ABSTRACT

The primary objective of this study is to describe the perception of frequent alcohol drinkers towards alcohol-drinking. Second, the study will find out whether the following socio-psychological factors are related to drinking such as: economic difficulties, "pakikisama", tension-reduction, and the no. of household members who drink.

There were seventy-five (75) respondents randomly selected from the total population of frequent alcohol drinkers in Barrio San Sebastian, Hagonoy, Bulacan.

The data were gathered through the use of an interview schedule and a questionnaire which were both researchers' constructed. The interview schedule has two parts, namely, Background and Perceptions on Alcohol-Drinking. The questionnaire has twenty (20) statements related with socio-psychological factors.

Frequency counts and percentage distribution serve as the main method for the analysis of the data for perception and the socio-psychological factors related to drinking.

The results showed that with respect to perceptions of alcohol drinkers, most frequent alcohol drinkers said they drink to forget their problems and that drinking makes them sleep easily. Drinking for them is bad because it weakens the body. They said that it becomes a vice because the body craves for it once it is taken often. They describe drinking as physical rather than a psychological problem because the body is seen as the vital factor in the continuous intake of alcohol. They brand those who drink alcohol frequently as "drunkards". They however, see drinking as an essential part of life.

In terms of the socio-psychological factors, the results showed that most frequent alcohol drinkers are often faced with economic difficulties. They frequently find themselves drinking due to "pakikisama". Majority said that their tension is reduced everytime they drink alcohol and, a large part of the population under study have parents, particularly fathers who drink.