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## A SURVEY OF THE EXTENT OF ALCOHOL USE ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCES OF UNDERGRADUATES

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**Objectives:** Alcohol use by students is a major public health problem, leading to the Secondhand Effects - decrease in academic performance, injuries, blackouts etc.

**Aim:** To determine the extent of alcohol use on academic performance of university students.

**Methods:** Participants (n=46, mean age - 21 yrs) received the AUDIT questionnaire and other alcohol related questions. Grade Point Average and the effectiveness to sit for examinations of all participants from the 1st to 6th semesters of university education were used as objective criteria for problems related with alcohol use. The Pearson  $\chi^2$  and Student's t-tests were employed for analysis of results. The probability value for significance was set at  $p < 0.05$ .

**Results:** Alcohol and non-alcohol users were 41.3% and 58.7% respectively. Among alcohol users, the average quantity of alcohol used by one person per month was 37ml of absolute ethanol. A 10.9 - 11.4% higher rate of academic performance was noted among the non-alcohol users only in the 3rd, 4th and 5th, 6th semesters. The cases of injuries and blackouts were higher among the alcohol users by approximately 35 times. About 75% of all drinkers reported alcohol use only during their university education. The dose-time response effect of alcohol use on academic performance was also proven.