ABSTRACT

Alcohol is produced, sold and consumed almost in every society in the world, despite the widely known health dangers associated with it. The present study aimed at analyzing its economic ills and benefits as way of understanding why the practice has been difficult to prevent. The study was descriptive and cross sectional, done in Kitoba sub-county in Hoima district. It analyzed the economic ills and benefits of alcohol to households in that sub-county. The sample size was 108 respondents sampled using stratified random technique. Data were collected using a semi structured questionnaires to conduct the interviews. Analysis was performed partly by computer and manually. The age range was 58 years. The majority of the sample was males and also majority of them were married. Majority of the sampled respondents drank alcohol. The majority drank alcohol were also selling it. Majority of respondents who drink alcohol saw no benefit in the practice. This was as expected, contrary to the sellers where a big number associated it with benefits. The economic ills of alcohol outweighed its benefits. The worst ill was poverty and the greatest benefit was being a source of school fees. The economic ills of alcohol were more than its economic benefits in Kitoba Sub-County. Social ills of alcohol were more widely known in the study area than the economic ills. Further research on this problem should be carried out in this area. The people in the area should be trained and encouraged to start alternative income generating activities. The local government should come up with a policy to address the issues of alcohol in this area. Health staff should mobilize and sensitive community about alcohol addiction. Ministry of Health should establish psychosocial support unit at health centres for the alcohol addicts.