

Need of Alcohol Policy Reform in Nepal: A stakeholders Analysis

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Introduction

National Liquor Act 1973 but the policy had not reformed yet.

Alcohol policies are public policies that relate to the connection between alcohol, health, and social welfare.

Alcohol availability throughout country without any control measures in community level but after federalization some of the local government are started to practice the alcohol availability control in their jurisdictions.

Lack of governance, coordination between concerning authority are the major challenges to implement the existing alcohol policy.

Existing alcohol policy have some features like provision of household production, licensing procedure and its monitoring, but the existing policy have some limitation like alcohol outlet density, marketing, amount of household production.

Commercialization of homemade alcohol without any concentration validation, quality of such products creating alcohol poisoning in society leading to alcohol associated death.

Introduction

Government and political parties hadn't prioritize substance abuse especially alcohol issue in their policy agenda yet but the civil society organization had started to advocate about the harm associated with alcohol and other substance abuse.

Social tolerance and acceptance of consumption and production of home made alcohol for their ritual and cultural aspect is the major challenge for government to implement or reform the national liquor act of the country.

Local woman's group, youth wings and local government had started anti alcohol campaign but fails due to resistance from trade professionals along with social and cultural advocates who are producing home made alcohol for their own use or commercialization of the low grade alcohol.

After the democratic movement the government adopted liberal policies as a result the alcohol industries proliferated throughout country but after some social movement supreme court of the country had made restriction of the advertisement of the alcohol in digital or paper media of the nation.

Introduction

Excise Collection Internal (Rs billion)	Fiscal Year									
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Tobacco base	3.74	4.51	5.14	5.22	5.35	7.3	7.17	8.95	10.99	14.04
Liquor	3.06	3.74	5.26	7.98	8.46	11	12.68	14.5	18.7	22.96
Beer	2.07	2.84	3.12	3.87	4.85	5.3	6.86	8.29	11.19	15.62
Other Industrial Products	2.1	2.5	2.16	2.58	3.07	3.68	4.344	4.45	6.32	7.84

Objective of the study

General objective:

The study was designed to evaluate the feasibility and necessity of reform of national liquor act 1974 and formulation of national alcohol policy in Nepal.

Specific objectives

To analyze the extent of alcohol related problem in Nepalese context.

To evaluate the prospective of different stakeholders to reform the national liquor act and their opinion, influence and attitude toward availability restrictions harm reduction program, community-based prevention program and treatment facilities.

To assess available policy options to reduce the incidence of alcohol-related problems.

Methodology of the study

Qualitative study

Mapping and stakeholder analysis to recognize the key policy actors, their understanding of national alcohol policy, their position, interest on reform of alcohol policy along with influence on reform of alcohol policy.

Interviews were conducted with the representatives of different local and state governmental authorities, non-governmental organizations, manufactures and trade professionals, public health actors and other stakeholders of alcohol policy.

The interview was based on following issues:

Understanding and opinion on different policy option for the control of alcohol in Nepal.

Alcohol policy elements to influence the incidence of socioeconomical and health harm due to alcohol consumption

Result

Socioeconomical burden of alcohol and positive contribution

Most of the stakeholders perceived that alcohol consumption had made significant economic burden at societal, family and personal level.

Interviewee from regulatory and media claimed that the rate of alcohol associated crime are similar in both of social class but the reporting is lower in higher social class than in lower social class.

Stakeholders from trade, economic and industry had argued that alcohol had made significant contribution to national economy, various job opportunity, nightlife economy and alcohol focused entrepreneurship.

They also emphasized that alcohol has long history and cultural assets of the country so the alcohol had made significant contribution on cultural heritage and tradition of the country.

Some stakeholder argued that the social bonding through alcohol in various cultural and traditional functions since history, not for economy generation.

Result

Policy environment and reform agenda

Except one respondent all of showed their motivation, interest and perception to reform the national liquor act and promised one will initiate the reform policy dialogue through their respective position and influence level.

The parliament members claim that they will advocate on limitation of alcohol out with four alcohol outlet in each ward of metropolitan cities, three alcohol outlet in sub-metropolitan, and only two alcohol outlets at the village level and specific retailing time frame.

The stakeholder from trade and industry claimed that its free market so we can't limit the purchasing power of public we should go with other parameters like awareness program in community and there should be provision of taxation on home made alcohol also.

Political communities felt the influence of alcohol industry while reforming the policy and implementation reformed policy.

Result

Interest, Influence and Position to reform the alcohol policy

All the participant shows the positive interest, influence and motives for the policy reform.

Majority of the stakeholder had initiated the public advocacy to reform the alcohol act and policy.

asserted that they advocating, lobbying and making favorable situation to reform policy with their individual capacity.

Some of the stakeholder had argued about the resistance from alcohol industry and other trade professional to reform the alcohol policy.

Conclusion

Alcohol policy and regulation policies are aiming to minimize the socio health burden due to alcohol consumption but they are not fully exercised due to various resistance factors.

Need of comprehensive alcohol policy to combat the burden of alcohol consumption and cultural value.

The reformed policy should address the issue of alcohol and other drugs comprehensively . (chance of transformation of behavior to other drugs).

There should be uniformity in resource utilization and allocation for alcohol control.

Education and mass awareness was found one of the prioritized common platforms to minimize the alcohol consumption.

Involvement of community actors for the prevention of alcohol consumption (local women's group, youth groups)

Conclusion

The study had revealed many collective grounds where multiple stakeholders can work together to formulate more effective and evidence-based alcohol harm prevention policies and regulations in the context of multicultural environment of Nepal.

The principle objective of reformed alcohol policy should be ensuring responsibility in following to the rule of law or legislation, limiting hazardous drinking, controlling the alcohol availability for those people who are underage and maintain sociocultural aspect of alcohol use culturally.

The study prevailed the toughest challenges and barrier in negotiating regulative reformed alcohol policy in Nepal without high level political commitment and involvement of grass root social actors.

Thank You