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Correlates and Trends of 'Ogogoro' Alcohol Herbs Use among Traders of Lagos Mile Two

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Abstract

The study examined some correlates and trends of 'Ogogoro herbs' use among 376 traders in the mile two market Lagos and environs who responded to the study's questionnaires. Their mean (\bar{x}) age was 29.25 years and standard deviation (SD) of 2.06 with age range of 20 - 41 years. Three research problems were resolved with the Pearson product moment correlation (r) and T-test for the data analysis. The results revealed that there was significant correlation between the knowledge and belief about Ogogoro local herbs use ($r = .57, P < .05$) and knowledge and use of Ogogoro local herbs ($r = .23, P < .05$) and between belief and the Ogogoro local herbs use ($r = .55, P < .05$). Also, the result revealed that drivers and riders were heavily use of Ogogoro local herbs than sellers and buyers ($t = 2, 367 = 4,533; P < .05$). While male traders used Ogogoro herbs than female counter parts (Male, $\bar{x} = 5.83$ and Female, Mean $\bar{x} = 3.99$ with $t = 2.367 = 9, 82 P < .05$). It was concluded that majority of the marketers engaged in heavy Ogogoro local herb consumption. Major consequences were highlighted with some suggestions and recommendations for the relevant stakeholders in formulating appropriate policy on the preventive programmes in Nigeria.

Introduction

Alcohol drinking behaviour is an increasing trend which is causing concern worldwide. It has been the focus of the world health organization (WHO) to ameliorate the rising trend of excessive consumption of alcohol all over the world. Developing countries are not spared either in the social menace that excessive alcohol consumption has brought over the centuries.

The availability of alcohol beverages in the country plays a vital role in determining the growing trend of drinking behavior and the steady growing rate has been well documented. This was to meet the demand of the local market after the ban of imported ones between 1983 and 1985. After the rise of the alcohol production in 1986, the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) pushed it down for a while before it rose again to the present level, Ebie and Fela (1981); Akerele (1993); Obot (1993); Fabiyi and Oladimeji (1993).

Studies on both illiterate and literate populations reported increased rate in both urban and rural areas. These included all social status with both sexes (Odejide, 1978, 1979 & 1993). For instance, Ojiji, Dagona, and Tamen (1993) studied women who produced local alcohol beverages 'burukutu' and 'pito' in the Jos metropolis. The majority of the women not only uses alcohol but also give to children from four months upward. It was further discovered that they lack of general knowledge of the specific psychological and physical danger involved in alcohol consumption for the young children and themselves. Similar findings on the study of general population were noted by Obot (1992, & 1993) indicated that both sexes engaged in alcohol consumption; usually the number of men outweighed the number of females in most cases. Further studies on youths in both high schools and universities across the country revealed a significant result that youths predominantly engage in the use of alcohol at a high rate which causes concern for the overall mental status of the country, (Ogunremi and Okonofua, 1997); Anumonye (1980); Ebie and Pela (1981); Nevadomsky (1981, & 1982).

Despite all the evidence that proves youths as a high risk group in Nigeria, there are still substantial problems in estimating the consequence of alcohol misuse which plays a vital role in many health and social problems. Most studies available are self-reports which have only inferred from health and social problems points of view. Although some researchers such as Ebie and Tongue (1981) are interested in the effect of the biopsychosocial variables emanated from drug abuse on the individual, family, community, and the society at large, nobody can predict the future outcome of these efforts.

From the available literature review, there is the mutual agreement by many researchers that alcoholism is a preventable illness. Substantial amount of efforts are geared toward the

reduction of demand and supply of many of the illicit drugs such as cannabis, cocaine, morphine and so on. There is however little attention paid by the government and individual in combating the excessive consumption of alcohol in this country because alcohol is seen as socially acceptable drug. As a result, it is not considered a problem that requires prevention programmes in the developing countries and the drinking behavior goes on (Oladimeji and Fabiyi, 1993).

Apart from the beliefs and attitude towards alcohol in Nigeria, there are Problems with the research methodological in the study of alcohol use in Nigeria. For instance, confusion arises when the researchers predominantly studied alcohol use among youths and patients in the secondary, tertiary institutions as well as in the hospitals who are readily available variables and convenient setting to study. However, few studies were based on the commercial drivers or riders in both rural and urban areas. Such findings have not been able to substantiate with reliable results. Even with that high risky group like youth population were well researched on in Nigeria. Presently, there is no study on the age group across the lifespan of the Nigeria's population on alcohol use and abuse (Abiodun, Adelekan, Ogunremi, Oni, Obayan & Oshodin (1984;1985); Adesina (1987); Igbokwe(1989); Onwuzurike (1988); Pela (1986 & 1989); Odejide, Ohaeri, Adelekan & Ikuesan (1987); Odejide, Nafziger & Tamen (1993); Mbosowo (1988); Ohaeri, & Ikuesan (1989); Obot (1989); Azuni (1993).

Furthermore, four different types of alcohol consumption are always elaborated in many studies: beer followed by spirits then Ogogoro and Palm wine. Obot (1993), Oladimeji and Fabiyi (1993) Asagba and Talabi (2001). Presently, few studies have been carried out on each type of alcohol beverages separately. While Beer and Spirit consumption could be inferred from literature review, Ogogoro and Palm wine are rarely studied separately, especially Ogogoro in the available literature to the best knowledge of the researchers.

A survey carried out by Asagba and Osinowo (2001) and the focus group discussion carried out for this study to facilitate the in depth awareness of the various reasons for consuming alcohol - Ogogoro and local herbs by the respondents of the mile two market. Information on local herbs indicated they have different mixtures which serve different purposes. Twelve different usages were gathered as follows:

1. "Ogun atosi" in English translation medicine for gonorrhoea. It is known to be used for treating gonorrhoea.
2. "Afato" is used for the treatment of pre-mature or quick ejaculation during sexual intercourse.
3. "Ale" is used for treating weak erection (penis)
4. "Ogun jedijedi" meaning medicine for treating pile
5. Do take Ogogoro because it is more easily available than other alcohol beverages.
6. For curiosity
7. Because it is the cheapest one available
8. Because of the cold weather
9. Some female respondents use it to avoid unwanted pregnancies
10. Some males used it because of the nature of the job especially the security, men, police, and commercial riders and drivers.
11. Some religions allow Ogogoro local herb as against other alcohol beverages for fun and relaxation

The above focus group discussion confirmed Asagba and Osinowo (1999) survey on the reasons given for the Ogogoro herbal use by the respondents indicating that Ogogoro herb were used for relaxing and for fun of it which is also similar to Oladimeji and Fabiyi's 1993 findings among adolescents and university students population. Drinking Ogogoro in the morning and days for medical purposes was on the top lists. These generated interest for this present study in order to examine if the knowledge, belief, treatment will correlate with the Ogogoro herb use and to compare the Ogogoro use of the sellers and commercial drivers and riders, if they would differ in consumption. The study will also compare male and female in term of Ogogoro herb consumption.

Methodology

Setting

The setting of the study is the popular Mile 2 market in Lagos. This is situated at the junction between Amuwo Odofin and Ojo local government Area of Lagos state. The market is used by various ethnic groups in Nigeria, foreigners inclusive.

The various religious, cultural and occupational groups that carry out different business transactions make it to be one of the most popular markets in the city of Lagos.

Participants

376 marketers accidentally selected across the population of drivers, Okada (commercial) riders, buyers, sellers and conductors. In all two hundred and ninety seven 79% of the total participants were male while the remaining seventy-nine 21% of the total participants were female. Their age ranges between 20 – 41 years. With regards to their religious affiliation one hundred and nineteen (31.6%) were Moslems, two hundred and seven (55.1%) were Christians, thirty (10.4%) were people of other religious practice. Two participants did not indicate their religious affiliation. Eighty (21.3%) were Okada riders, seventy – nine (21%) were drivers, fifty-seven (15.2%) were conductors, eighty (21.3%) were sellers while the remaining eighty (21.3) were buyers. Two hundred participants (53.2%) were single, one hundred and forty three (38%) were married, twenty – seven (7.2%) were separated, five (1.3%) were divorced. One of the participants refused to give his or her marital status. Seventy three (19.4%) had primary education, two hundred and twenty seven (60.4%) had secondary education, seventy six (20.2%) had tertiary education.

Instrument

The questionnaire format consists of four sections, which are as follows;

Section A: This section comprises of the information regarding demographic variables such as sex, age, religion, occupation, marital status and education level.

Section B: Containing 17 items scale of knowledge about alcohol which was gotten from the page number two of the book titled "Drugs; A Factual Account by Dusek and Girdano [1989]. For the purpose of this study, a pilot study was conducted by the researcher so as to validate the scale among the Nigerian population. The results of the pilot study yielded a Guttman split half of 0.79 and the reliability co-efficient of 0.79. For the

main study the Guttman split half was 0.58 and coefficient alpha = 0.63.

Section C: Containing 30 items that measures belief or reasons for the use of alcohol items 1 – 14 of the scale were from the page two and three of the book titled "Drugs: A Factual Account by Dusek and Girdano [1989] which was gotten from the center for disease and control USA 1983 pp 178 – 180, while 15 – 30 were generated from the researcher focus group discussion with the participants on their beliefs and reasons for alcohol (Ogogoro local herbs) consumption.

The scale was pilot tested and was found to have Guttman split half of 0.83 and the reliability coefficient alpha of 0.91. For the main study, the Guttman split half was 0.81 and coefficient alpha = 0.89.

Section D: Measures pattern of drinking/alcohol use. It was developed by the Research Triangle Institute (RTI) (1978) and it was used by Asagba and Talabi (2001) They reported a coefficient alpha of 0.80 from their study. It contains 8 keywords to the patterns/levels of drinking.

Procedure

After the introduction of the researcher and the two research assistants to the five groups of occupations which comprises of drivers, Okada riders sellers and buyers, each group had their own head whom the research had to meet for permission after the overall head had given the green light. The nature and process of the study were explained to them and they were all willing to cooperate by filling out the informed consent for the study.

The study comprised three phases, which are as follows: The phase one was the focus group discussion, which had helped the researcher to generate the item numbers 15 – 30. Twenty five items were collected from FGD, which were reduced to 15 after statistical analysis. The other ten items were low reliability and validity and were discarded.

The second phase is the pilot study, which was carried out so as to be able to elicit some vital information from the participants on their knowledge belief, and reasons for taking alcohol (Ogogoro) and to measure the validity and reliability of

scale items. A total number of fifty participants were used for the pilot study. Ten participants were randomly selected across the five categories of market population such as buyers, sellers, okada riders, drivers, and conductors. The coefficient for the alpha has already been reported in Section C.

The third phase is the main study. Participants were informed earlier on what the first, second and the third phase entailed. Three weeks were used to conduct the actual study, which lasted for two weeks making the total duration five weeks. Three hundred questionnaires were used for the study. During coding, 24 questionnaires had to be discarded due to incomplete and missing sections. Therefore, 376 were subjected to statistical analysis with SPSS, using Pearson Product Moment Correlation and t-test independent group to analyze the data.

Results

The results of this study are presented in Tables 1, 2 and 3.

Table 1: Pearson's Product Moment Correlation of Relationship between Knowledge, Belief, Treatment and Pattern of use Ogogoro Local Herb Use.

Variables		Knowledge	Belief	Treatment	Pattern Use
Knowledge	r		.571**	.578**	.230**
	p		< .05	< .05	< .05
Belief	r		1	.945**	.545**
	p			< .05	< .05
Treatment	r			1	.500**
	p				< .05
					1
Pattern of Use	r				
	p				

** = $p < .01$ (1 - tailed)

Table 1 shows that there is a significant positive relationship between knowledge and belief on Ogogoro local herb use ($r = .57$; $P < .05$). Also, there is a significant positive relationship between the knowledge and pattern of use on Ogogoro local herb use, ($r = .23$, $P < .05$). Furthermore, there is a positive relationship between belief about Ogogoro and the pattern of use ($r = .55$, $P < .05$). This shows that knowledge; belief and pattern of use are positively and significantly correlated.

Table 2: T-test from independence group analysis of the differences between the commercial drivers and riders and sellers of Ogogoro local herbs.

Occupation	N	Means X	Standard Deviation	Df	t	P
Transporters	214	6.71	3.08	367	9.816	< .05
Sellers and Buyers	155	3.72	2.59			

Table 2 above shows that there are significant differences between transporters and sellers on the use of Ogogoro local herb $t(367, 2) = 9.816$; $P < .05$. Further comparison of mean scores for the two groups shows that transporters had higher mean score ($X = 6.71$) compared to sellers and buyers ($X = 3.72$).

Table 3: T-test for Independent group analysis of the difference between male and female participants on Ogogoro Herb Use.

Sex	N	Means X	Standard Deviation	Df	t	P
Male	293	5.83	3.26	367	4.533	< .05
Female	76	3.99	2.72			

Table 3 above shows that marketers have high mean X score ($X = 5.83$) while female marketers have lower mean (X) scores ($X = 3.99$) group ($t(2, 367) = 4.533$; $P < .05$).

Discussion

The main findings of this study are that belief, knowledge and treatments are significantly associated with the increased rate of Ogogoro herbal consumption among our respondents. This confirms many studies that drinking has remained a common practice in Nigerian population regardless of age, occupation, knowledge, belief, sex and social economic background (Obot (1992&1993) Adesina (1987)). For instance, Asagba and Osinowo (2001) have suggested that the motivational and antecedent for drinking still remain the same as "drinking just for fun" or "to relax" or "for treating or preventing some ailment or for religious purposes". The most serious one was the Ojiji, et al (1993) 's findings on women and children, where women not only take alcohol themselves but continue to give alcohol everyday to their children from 4 months upward to induce the sleeping effects on their children without considering the health consequences in the long term effect.

In the same vein, Ogogoro herb is taken because of the knowledge and belief of the efficacy of the Ogogoro as a potent drug which relaxes them and also cures them of their various ailments together with preventing them from having disease.

Implications

There are various herbs and roots and other ingredients inside the bottles and the chemical interactions may produce unknown side effects to the consumer because they had not undergone laboratory experimental research.

Measurement is another concern of the present researcher. Presently, there is no control or monitoring agent for these Ogogoro herbs sellers. The NAFDAC should investigate these women in the motor-parks and market places in Nigeria. A ban can even be placed on them for now until studies have confirmed their safety and effectiveness. If attention is paid to research on the medicinal point of view, perhaps when the products are hygienically packaged, it will serve the Nigerian populace as effective material resources for pharmacy industry and also be an export good.