

### CU3.

#### A KAP (KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE & PRACTICE) STUDY ON ALCOHOL AMONG MEDICAL STUDENTS OF PERADENIYA

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Alcohol use is associated with many health problems leading to 100,000 deaths per year<sup>1</sup>. Alcohol causes acute and chronic medical behavioral & social problems. Sri Lanka studies too reveal that alcohol consumption rates and related problems are not low<sup>2</sup>. The medical practitioners who see the patients with alcohol related problems should have an adequate knowledge & acceptable attitude and practice towards alcohol. It is a known fact that many subtle alcohol related problems are missed.

Therefore, we undertook to carry out a KAP study on Alcohol among medical undergraduate who also represent the future medical profession and the youths of this country. We distributed a questionnaire among 700 medical undergraduates of pre clinical, para clinical and clinical sections.

The results showed that the students on entry to the faculty & those who are about to pass-out have lower knowledge than those students studying para clinical subjects. With regards to practice, among male students 57.08% consume alcohol & higher consumption was seen among the clinical students (58.7%). Further there is a positive correlation between consumption of alcohol by a family member or a roommate and the consumption by a subject. Majority (69.84%) drinks alcohol for pleasure and some (59.52%) think occasional drink don't cause any harm.

This study identifies a significant problem among medical students who are taking alcohol. The poor knowledge and unacceptable attitude towards alcohol may contribute to unacceptable practice, Hence their ability to handle alcohol-related problems in the society doubtful. This study identifies the need for strengthening the existing education program for medical undergraduates on alcohol, and counselling of medical undergraduates who have problems related to alcohol.

#### References:

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2. Samarasinghe DS, Dissanayake , Wijesinghe CP. Alcoholism in Sri Lanka and epidemiological survey. British Journal of Addiction 1987;82:1149-1153