

SOCIO- ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF ALCOHOLISM ON FAMILIES IN MUKURU  
SLUM, NAIROBI COUNTY

MERCY CHWEYA

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## ABSTRACT

The study on the social economic effects of alcoholism in families was conducted in Mukuru slums in Nairobi county between January to may 2014; The study aimed at establishing diverse alcohol-related behavior ranging from simple alcohol experimentation to severe alcohol dependence and also make most people be aware of the common problems faced by alcoholic families that can be incorporated into professional best practice to enhance the role of families in preventing alcohol-related harms among young people. It was guided by three objectives that focused on: Identifying the factors influencing alcoholism in families, determining the effects of alcoholism in families and identify strategies to assist or support children and families affected by parental alcohol misuse, although the study was constrained by resources of finances and time, language barrier and reluctance to give information from the respondents. The target population was 10000 people of Mukuru slums where 500 families were involved in the information collection through questionnaires and interviews in Mukuru slums. Purposive sampling technique was used because it enabled the researcher to get information on the effects of alcoholism in families of Mukuru slums and because it saves time, money and gave the researcher accurate solutions and answers within a short period of time. This type of sampling also helped the researcher go directly to the target population through the characteristics identified that is those related to alcoholism. A sample of 50 (10% of 500) residents of Mukuru slums was used for the study. These sample size was selected from 500 families of Mukuru slums using purposive sampling. In addition, structured interviews was conducted on 10 purposeful selected village elders, religious leaders, chiefs, district officers and district social development officers within Mukuru slum. After data collection, descriptive statistics which entails the use of frequency and cross tabulation, graphs and pie charts was used in data analysis. Structured questionnaires with open, closed questions were used to solicit information from the respondents. Collected data was analyzed and descriptive statistics was used to convert data into frequencies, percentages and means which is presented in tables, graphs and charts. The study revealed that gender, emotional imbalance, frustration and peer influence led to alcoholism and this led to a number of socio economic factors like children abandonment, lack of education, high rate of crime within the slum and even loss of jobs due to alcoholism not leaving out family breakups and violence. The recommendations made after data analysis include; government and organizations concerned to focus on the need to evaluate social structures and social institutions to identify the factors that militate against their smooth functioning.