

# 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"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The authors explore the association between potential socio-cultural predictors, specifically gender, religious affiliation, form or class of study, social media use, friendships, and involvement in places of entertainment, and alcohol consumption among secondary-level students in Uganda.

The study is relevant as it contributes knowledge on an important topic within a population that has been not very much investigated —secondary-level students in Uganda. The following considerations aim to enhance the text:

## **General:**

The authors state, "This paper anchors on the socio-ecological model to expound on the prevalence and socio-demographic correlates of alcohol consumption among adolescents in public secondary schools." However, I believe this approach was crucial only for defining the theoretical model of the study/selection of explanatory variables and could be more succinctly explored in the "background" and "discussion" sections. It is worth noting that most explanations provided in the discussion section related to the socio-ecological model (such as the suggestion that the high prevalence of alcohol consumption observed in the study could be explained by the high accessibility of young people to alcoholic beverages in urban areas of Uganda) were not empirically examined in this study.

**Summary:** It is important to note that the study population specifically comprises youth in public secondary schools in Uganda.

## **Background:**

The background section is lengthy, and I suggest condensing it, focusing on the socio-cultural determinants of alcohol consumption in adolescence.

One of the theoretical frameworks of the study is the social ecological model. The authors provide a brief overview of this model only on page 4. To enhance reader comprehension, I recommend moving the first paragraph from page 4 ("The present study is anchored...") to page 2 as second paragraph.

I also propose transferring sections related to the theoretical model or justification for choosing each variable in the

operational model (regression model) to the methods section.

Regarding the study's objective, it should emphasize that it is restricted to the population of youth in Uganda.

**Methods:**

As mentioned earlier, I suggest incorporating the description of the theoretical model or the justification for choosing the variables that entered the operational model into this section.

**Results:**

I suggest eliminating the opening sentence, "This paper anchors on the socio-ecological model to expound on the prevalence and socio-demographic correlates of alcohol consumption among adolescents in public secondary schools," as it pertains more to the methods section than the results section. Furthermore, this information has already been addressed in earlier sections, specifically in the background and methods.

**Discussion:**

The discussion appropriately aligns with the study's objective of generating hypotheses anchored on the socio-ecological model.