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


• 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).
✓ 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.
Acknowledgements:

1. Prof JC Makhubele
2. Prof SL Sithole
3. Dr. TE Mabila
4. Staff in the Social Work Department, University of Limpopo; and
5. The University of Limpopo.