

Review of: "Using the Socio-ecological Model to Explain the Findings of Prevalence and Demographic Correlates of Alcoholic Beverage Consumption among Adolescents in Public Schools in Uganda"

Sudesh Raj Sharma¹

¹ Institute of Environmental Science and Research

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I have two key questions for the authors to consider in their revision:

Is there a need to disaggregate different types of alcohol? What value does it add in a public health sense?

Why some key socio-economic, health sector policy and actions and other regulatory variables were not considered? (for e.g. exposure to alcohol prevention message, family income, parental education, availability of alcohol in the neighbourhood, and others).

Some comments for further improvement:

Abstract: Abstract looks comprehensive but has some areas that can be improved for better clarity and structure.

Be More Specific, add key statistics in both introduction and findings such as prevalence percentage (from literature and in results) and key association than descriptive statistics

Add one sentence about socio-ecological model and how did it guide the study in your context

Emphasise on the significance of your findings

Introduction:

It is again comprehensive but needs a bit of reorganising and reducing words.

- Introduction section is a bit long and can be significantly reduced. Rearrange and condense paragraphs as much as you can to improve flow and readability, try and break down long paragraphs to small ones and trim info that does not directly contribute to study context and objectives

- Highlights gaps and how this study can contribute to those research gaps and then may be mention the objective of this paper

Method:

Several area can be improved in the method section:

Provide a more detailed explanation of the research design, specifying how the data collection process aligns with the social ecological model

If possible, expand variables to encompass broader socio-ecological factors like parental education, income, or community-level influences to offer a more comprehensive understanding.

Also elaborate on ambiguous categories: such as “religiousness or social media use. Include operational definitions that clearly define each category to minimise ambiguity.

A figure about sampling could be really useful.

Results:

Why does the table 3 have different total from N=1819 (e.g. for Beer, N=1769)

Not sure if there is a need to disaggregate different types of alcohol? What value does it add from a public health lens?

Consider explaining why some key socio-economic, health sector policy and actions and other regulatory variables were not considered (for e.g. exposure to alcohol prevention message, family income, parental education, availability of alcohol in the neighbourhood, and others).

Discussion:

The section is good and links the findings with previous research. Here are some points for consideration:

Begin the discussion by summarising the main findings: "Our study revealed a higher prevalence of wine and beer consumption compared to spirits among Ugandan school adolescents."

Follow this with a structured breakdown of factors influencing consumption guided by socio-ecological model

Draw explicit connections between study findings and the socio-ecological model. For example, "Gender differences in consumption align with the model's meso system framework, indicating patriarchal construct."

Also, discuss how socio-ecological factors interact with each other to influence drinking behaviour.