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Alcohol Problem

Alcohol is a chemical component for making alcoholic beverages. Alcohol is one of the multipurpose substances known to cause direct effect on the neuron system (Strohle et al. 282). Alcohol beverages are widely consumed around the world. Most researchers have identified alcoholic beverages as the most abused substances among young people. Consumption of alcohol is beneficial to individuals, society, and governments, but it also has its negative side. Alcoholic beverages classification is based on the amount of alcohol content, the process of manufacture, and the chemical content used to manufacture them. Based on the level of alcohol content, alcoholic beverages are divided in such three classes as beer, wines, and spirits (Chrzan 73). There is a division in people's views on the problems provoked by alcohol and the benefits gained. Many people consider alcohol as purely negative and harmful substance, whereas others believe that alcohol has several benefits (London 71). Those people supporting alcohol consumption think that alcohol has been beneficial to their countries, and the benefits they gained outweigh potential problems. On the other hand, those against alcohol think that the distribution and consumption of alcohol harms their countries and brings no benefits.

The economic impacts of alcohol in every country include both economic benefits and costs. First, many people and governmental officials argue that the consumption of alcohol is beneficial to their nation from the economic point of view. Many governments have adopted

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various mechanisms of high taxation on alcohol components. The more the consumption of alcohol is in any part of a country, the more benefits a country will achieve in revenue collection (Abed and Safaeian 123). Most governments defend their heavy taxation on alcohol products. With this argument in mind, they turn into the industry with high-taxation measures claiming that such measures can reduce alcohol consumption. However, high taxation does not reduce alcohol consumption. It increases the amount of revenue a government is receiving in the treasury (Gifford 193). Alcohol addicts will do anything to buy alcohol and will spend money even with the heavy taxation on alcohol products. Through this argument, some can conclude that alcohol is not a problem but rather a benefit to any country.

Another economic benefit to a country producing and consuming alcohol can be viewed from the viewpoint of labor market. Entrepreneurs establish alcohol-related industries to sustain themselves economically, and in the process, they create employment to others. For instance, the distribution sector employs many people to supply alcohol products to consumers. According to the official HM Treasury and Government cabinet sources in the UK, around 650,000 people are employed in the alcohol industry (Jones 23). This turns to be a relief to the country's government, as it will be able to create employment to the citizens on its behalf. Moreover, the benefits can be viewed from the monetary value of the industry's sales and global markets. The production and export can earn governments much money in exchange. Because of this fact, many stakeholders in governments feel that alcohol is beneficial. The United States is another place where the revenue collection has been recorded to boost the country's economy. The boost is achieved through the tax collection in the alcohol industry. With the major tax collections in this country; the government views alcohol as one of the major revenue sources. It also helps

increase the wealth of individuals and society. The monetary benefits motivate the government support the alcohol industry regardless of the problems related to the consumption of alcohol.

On the other hand, the costs incurred by the alcohol problems may have a negative impact on a country. Although these costs are indirect, it is possible to consider them from different perspectives (Abed and Safaeian 6). Some view the costs as related primarily to expenditures on alcohol. According to alcohol policies, the costs are measured in terms of the harm an individual and society suffer from. Such costs are calculated based on treatments and prevention of injuries and accidents caused by alcohol. The loss of productivity and earnings due to alcohol-related illnesses, crimes provoked by alcohol, and antisocial behaviors form the costs that individuals and society face. Many stakeholders urge governments and policymakers to reconsider the costs of health services that people are incurring due to the alcohol problem. Moreover, looking at the expenses incurred in treating alcohol-related diseases will be a way to account for the costs. In addition, many argue that the consumption of alcohol leads to crimes and disorder in society. Looking at the expenses governments incur in an effort to control alcohol-related crimes will be a good way to look at the costs incurred (London 243). The costs form the basis for the argument against alcohol consumption and prove that is the reason for many problems of individuals and society as a whole. Consequently, the loss of life caused by alcoholism will reduce the number of people in the labor market for a nation (Gifford 54). As a result, the revenues of governments will decrease too, which will affect a country's economy.

With some medical benefits derived from the consumption of alcohol, some stakeholders have stepped in to support its consumption. Alcohol consumption has been found to reduce the risk of contracting some diseases, such as heart attack, cardiovascular problems, and gallstone diabetes among others (London 212). Consequently, those people supporting alcohol

consumption argue from this point claiming that the consumption of alcohol will help reduce medical and treatment costs. However, alcohol consumption and medical benefit are only applicable, if users consume alcohol in little amounts as opposed to excessive consumption. The consumption alcohol in the defined quantities has proved beneficial to the health of the body, as it increases appetite leading to weight gain. With the support of some of these medical benefits, many stakeholders will move to support that alcohol will not be a problem but a benefit to a society.

Alcoholism is the biggest problem associated with the alcohol consumption (Gifford 112). It is a disease related to the misuse of alcoholic products. Alcohol consumption is addictive; hence, it is very rare for an addict to consume small amounts. They consume alcohol on a daily basis and in large quantities, and alcohol consumption gradually turns into a severe addiction. In turn, the addiction may have adverse results. Drinking unlimited amount of alcohol has been found unfit for the human health. Some body parts are prone to damage caused by excessive alcohol consumption. Body parts, such as the mouth, pharynx, esophageal, breast, and liver, wear out over time of regular and excessive consumption of alcohol. When the parts are damaged, they require medical treatment. Their treatment makes expensive hospital bills. Moreover, alcohol consumption encourages sexual depravity leading to unexpected and unplanned pregnancies. Women often choose to abort unexpected pregnancies, which may lead to negative effects on their health (London 137).

Additionally, doctors argue that there are a number of diseases related to alcohol consumption, and their treatment is very expensive. These diseases include stroke, cirrhosis, and atrophy of the brain among others. The medical costs of some of these diseases are very high, whereas some of them may be incurable. Alcohol damages brain cells causing abnormality for

many years. Medical researches show that alcohol consumption can also cause hemorrhagic stroke. Hemorrhagic stroke causes some body parts to paralyze. Consequently, the above-mentioned arguments allow concluding that alcohol is a problem to society and individuals.

According to Chrzan, many people find the behaviors of most alcohol consumers antisocial when they are drunk (211). With an irritating behavior, they are considered as bad role models, which, if emulated by youngsters, will nurture an irresponsible future generation. The lack of control over alcohol consumption makes alcohol a problem to every society. With evidences from the holy books, religious leaders also argue that alcohol is a big social problem. They turn to their countries' governments to declare it an illegal substance.

In conclusion, it is important to consider both the benefits and problems associated with alcohol before recommending it. Different people will consider either the benefits or problems in making such a decision depending on how they view the alcohol problem. All the stakeholders should be informed and become conversant with both the benefits and problems of alcohol. This will help them come to a consensus on the problem of regulating alcohol production and consumption.

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