

A Study on Prevalence and Pattern of Alcohol Consumption among the Munda Tribes of North Odisha

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ABSTRACT Alcohol use and its relationship to the tribal people has been a part of their culture and tradition in different communities. Now it has become a common beverage among tribal people. Alcohol is taken unrestrictedly by the tribals as it is brewed at every household and therefore both men and women consume it. The study was conducted in Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts of Odisha. One hundred and twenty Munda respondents were selected purposively and information on prevalence and patterns were collected. Munda's usually consumes an indigenous fermented rice beer called 'Diang'. Eighty-five percent males and eighty percent females were regular alcohol users. According to AUDIT, 36.6 percent of males and 28.3 percent females belong to harmful drinking category. The harmful effect of alcohol consumption experienced by tribes suggest that an alternative healthy option and lifestyle needs to be developed to help these tribes.