

SUMMARY

This is a community based cross-sectional study designed to find out whether there is any association between father's alcohol consumption and selected characteristics that reflect family well-being.

634 families were studied at MOH area Thambuttegama, 30 families from each 22 small villages were randomly chosen for study. Multistage sampling technique was used to find out the study population and "A family with a one or more children was taken as study unit.

An interviewer administered questionnaire was used by the PHM of that particular area. The questions related to father and mother were seperatly administered.

Among fathers current alcohol consumption rate was 66.4%, most of them were farmers, earning 500-4000 Rs. per month. 63.9% of them consumed 'Kassippu' and 78.9% of them drank $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ bottle of alcohol per day. 33.2% of them spent more than 25% of their household income on alcohol consumption. Family where father and mother were more educated showed lower frequency of alcohol consumption. The study showed that about $\frac{1}{4}$ of ex-users had stopped drinking due to the influence of the family members.

The associations between father's alcohol consumption and selected characteristics that reflect family well being such as family size, number of children who had never attended to school, school drop out before completing O/L and verbal and physical abuse of the wife by the husband were studied.

There was significant association with father's alcohol consumption and all the above variables except the number of children who had never attended the school. This too showed a higher percentage of children who had never gone to school among children of alcoholics, but did not reach statistical significance.