ABSTRACT

TITLE OF THE ABSTRACT : IMPACT OF HAZARDOUS ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION ON FAMILY FUNCTIONING IN RURAL SOUTH INDIA- A CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY.

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OBJECTIVES:

To estimate the prevalence of hazardous drinking among married men in the 25-60 age group in Kaniyambadi block and to study the effect of hazardous alcohol consumption on family dysfunction

METHODS:

The study is a community based cross sectional study conducted in two phases. In the first phase the AUDIT (Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test) questionnaire was administered to 750 married men in the 25-60 age group in order to estimate the prevalence of hazardous drinking. The respondents from phase one were classified on the basis of their AUDIT scores as abstainers, non- hazardous / social drinkers, and hazardous drinkers. In the second phase a total of 150 women, wives of men from the three groups of alcohol drinking pattern were randomly selected as respondents for the second part of the study. Perception of family functioning by wives, quality of life, presence of domestic violence and presence of any common mental health disorders were studied to assess the effect of alcohol use on the family.

RESULTS:

The prevalence of hazardous alcohol consumption among married men in Kaniyambadi block was 31.5%. Women whose husbands had hazardous drinking behavior had 4.3 times higher risk of experiencing domestic violence compared to women whose husbands were either non-drinkers or non-hazardous drinkers. Perception of family dysfunction and respondents’s quality of life were associated with presence of domestic violence, but husband’s hazardous drinking was not significantly associated with these.

Keywords: alcohol, hazardous drinking, family functioning, domestic violence, quality of life.