Relationship Between Alcoholism And The Youth Population

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Alcoholism in the youth population is an area of great public health concern, at present and in the future, especially in economically developed countries. It is noted in a review published by The Lancet, alcohol is the causing factor in over 60 separate medical conditions and that 4% of global disease burden is linked to alcohol (Room et al, 2005). The survey was designed to examine the factors that relate and contribute to alcoholism in youth, and the knowledge of the participant’s own state of alcoholism. The questionnaire was distributed randomly to 400 students at the University. The questionnaire was based on a number of criteria such as peer and parental influences, smoking association, advertising, economics with regard to alcoholism in the youth population. This study has shown that a number of factors have a significant impact on levels of drinking and some of which have indifferent effects. A health-based education was found to strongly influence the understanding of alcoholism and the participant’s level of harm due to drinking, as judged by the NHS calculator. It also indicated an increased understanding of the ‘unit’ based system, however not as high as expected, showing that the government’s way of conveying health messages surrounding alcohol maybe flawed. The psychological benefits were apparent when the participants were asked what they felt when drinking. Peer and parental influences suggested that there is a combination of both in the youth population; although parental influence diminishes, peer influence increases with age. Recent economic changes have led to public spending cuts and taxation, and it would be sensible to assume that this would have a prominent effect on the spending power of the youth population. The study showed that there would be little or no effect on alcohol consumption if measures such as minimum alcohol prices were introduced or tuition fees were increased. The only effect of note is that of positive advertisement, making the youth population drink more or more often. Thus it was concluded that any approach of coming to terms with this problem should be focused on education, advertisement and a substantial increase in alcohol price. However, this would lead to an unintended punishment of safe and moderate drinkers; a fairer option would be to increase the legal age of purchasing alcohol to 21 years old.