasant;
- ✓ Brewing places were untidy;
- ✓ Brewing utensils were poorly maintained;
- ✓ Brewers were not concern with users health
- ✓ Continued use of home-brewed alcohol was a health hazards;
- ✓ The trade continued to be unregulated and uncontrolled;
- ✓ Home-brewed alcohol in its current form was not fit for human consumption.

Conclusion and recommendations

- ✓ Users of home-brewed alcohol enjoyed poor health;
- ✓ Most users were consuming it daily and therefore, addicted;
- ✓ Users were becoming younger by day;
- ✓ Men were also entering the brewing trade of home-brewed alcohol;
- ✓ If not stopped, home-brewed alcohol will destroy our communities;
- ✓ To brewers, this is just another business venture;
- ✓ For users, this is a matter of life and death;
- ✓ The study is recommending that the trade be regulated and further that health and environmental units prioritize this trade for regular inspections.

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