

Prevalence of smoking and alcohol use and its associated socio demographic factors among fishermen in the Passaiyoor area

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Background: Fishermen are a vulnerable group of people who suffer both mentally and physically which trigger them to seek temporary solution by using alcohol and smoking. This study aimed to assess the prevalence of smoking and alcohol use and its association with socio-demographic factors among fishermen in Passaiyoor Area.

Methods: This descriptive cross sectional study was carried out by using simple random sampling technique to select 336 fishermen in the Passaiyoor area, Jaffna. Interviewer administered questionnaire was used as study instrument to collect data between November 2017 to January 2018. Association between variables of interest were assessed using chi-square test and t-test.

Results: The prevalence of consumption of alcohol and smoking were 43.5% and 34.8% respectively. There was positive association between alcohol and age group and ownership of boat; but none with marital status, educational level, family structure, job and monthly net labour income. Prevalence of smoking has positive correlation with age group and marital status but none with educational level, family structure, job, ownership of boat and monthly net labour income.

Conclusion: According to this study prevalence of smoking and alcohol were high among fishermen. Smoking and alcohol are modifiable factor of non- communicable disease(NCD). By doing effective intervention to decrease the prevalence, prevalence of NCD can be decreased.

Keywords: Fishermen, Alcohol, smoking, Jaffna