

A study on alcohol policies considering gender perspective



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Relevance

- Since women consume less alcohol than men, alcohol-related policies have focused on men or have been gender-neutral.
- However, it is necessary to develop effective gender-specific alcohol-related policies, as alcohol consumption among women is increasing, and accordingly, it is predicted that alcohol-related harms will also increase among women.
- Reducing alcohol abuse has become a public health priority of the WHO (Goal 3.4 & 3.5 of UN SDGs).

Aim & Objectives

- This study aims to describe why gender should be considered in alcohol-related policies and to propose gender-specific alcohol-related policies.

Methods

- This study was conducted by
 - (1) reviewing the literature, such as studies to identify trends and factors of women's alcohol use, and studies on effective alcohol policies based on evidence, and
 - (2) by expert discussion of Gender and Alcohol Research Team of GISTeR.

Results

From a gender point of view,

- women are more vulnerable to direct and indirect harmful effect of alcohol
- alcohol plays a symbolic role of women's social status and gender equality in Korea
- Alcohol policies need to ensure that biological differences (sex) would not be perceived as social discrimination (gender)

Alcohol policies were proposed in **six** areas:

- providing information on biol. differences of alcohol effects
- developing gender-specific screening, brief interventions, and treatment programs;
- increasing taxes and prices on alcohol and restrictions on its availability to reduce alcohol consumption;
- restrictions on gender-targeted promotion in media;
- establishing policies and leadership
- expanding research on gender-related perspectives on alcohol use.

Conclusions

- Gender-specific policies based on evidences from studies that consider the biological effects as well as social determinants and psychological characteristics of alcohol use among women will be effective in reducing