

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper focuses on the prevalence and socio-demographic correlates of alcohol consumption among adolescents in public secondary schools in Uganda. The theoretical framework used in the study is socio-ecological model. The predictors of alcohol consumption are gender, religious affiliation, form or class of study, social media use, friendships, and involvement in places of entertainment. The study uncovers “gendered models” of alcohol use and a significant effect of strong religious affiliation. This is very well written paper with clear description of the study, the methods and the results. The presentation of the socio-ecological model and its application studies on adolescents’ health risk behaviors (alcohol consumption, in particular) and the discussion of the findings are very informative and connect very well with the existing research.

My suggestions to the authors are the following:

1. In the section “Methodology” the subsections 2.1 and 2.2. can be merged as they describe the design of the study and subsection 2.2. is very short.
2. In the limitations of the study the authors mention that alcohol consumption is self-reported. More detail measures of alcohol consumption could be used (in future studies) such as quantity of consumed alcohol, frequency of alcohol misuse (drunkenness), etc.
3. One important domain which is part of the socio-ecological model but it is not included in the analysis relates to the effect of the family. The effect of the family (type, structure, psychosocial family environment, SES, etc.) is not part of the present analysis. This can be mentioned as a limitation of the study.
4. The effect of peer groups (also part of the socio-ecological model) are also partly studied. The frequency of meetings with friends and the alcohol consumption of peers could be significantly associated with alcohol use. This can be mentioned also as a limitation of the study.
5. Another limitation is that the survey does not cover young people who dropped out school and who could constitute a specific social group in terms of risk behaviors.

6. The discussion of the effect of social media use could be extended. Popularity among others demonstrated by frequent social media use (having many 'friends' in social media, posting often different contents, etc.) or other specifics of adolescents' social media use may explain further the results of the study.