Chapter V

Findings, Implications, Suggestions and Summary
FINDINGS, IMPLICATIONS, SUGGESTIONS AND SUMMARY

This chapter presents the major findings of the study, based on socio-demographic variables and the selected subject variables on the marital life of Wives of Alcoholics and Wives of Non-alcoholics. On the basis of these findings the researcher has arrived at the implications of the study. Suitable social work interventions and suggestions for future studies have been made. The chapter is concluded with a brief summary of the study.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY
FINDINGS RELATED TO HYPOTHESIS

Null hypothesis for Research Hypothesis 1

There is no significant difference between the Wives of Alcoholics and Wives of Non-alcoholics with regard to overall Conflict Tactics.

By administering ‘z’ test to test the above hypothesis it is found that there is a significant difference between the Wives of Alcoholics and Wives of Non-alcoholics with regard to Conflict Tactics. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected. (Table 18)

Null hypothesis for Research Hypothesis 2

There is no significant difference between the Wives of Alcoholics and Wives of Non-alcoholics with regard to overall Proactive Coping.

By administering ‘z’ test to test the above hypothesis it is found that there is a significant difference between the Wives of Alcoholics and Wives of Non-alcoholics with regard to Proactive Coping. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected. (Table 36)

Null hypothesis for Research Hypothesis 3

There is no significant difference between the Wives of Alcoholics and Wives of Non-alcoholics with regard to overall Family Interaction Pattern.
By administering ‘z’ test to test the above hypothesis it is found that there is a significant difference between the Wives of Alcoholics and Wives of Non-alcoholics with regard to Family Interaction Pattern. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected. (Table 54)

**Null hypothesis for Research Hypothesis 4**

There is no significant difference between the Wives of Alcoholics and Wives of Non-alcoholics with regard to overall Marital Quality.

By administering ‘z’ test to test the above hypothesis it is found that there is a significant difference between the Wives of Alcoholics and Wives of Non-alcoholics with regard to Marital Quality. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected. (Table 72)

**Null hypothesis for Research Hypothesis 5**

There is no significant difference between the Wives of Alcoholics and Wives of Non-alcoholics with regard to overall Perceived Quality of Life.

By administering ‘z’ test to test the above hypothesis it is found that there is a significant difference between the Wives of Alcoholics and Wives of Non-alcoholics with regard to Perceived Quality of Life. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected. (Table 90)

**FINDINGS RELATED TO SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS**

- Nearly half of the respondents in the study group were not educated and nearly one third (35.3%) of the study group respondents as well as the controls (32.7%) have completed schooling. Majority (60%) of the respondents in the study group as well as in the control group (61.3%) were working wives.

- The husbands’ occupation for most of the respondents (32.7%) in the study group as well as in the control group (38%) is semiskilled job such as watchmen, coolies, agricultural vocation etc. Whereas less than one third (23.3%) of the respondents’ husbands in the study group were involved in skilled jobs such as machinists, electricians, plumbers etc. Nearly one-third
(21.3%) in the control group were self-employed (i.e) owning cottage industries, small scale industries etc.

- Majority (76%) of the wives of alcoholics and wives of non-alcoholics belong to nuclear families. An equal number (24%) of the study group respondents as well as the controls belonged to joint families.

- Slightly more than half (59.3%) of the respondents in the study group as well as in the controls (66%) have had a conventional arranged marriage. More wives of alcoholics (40.7%) have had love marriage than the wives of non-alcoholics (34%).

- Nearly half (41.3%) of the respondents in the study group as well as in the control group (46%) fall in the 31 – 40 year age group by the ones in the 21-30 year category. The mean age of the study group respondents is 34.45 years and that of the controls is 33.58 years.

- More than one third (38%) of the respondents in the study group as well as in the control group (38.7%) have no earnings and they represent the housewives. And in addition the income of the wives in both the groups is seen to be quite low. The mean income of the wives of the alcoholics is Rs.756.67 per month as against of the wives of non-alcoholics with Rs.871.33.

- Nearly one-third (32%) of the respondents’ from the study group as well as from the control group (39.3%) were earning Rs.2001 – 3000/- per month. The mean monthly income of the study group husbands was Rs.3461 and that of the controls Rs.3385.33 per month.

- It is found that nearly half (43.3%) of the study group families and control group families (49.3%) had a monthly income between Rs.2001 and 4000 per month. The study group families have a higher mean monthly income of Rs.4533.33 per month while compared to the control group families with Rs.4448.67 per month.

- Nearly one-third (32.7%) of the wives in the study group and more than one-third (36.7%) of the respondents’ in the control group have been married for 7 to 9 years. Less than one third (25.3%) of the wives of alcoholics have been married for 10 to 12 years while in the control group (22.7%) have been married
for 4 to 6 years. The mean span of marriage in both the groups is 8 years. Majority (40.7%) of the respondents in the study group and more than half (55.3%) of the respondents’ in the control group have two children. Couples’ having one child is more in the control group (31.3%) than the study group (29.3%).

**FINDINGS RELATED TO THE PERCEPTION OF HUSBANDS DRINKING**

- More than half (60%) of the wives of alcoholics mentioned that they were not aware that their husbands were involved in drinking before marriage and slightly less than half (40%) replied in the affirmative. Hence a high number of wives of alcoholics were unaware of their husbands’ alcohol consumption before marriage.

- Majority (55.3%) of wives have reported that their spouses drank throughout the day and that there was no particular time for alcohol consumption. A vast majority (85.3%) of the wives of alcoholics mentioned that the duration of their husbands drinking was more than three years. Half of them (50.7%) agreed that their husbands used country liquors.

- Majority (62.7%) of the respondents’ have reported that the consumption per day was more than 500ml. Moreover the wives accepted that the expenditure on drinking was overpriced and was more than Rs.2000 per month.

- A high percentage of respondents have expressed that their husbands drinking had generated problem with neighbours (76.7%) with relatives (79.3%) and problems in work place (68.7%). The majority of wives (88%) have also agreed that they face a host of problems in the family too.

- More than half (68.7%) of the wives’ report that there husbands’ find money by themselves through some means for their drinking. A vast majority (79.3%) of the wives have reported that when inebriated, their husbands’ physically abused the family members. More than three fourth (90.7%) of the wives have accepted that when drunk, their husbands’ verbally abused the family members and got into quarrels with them.
• Nearly one third (27.3%) of the wives of alcoholics have indicated that there were blacks out on roadsides and other places. Unreasonable silence (20%), accidents when intoxicated (19.3%) and problems with the police (10.7%) have also been attributed to the husbands' drunken behaviour. More than half (51.3%) of the wives have also reported that their husbands' sexually harassed them as a part of their drunken behaviour.

• More than half (62.7%) of the wives agreed that they themselves referred their husbands for treatment. It is also observed that majority (55.3%) of the wives advised the husbands' to take treatment for their addiction, further more the respondents accepted that they initiated treatment idea through quarrels with their husbands'. And with regard to the husbands' co-operation for treatment, a vast majority (82.7%) of the respondents' report was affirmative.

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE RESPONDENTS LEVEL OF PERCEPTION WITH REGARD TO SUBJECT VARIABLES
CONFLICT TACTICS

• More than half (61.3%) of the wives of alcoholics perceived high overall conflict tactics and more than half (62.7%) of the wives of non-alcoholics exhibit lower overall conflict tactics.

• With regard to various dimensions it is found that majority (69.3%) of the study group has low negotiation whereas half (57.3%) of the control group has low negotiation. More than half (76%) of the wives of alcoholics have high psychological aggression and (77.3%) of the wives of non-alcoholics have low psychological aggression. Moreover (86.7%) of the wives of alcoholics reported high physical assault and (88%) of wives of non-alcoholics reported low level of physical assault.

• Majority (64.7%) of the wives of alcoholics stated high level of sexual coercion and (70%) of the wives of non-alcoholics have low sexual coercion. More than half (64.7%) of the wives of alcoholics have high injury and (74.7%) of the wives of non-alcoholics have low injury.
PROACTIVE COPING

- Majority (66.7%) of the wives of alcoholics have low overall proactive coping whereas almost an equal percentage (66%) of the wives of non-alcoholics have high overall proactive coping.

- With regard to the sub-scales of proactive coping majority of the study group have low-level of proactive coping (76%), reflective coping (68.7%), strategic coping (78%), preventive coping (65.3%), instrumental coping (60%), emotional support seeking (65.3%) and avoidance coping (54%). Whereas majority of the controls have high proactive coping (70.7%), strategic coping (52%), preventive coping (64.7%) and instrumental support seeking (60%). However more than half of the wives of non-alcoholics have low reflective coping (54%), emotional support seeking (52.7%) and avoidance coping (50%).

FAMILY INTERACTION PATTERN

- More than half (64.7%) of the wives of alcoholics have lower family interaction whereas majority (62.7%) of the wives of non-alcoholics have high overall family interaction.

- With regard to the dimensions of family interaction it is seen that more (68%) wives of alcoholics have low reinforcement whereas more than half (56%) of the wives of non-alcoholics have high reinforcement.

- More than half (52.7%) of the study group and (62%) of the control group have low social support system. Moreover majority (69.3%) of the study group has low role and (68%) of the controls have high role. Further it is observed that more than half (58%) of the wives of alcoholics as well as wives of non-alcoholics have high communication, majority (62%) of the study group as well as control groups have high cohesiveness. Finally three fourth (70%) of the study group have low leadership and a large number (56%) of the controls have high leadership.

MARITAL QUALITY
• Majority (72.7%) of the wives of alcoholics have high overall marital quality whereas majority (74.7%) of the wives of non-alcoholics have low overall marital quality. Higher the score lesser is the quality in marriage. Hence wives of alcoholics perceive lower marital quality than wives of non-alcoholics.

• Majority of the wives of alcoholics perceive high understanding (64.7%), rejection (79.3%), satisfaction (70.7%), affection (53.3%), decision-making (67.3%), disclosure (66.7%), trust (65.3%) and role functioning (72.7%). Whereas three fourth (76%) of the wives of alcoholics report low despair, discontent (60.7%), dissolution potential (89.3%) and dominance (85.3%).

• Majority of the wives of non-alcoholics have low understanding (74%), rejection (80%), satisfaction (71.3%), affection (71.3%), despair (82.7%), decision making (80%), discontent (58.7%), dissolution potential (81.3%), disclosure (70%), trust (69.3%) and role functioning (88%). It is also noted that more than half (51.3%) wives of non-alcoholics have high-level of dominance.

PERCEIVED QUALITY OF LIFE

• Majority (66.7%) of the wives of alcoholics have lower overall perceived quality of life whereas majority (66%) of the wives of non-alcoholics have high overall perceived quality of life.

• Three fourth (74.7%) of the wives of alcoholics have low physical health satisfaction and more than half (60.7%) of the controls have high physical health satisfaction. Majority (67.3%) of the study group have low social health satisfaction whereas 66.7% of the controls have high social health satisfaction. Furthermore majority (64%) of the wives of alcoholics have low cognitive health satisfaction and the same percentage of the wives of non-alcoholics have high cognitive health satisfaction.
FINDINGS RELATED TO THE SUBJECT VARIABLES

CONFLICT TACTICS

- There is a significant difference between the wives of alcoholics and wives of non-alcoholics with regard to the various dimensions of conflict tactics namely psychological aggression, physical assault, sexual coercion, injury and overall conflict tactics, whereas negotiation, a dimension of conflict tactics shows no significant difference with regard to the study group as well as the control group. Thus it is found that the wives of alcoholics perceive higher level of conflict tactics than the wives of non-alcoholics.

- There is a significant difference between the working and non-working wives of alcoholics with regard to negotiation and physical assault, whereas there is no significant difference seen with regard to other dimensions of conflict tactics namely psychological aggression, sexual coercion, injury and overall conflict tactics. However, there is no significant difference between the working and non-working respondents of the wives of non-alcoholics with regard to various dimensions of conflict tactics as well as overall conflict tactics.

- There is no significant difference between the type of family of the wives of alcoholics with regard to the various dimensions of conflict tactics as well as the overall conflict tactics except for negotiation.

- There is a significant difference between the family type of the wives of non-alcoholics with regard to psychological aggression and overall conflict tactics. However there is no significant difference between the type of family of the wives of non-alcoholics with regard to various other dimensions of conflict tactics.

- There is a significant difference among the various educational qualifications of the wives of alcoholics with regard to negotiation, injury and overall conflict tactics however there is no significant difference seen with regard to psychological aggression, physical assault and sexual coercion.

- There is a significant difference among the various educational qualifications of the wives of non-alcoholics and injury, further there is no significant difference
seen with regard to negotiation, psychological aggression, physical assault, sexual coercion and overall conflict tactics.

- There is no significant variance among the husbands' occupation of the wives of alcoholics with regard to negotiation, psychological aggression, physical assault, sexual coercion, injury and overall conflict tactics.

- There is a significant variance among the husbands' occupation of the wives of non-alcoholics with regard to injury yet, there is no significant difference seen between the husbands' occupation and other dimensions of conflict tactics.

- There is no significant association between the type of marriage of the wives of alcoholics and wives of non-alcoholics and the various dimensions of conflict tactics as well as the overall conflict tactics.

- There is no significant association between the husbands' duration of drinking and the various dimensions of conflict tactics as well as the overall conflict tactics.

- There is no significant association between the husbands' physical abuse with regard to the various dimensions of conflict tactics as well as the overall conflict tactics.

- There is no significant association between the alcoholic husbands' verbal abuse to the respondents and the various dimensions of conflict tactics as well as the overall conflict tactics.

- There is a significant association between the husbands' sexual harassment and negotiation, whereas the overall conflict tactics as well as the various other dimensions of conflict tactics show no statistical significance.

- There is a significant relationship between the age of the wives of alcoholics and physical assault, sexual coercion and overall conflict tactics. However there is no significant relationship observed between the age and various other dimensions of conflict tactics namely negotiation, psychological aggression and injury. Further it is found that there is no relationship between the age of the wives of non-alcoholics and the various dimensions of conflict tactics as well as the overall conflict tactics.
• There is a significant correlation observed between the monthly income of the wives of alcoholics and negotiation, psychological aggression, sexual coercion, injury and overall conflict tactics whereas there is no significant relationship seen with regard to physical assault. However there is no significant correlation seen between the monthly income of the wives of non-alcoholics and the various dimensions of conflict tactics as well as overall conflict tactics.

• There is a significant correlation between the husbands’ income of the wives of alcoholics and psychological aggression, physical assault, sexual coercion, injury and overall conflict tactics, however there is no significant relationship noted between the respondents’ husbands’ income and negotiation. In addition it is found that there is no significant correlation between the husbands’ income of the wives of non-alcoholics and the various dimensions of conflict tactics as well as the overall conflict tactics.

• There is a significant correlation between the family income of the wives of alcoholics and the various dimensions of conflict tactics as well as the overall conflict tactics. Whereas there is a significant relationship between the family income of the wives of non-alcoholics and negotiation, however there is no significant relationship with regard to psychological aggression, physical assault, sexual coercion, injury and overall conflict tactics.

• There is a significant correlation found between the duration of marriage of the wives of alcoholics and the various dimensions of conflict tactics as well as the overall conflict tactics, whereas there is a significant relationship seen between the duration of marriage and negotiation however there is no significant correlation seen with regard to various other dimensions of conflict tactics as well as the overall conflict tactics.

• There is a significant correlation between the number of children of the wives of alcoholics and negotiation, injury and overall conflict tactics. Whereas there is no significant relationship between the respondents’ number of children and negotiation, physical assault and sexual coercion. However there is no significant relationship between the number of children of the wives of non-alcoholics and the various dimensions of conflict tactics as well as the overall conflict tactics.
• With regard to the dimensions of conflict tactics pertaining to the wives of alcoholics, it is seen that all the dimensions have a significant positive relationship with one another. This means that an increase in any of the dimensions as well as the overall conflict tactics results in an increase in all other dimensions as well as in the overall conflict tactics.

• With regard to the dimensions of conflict tactics pertaining to the wives of non-alcoholics, it is seen that all the dimensions have a significant positive relationship with one another. This means that an increase in any of the dimensions as well as the overall conflict tactics results in an increase in all other dimensions as well as in the overall conflict tactics.

PROACTIVE COPING

• There is a significant difference between the wives of alcoholics and the wives of non-alcoholics with regard to the various sub-scales of proactive coping namely proactive coping, reflective coping, strategic coping, preventive coping, instrumental support seeking, emotional support seeking, avoidance coping and overall proactive coping. Thus it is found that the study group respondents perceive lesser proactive coping than the control group respondents.

• There is a significant difference between the working and non working wives of alcoholics with regard to the sub-scales of proactive coping namely reflective coping, preventive coping, instrumental support seeking, emotional support seeking, avoidance coping and overall proactive coping. Further it is found that there is no significant difference between the respondents’ occupational status and proactive coping as well as strategic coping.

• There is no significant difference between working and non-working wives of non-alcoholics with regard to various sub-scales and overall proactive coping.

• There is a significant difference between the type of family of the wives of alcoholics with regard reflective coping, emotional support seeking and overall proactive coping however there is no significant difference between the nuclear and joint family of the wives of alcoholics with regard proactive coping,
strategic coping, preventive coping, instrumental support seeking and avoidance coping.

- There is a significant difference between the family type of the wives of non-alcoholics with regard to emotional support seeking. In addition various other sub-scales of proactive coping as well as the overall proactive coping shows no significant difference with regard to the family type of wives of non-alcoholics.

- There is a significant difference among the various educational qualifications of the wives of alcoholics with regard to proactive coping, emotional support seeking and avoidance coping. In addition it is found that there is no significant difference among the educational qualifications of the wives of alcoholics with regard to reflective coping, strategic coping, preventive coping, instrumental support seeking and overall proactive coping.

- The above table reveals that there is a significant difference among the educational qualifications of the wives of non-alcoholics with regard to the sub-scales of proactive coping namely proactive coping and avoidance coping. However there is no significant difference between the respondents’ education and other sub-scales of proactive coping such as reflective coping, strategic coping, preventive coping, instrumental support seeking, emotional support seeking and overall proactive coping.

- There is a significant difference among the various occupations of the husbands' of wives of alcoholics with regard to proactive coping, reflective coping, preventive coping, emotional support seeking, avoidance coping and overall proactive coping. However there is no significant difference found between the husbands' occupation with regard to strategic coping and instrumental support seeking.

- There is a significant difference among the various occupations of the husbands' opted by the wives of non-alcoholics with regard to proactive coping, reflective coping, strategic coping, preventive coping, avoidance coping and overall proactive coping, whereas there is no significant difference between the husbands' occupation of the wives of non-alcoholics and instrumental support seeking as well as emotional support seeking.

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• There is a significant association between the type of marriage of the wives of alcoholics with regard preventive coping and reflective coping, whereas various other sub-scales of proactive coping shows no statistical significance with regard to the type of marriage of wives of alcoholics.

• There is a significant association between the type of marriage of the wives of non-alcoholics and preventive coping, instrumental support seeking, emotional support seeking and overall proactive coping, however there is no significant association with regard to proactive coping, reflective coping and avoidance coping of the wives of non-alcoholics.

• There is no significant association between the husbands' duration of drinking and the sub-scales of proactive coping as well as the overall proactive coping.

• There is no significant association between the husbands' physical abuse to the respondents and overall proactive coping as well as the various sub-scales of proactive coping scale.

• There is a significant association between the husbands' verbal abuse and instrumental support seeking, however the overall proactive coping and the various sub-scales show no significant association with regard to the husbands' verbal abuse.

• There is a significant association between the alcoholic husbands' sexual harassment and instrumental support seeking, whereas there is no significant association found with regard to overall proactive coping and various other sub-scales of proactive coping.

• There is a significant correlation between the age of the wives of alcoholics and the sub-scales of proactive coping namely proactive coping, reflective coping, strategic coping, preventive coping, emotional support seeking and overall proactive coping. In addition there is no significant relationship between the age of the respondents and instrumental support seeking as well as avoidance coping.

• There is a significant relationship between the age of the wives of non-alcoholics and proactive coping as well as strategic coping. However there is no significant relationship between the respondents' age and reflective coping,
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preventive coping, instrumental support seeking, emotional support seeking, avoidance coping and overall proactive coping.

- There is a significant correlation between the monthly income of the working wives of alcoholics and proactive coping, reflective coping, strategic coping, preventive coping, avoidance coping and overall proactive coping, whereas there is no significant relationship noted between the monthly income of the respondents' and instrumental support seeking and emotional support seeking.

- There is a significant correlation between the monthly income of the wives of non-alcoholics and proactive coping, strategic coping, and avoidance coping whereas there is no significant correlation observed with regard to various other sub-scales of proactive coping and overall proactive coping.

- There is a significant correlation between the husbands' income of the wives of alcoholics and proactive coping, strategic coping, emotional support seeking, avoidance coping and overall proactive coping. Further it is noted that there is no significant relationship between the respondents' husbands' income and reflective coping, preventive coping and instrumental support seeking, the sub-scales of proactive coping.

- There is no significant relationship between the husbands' income of the wives of non-alcoholics and the sub-scales of proactive coping as well as overall proactive coping.

- There is a significant correlation between the family income of the wives of alcoholics and reflective coping, preventive coping, instrumental support seeking, emotional support seeking, avoidance coping and overall proactive coping, whereas there is no significant relationship noted between the respondents' family income and various other sub-scales of proactive coping such as proactive coping and strategic coping.

- There is a significant relationship between the family income of the wives of non-alcoholics and proactive coping, and avoidance coping, whereas there is no significant relationship with regard to other sub-scales of proactive coping as well as overall proactive coping.
• There is a significant correlation between the duration of marriage of the wives of alcoholics and the sub-scales of proactive coping as well as the overall proactive coping.

• Proactive coping, reflective coping, avoidance coping and overall proactive coping, show a significant correlation with regard to the duration of marriage of the wives of non-alcoholics, whereas there is no significant relationship between the respondents' years of marriage and strategic coping, preventive coping, instrumental support seeking and emotional support seeking.

• There is a significant correlation between the number of children of the wives of alcoholics and proactive coping, strategic coping, instrumental support seeking, emotional support seeking, as well as the overall proactive coping, however there is no significant relationship observed between the respondents' number of children and reflective coping and preventive coping.

• There is no significant correlation between the number of children of the wives of non-alcoholics and the sub-scales of proactive coping as well as the overall proactive coping with an exceptional of a sub-scales namely proactive coping.

• With regard to the intercorrelation between the sub-scales of proactive coping for the wives of alcoholics, it is found that avoidance coping shows a significant negative correlation with proactive coping, reflective coping, strategic coping and preventive coping, whereas a significant positive relationship is seen with regard to instrumental support seeking and emotional support seeking. Further, it is seen that all other sub-scales of proactive coping shows a significant positive relationship with one another. Hence increase in one sub-scale as well as overall proactive coping leads to an increase in all other sub-scales as well as proactive coping.

• With regard to the intercorrelation between the sub-scales of proactive coping for the wives of non-alcoholics, it is found that avoidance coping shows a significant negative correlation with proactive coping, reflective coping, strategic coping and preventive coping, whereas a significant positive relationship is seen with regard to instrumental support seeking and emotional support seeking. Further, it is seen that all other sub-scales of proactive coping
shows a significant positive relationship with one another. Hence increase in one sub-scale as well as overall proactive coping leads to an increase in all other sub-scales as well as proactive coping.

FAMILY INTERACTION PATTERN

- There is a significant difference between the wives of alcoholics and the wives of non-alcoholics with regard to the various dimensions of family interaction patterns namely reinforcement, social support system, role, communication, cohesiveness, leadership and overall family interaction pattern. Thus it is found that the wives of alcoholics perceive lower family interaction pattern within the family than the control group respondents.

- There is a significant difference between the working and non-working wives of alcoholics with regard role, communication, leadership and overall family interaction pattern. Further it is found that there is no significant difference between working and not working respondents and reinforcement, social support system and cohesiveness.

- There is no significant difference between the working and non-working respondents of wives of non-alcoholics with regard to various dimensions as well as overall family interaction pattern.

- There is a significant difference between the type of family of the wives of alcoholics with regard social support system, leadership and overall family interaction pattern. Further there is no significant difference between the type of family and reinforcement, role, communication, cohesiveness and overall family interaction pattern.

- There is a significant difference between the type of family of the wives of non-alcoholics and social support system, communication, cohesiveness and leadership whereas there is no significant difference between family type and reinforcement, role and overall family interaction pattern.

- There is a significant difference among the various educational qualifications of the wives of alcoholics with regard to reinforcement, role and overall family interaction pattern. In addition social support system, communication,
cohesiveness and leadership show no significant difference with regard to the various educational qualifications of the wives of alcoholics.

- There is a significant difference among the various educational qualifications of the wives of non-alcoholics with regard to leadership. In addition it is found that there is no significant difference among the educational status of the wives of non-alcoholics with regard to reinforcement, social support system, role, communication, cohesiveness and overall family interaction pattern.

- There is no significant variance among the husbands’ occupation of the wives of alcoholics and wives of non-alcoholics with regard reinforcement, social support system, role, communication, cohesiveness, leadership and overall family interaction pattern.

- There is a significant association between the type of marriage of the wives of alcoholics and leadership whereas there is no significant association seen between the marriage type of the wives of alcoholics and reinforcement, social support system, role, communication, cohesiveness and overall family interaction pattern.

- There is a significant association between the type of marriage of the wives of non-alcoholics and communication whereas there is no significant association found with regard to various other dimensions and overall family interaction pattern.

- There is a significant association with regard to the husbands’ duration of drinking and reinforcement. Further it is seen that there is no significant association between the husbands’ duration of drinking and overall family interaction pattern as well as the dimensions specifically social support system, role, communication, cohesiveness and leadership.

- There is no significant association between the alcoholic husbands’ physical abuse with regard to the various dimensions of family interaction pattern as well as the overall family interaction pattern.

- There is no significant association between the verbal abuse experienced by the wives of alcoholics and the various dimensions of family interaction pattern as well as the overall family interaction pattern.
There is no significant association between the alcoholic respondents' husbands' sexual harassment in the case of the wives of alcoholics with regard to the various dimensions of family interaction pattern as well as overall family interaction pattern.

There is a significant relationship found between the age of the wives of alcoholics and social support system, role, communication, cohesiveness and overall family interaction pattern. However there is no significant relationship noted between the age and reinforcement as well as leadership.

There is a significant relationship between the age of the wives of non-alcoholics and reinforcement as well as cohesiveness, further various other dimensions as well the overall family interaction pattern shows no significant correlation with regard to the age of the wives of non-alcoholics.

There is a significant correlation between the monthly income of the working wives of alcoholics and reinforcement, role, communication, cohesiveness and overall family interaction pattern, in addition, the dimension social support system and leadership show no significant relationship with regard to the monthly income of the wives of alcoholics.

There is a significant correlation between the monthly income of the working wives of non-alcoholics and leadership as well as communication whereas there is no significant correlation seen with regard to various other dimensions of family interaction pattern as well as the overall family interaction pattern.

There is a significant correlation between the husbands' income of the wives of alcoholics and social support system, role as well as overall family interaction pattern, whereas there is no significant relationship noted with regard to reinforcement, communication, cohesiveness and leadership.

There is a significant relationship between the husbands' income of the wives of non-alcoholics and reinforcement, However there is no significant relationship between the respondents' husbands' income and social support system, role, communication, cohesiveness, leadership and overall family interaction pattern.

There is a significant relationship between the family income of the wives of alcoholics and reinforcement, role, communication, cohesiveness and overall
family interaction pattern. However there is no significant relationship seen between the respondents’ family income and social support system and leadership.

- There is no significant relationship observed between the family income of the wives of non-alcoholics and the various dimensions of family interaction pattern as well as the overall family interaction pattern.

- There is a significant correlation between the duration of marriage of the wives of alcoholics and reinforcement, cohesiveness and overall family interaction pattern, whereas there is no significant relationship seen with regard to various other dimensions of family interaction patterns.

- There is a significant relationship between the duration of marriage and reinforcement and cohesiveness, however there is no significant relationship seen between the duration of marriage of the wives of non-alcoholics and the various other dimensions of family interaction pattern as well as overall family interaction pattern.

- There is a significant relationship between the number of children of the wives of alcoholics and role, communication, cohesiveness and overall family interaction pattern, whereas there is no significant relationship observed between the respondents’ number of children and reinforcement, social support system and leadership.

- There is a significant relationship between the number of children of the wives of non-alcoholics and reinforcement, role and cohesiveness. However there is no significant correlation found between the respondents’ number of children and social support system, communication, leadership and overall family interaction pattern.

- With regard to the dimensions of family interaction pattern of the wives of alcoholics it is found that there is a significant positive correlation with one another as well as with the overall family interaction pattern. Hence it is seen that an increase in one dimension as well as the overall family interaction pattern leads to an increase in all other dimensions as well as overall family interaction pattern.
With regard to the dimensions of family interaction pattern of the wives of non-alcoholics it is found that there is a significant positive correlation with one another as well as with the overall family interaction pattern. Hence it is seen that an increase in one dimension as well as the overall family interaction pattern leads to an increase in all other dimensions as well as overall family interaction pattern.

MARITAL QUALITY

There is a significant difference between the wives of alcoholics and the wives of non-alcoholics with regard to the various dimensions of marital quality namely understanding, rejection, satisfaction, affection, despair, discontent, decision making, dissolution potential, dominance, self disclosure, role functioning, trust and overall marital quality. Wives of alcoholics perceive lower marital quality than the wives of non-alcoholics.

There is no significant difference between the working and non-working wives of alcoholics and wives of non-alcoholics with regard to various dimensions of marital quality and overall marital quality, with an exception of one specific dimension namely discontent, in the case of wives of non-alcoholics.

There is a significant difference between the type of family of the wives of alcoholics with regard to dissolution potential. It is also seen that there is no significant difference with regard to various other dimensions of marital quality and overall marital quality.

There is a significant difference between the family type of wives of non-alcoholics with regard to specific dimensions namely affection, despair and discontent, whereas there is no significant difference with regard to other dimensions of marital quality as well as overall marital quality.

There is a significant difference among the various educational qualifications of the wives of alcoholics with regard to understanding, rejection, satisfaction, affection, despair, decision making, dissolution potential, dominance, self disclosure, trust and overall marital quality, whereas despair, discontent and role functioning show no significant difference with regard to the educational status of the wives of alcoholics.
• There is a significant difference among the various educational qualifications of the wives of non-alcoholics with regard to understanding, rejection, satisfaction, affection, despair, discontent, dissolution potential, self-disclosure and overall marital quality. Further it is found that there is no significant difference between the educational standing of the wives of non-alcoholics and decision-making, dominance and trust.

• There is a significant difference among the husbands’ occupation of the wives of alcoholics with regard to understanding, rejection, satisfaction, affection, despair, decision-making, dominance, self-disclosure, trust, role functioning and overall marital quality, whereas there is no significant variance seen with regard to discontent and dissolution potential.

• There is a significant variance among the husbands’ occupation of the wives of non-alcoholics with regard to understanding, rejection, satisfaction, affection, despair, decision-making, discontent, dissolution potential, self-disclosure, trust and overall marital quality, however there is no significant difference with regard to dominance and role functioning.

• There is a significant association between the type of marriage of the wives of alcoholics and rejection, whereas there is no significant association with regard to various other dimensions of marital quality.

• There is a significant association observed between the type of marriage of the wives of non-alcoholics and rejection, dissolution potential, disclosure, trust as well as overall marital quality. Further it is found that there is no significant association between the type of marriage and understanding, satisfaction, affection, despair, decision-making, discontent, dominance and role functioning of the wives of non-alcoholics.

• There is a significant association between the husbands’ duration of drinking and dissolution potential and overall marital quality. However there is no significant association between the husbands’ duration of drinking with regard to various other dimensions of marital quality scale.
• There is no significant association between the alcoholic husbands' physical abuse experienced by the wives of alcoholics and the various dimensions of marital quality as well as the overall marital quality.

• There is no significant association with regard to the verbal abuse experienced by the wives of alcoholics and overall marital quality as well as the dimensions of marital quality.

• There is a significant association between the alcoholic husbands' sexual harassment and affection whereas the other dimensions as well as the overall marital quality show no significant association with regard to the sexual harassment.

• There is a significant relationship found between the age of the wives of alcoholics and role functioning whereas there is no significant relationship between the age of the wives of alcoholics and the various dimensions of conflict tactics as well as the overall marital quality.

• There is a significant correlation between the age of the wives of non-alcoholics and satisfaction, affection, decision-making, discontent, dominance, trust and overall marital quality. However there is no significant relationship seen between the age and understanding, rejection, despair, dissolution potential, disclosure and role functioning.

• There is a significant correlation between the monthly income of the working wives of alcoholics and understanding, rejection, affection, dissolution potential, self-disclosure and trust, whereas there is no significant relationship with regard to despair, decision making, discontent, dominance, role functioning as well as overall marital quality.

• There is a significant relationship between the monthly income of the wives of non-alcoholics and understanding, rejection, satisfaction, affection, despair, decision-making, discontent, dominance, self-disclosure, trust and overall marital quality. However there is no significant relationship observed between monthly income and dissolution potential as well as role functioning.

• There is a significant correlation between the husbands' income of the wives of alcoholics and the various dimensions of marital quality namely understanding,
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dominance, self-disclosure, trust and overall marital quality, however there is no significant relationship noted between the respondents' husbands' income and rejection, satisfaction, affection, despair, decision-making, discontent, dissolution potential and role functioning.

• There is a significant relationship between the husbands' income of the wives of non-alcoholics and rejection, decision-making, dissolution potential, dominance and self-disclosure. Further it is noted that there is no significant relationship between the respondents' husbands' income and understanding, satisfaction, affection, despair, discontent, trust, role functioning and overall marital quality.

• There is a significant correlation between the family income of the wives of alcoholics and the understanding, despair, dominance and self-disclosure. However there is no significant relationship between the respondents' family income and rejection, satisfaction, affection, decision-making, discontent, dissolution potential, trust, role functioning and overall marital quality.

• There is a significant correlation between the family income of the wives of non-alcoholics and rejection, despair, decision-making, dissolution potential, dominance, self-disclosure, role functioning and overall marital quality, however there is no significant relationship between the respondents' family income and understanding, satisfaction, affection, trust and discontent.

• There is a significant correlation between the duration of marriage of the wives of alcoholics and the dimensions of marital quality such as affection, dominance, and trust. However, there is no significant relationship between the respondents' Duration of Marriage and understanding, rejection, satisfaction, despair, decision-making, discontent, dissolution potential, self-disclosure, role functioning and overall marital quality.

• There is a significant relationship between the duration of marriage of the wives of non-alcoholics and rejection, satisfaction, affection, despair, decision-making, discontent, dissolution potential, dominance, self-disclosure trust, however there is no significant relationship seen between the respondents' duration of marriage and understanding as well as role functioning.
There is a significant correlation between the number of children of the wives of alcoholics and the dimensions of marital quality namely rejection, dissolution potential, trust and overall marital quality, whereas there is no significant relationship between the respondents' number of children and understanding, satisfaction, affection, despair, decision-making, discontent, dominance, disclosure and role functioning.

There is a significant relationship between the number of children of the wives of non-alcoholics and dissolution potential, whereas there is no significant relationship seen with regard to various other dimensions of marital quality as well as overall marital quality.

With regard to the intercorrelation among the various dimensions of marital quality of the wives of alcoholics it is found the understanding of the wives of alcoholics show a significant positive relationship with satisfaction, affection, decision-making, trust, role functioning and overall marital quality, whereas there is a significant negative relationship seen with regard to rejection, despair, discontent, dissolution-potential, dominance and self disclosure. Rejection shows a significant positive relationship with regard to despair, discontent, dissolution-potential, dominance, self-disclosure and role functioning. However there is a significant negative correlation with regard to satisfaction, affection, decision-making, trust and overall marital quality.

Satisfaction is seen to have a significant positive correlation with regard to affection, decision-making, trust, role and overall marital quality, whereas there is a significant negative relationship with regard to despair, discontent, dissolution-potential, dominance and self-disclosure. Affection I seen to have a significant positive relationship decision-making, trust, role functioning and overall marital quality. However there is a significant negative relationship with regard to despair, discontent, dissolution-potential, dominance and self-disclosure.

Despair, shows a significant positive relationship with discontent, dissolution potential, dominance and self-disclosure, whereas there is a significant negative relationship is seen with regard to decision-making, trust, role functioning and overall
marital quality. Decision-making is seen to have a significant positive relationship with discontent, dissolution-potential, dominance, self-disclosure, role functioning and overall marital quality. However there is a significant negative correlation seen with regard to trust.

Discontent shows a significant positive correlation with dissolution potential, dominance and self-disclosure, whereas there is a significant negative relationship with regard to trust, role functioning and overall marital quality.

Dissolution potential shows a significant positive relationship with regard to dominance, self-disclosure and role. However there is a significant negative relationship with regard to trust and overall marital quality. Dominance is seen to have a significant positive relationship with regard to self-disclosure and role functioning, whereas there is a significant negative relationship is seen with regard to trust and overall marital quality.

Self-disclosure shows a significant positive relationship with regard to trust, role functioning and overall marital quality, whereas trust is seen to have a significant positive correlation with overall marital quality and a significant negative relationship with role functioning, finally role functioning shows a significant positive relationship with regard to overall marital quality.

With regard to the intercorrelation among the various dimensions of marital quality of the wives of non-alcoholics, it is found that understanding is seen to have a significant positive correlation with satisfaction, affection, decision-making, self-disclosure, trust, role functioning and overall marital quality, whereas there is significant negative correlation seen with regard to rejection, despair, discontent, dissolution potential and dominance.

Rejection shows a significant positive relationship with despair, discontent, dissolution potential, dominance, self-disclosure and role functioning, however there is a significant negative correlation seen with regard to satisfaction, affection, decision-making, trust and overall marital quality. Satisfaction shows a significant positive
relationship with affection, decision-making, trust, role functioning, self-disclosure and overall marital quality, whereas satisfaction shows a significant negative relationship with regard to despair, discontent, dissolution potential and dominance.

Affection is seen to have a significant positive relationship with regard to decision-making, self-disclosure, trust, role functioning, and overall marital quality. However there is a significant negative correlation with regard to despair, discontent, dissolution potential, and dominance. Despair has a significant positive relationship with discontent, dissolution potential and dominance, whereas it shows a significant negative correlation with decision-making, self-disclosure, trust, role functioning, and overall marital quality.

Decision-making shows a positive relationship with regard to self-disclosure, role and overall marital quality, and a significant negative relationship is seen with regard to discontent, dissolution potential, dominance, and trust. Discontent is seen to show a significant positive relationship with regard to self-disclosure, role functioning and overall marital quality, whereas a significant negative relationship is seen with regard to discontent, dissolution potential, dominance and trust. Dissolution potential is seen to have a significant positive relationship with dominance, self-disclosure, and role whereas there is a significant negative relationship seen with regard to trust and overall marital quality. Dominance has significant positive relationship with role and a significant negative correlation with regard to self-disclosure, trust and overall marital quality.

Self-disclosure has a significant positive relationship with regard to role functioning and overall marital quality, whereas there is a significant negative relationship with regard to trust. Trust has a significant positive relationship with overall marital quality and a significant negative relationship with role functioning. Role functioning has a significant correlation with regard to overall marital quality.

**PERCEIVED QUALITY OF LIFE**

- There is a significant difference between the wives of alcoholics and the wives of non-alcoholics with regard to the various dimensions of perceived quality of
life namely physical health satisfaction, social health satisfaction, cognitive health satisfaction and overall perceived quality of life. Thus it is found that the wives of alcoholics show low perceived quality of life than the wives of non-alcoholics.

- There is a significant difference between the occupational status of the wives of alcoholics with regard to social health satisfaction and overall perceived quality of life. However physical health satisfaction and cognitive health satisfaction show no significant difference with regard to occupational status of the wives of alcoholics. Further, physical health satisfaction, social health satisfaction and cognitive health satisfaction as well as the overall perceived quality of life show no significant difference with regard to the occupational status of the wives of non-alcoholics.

- There is a significant difference between the type of family of the wives of alcoholics with regard to physical health satisfaction, social health satisfaction and overall perceived quality of life whereas cognitive health satisfaction shows no significant difference with regard to the type of family of the wives of alcoholics. Further it is found that there is no significant difference between the family type of the wives of non-alcoholics with regard to the various dimensions and overall perceived quality of life.

- There is significant variance among the educational qualifications of the wives of alcoholics with regard to the dimensions of perceived quality of life namely social health satisfaction, overall perceived quality of life. However, there is no significant difference among the educational background of the wives of alcoholics with regard to the physical health satisfaction and cognitive health satisfaction.

- There is a significant variance among the educational qualification of the wives of non-alcoholics with regard to various dimensions of perceived quality of life namely physical health satisfaction, social health satisfaction, cognitive health satisfaction as well as the overall perceived quality of life.

- There is significant variance between the husbands' occupation of the wives of alcoholics with regard social health satisfaction, cognitive health satisfaction and overall perceived quality of life, nevertheless physical health satisfaction
shows no significant difference with regard to the husbands' occupation of the wives of alcoholics.

- There is a significant variance between the husbands' occupation of the wives of non-alcoholics with regard to various dimensions of perceived quality of life as well as the overall perceived quality of life.

- There is a significant association between the type of marriage of the wives of alcoholics and the various dimensions of perceived quality of life as well as the overall perceived quality of life whereas there is no significant association between the type of marriage of the wives of non-alcoholics and the various dimensions as well as the overall perceived quality of life.

- There is no significant association between the respondents' husbands' duration of drinking and various dimensions of perceived quality of life as well as the overall perceived quality of life.

- There is no significant association between the physical abuse experienced by the wives' of alcoholics with regard to the various dimensions of perceived quality of life and the overall perceived quality of life.

- There is no significant association between the verbal abuse by the alcoholic husbands' and overall perceived quality of life and the various dimensions.

- There is no significant association between the sexual harassment by the alcoholic husbands' and overall perceived quality of life as well as the various dimensions.

- There is a significant correlation between the age of the wives of alcoholics and cognitive health satisfaction, as well as overall perceived quality of life, Further it is found that social health satisfaction and cognitive satisfaction show no significant relationship with regard to the age of wives of alcoholics.

- There is no significant relationship between the age of the wives of non-alcoholics and the dimensions of perceived quality of life as well as the overall perceived quality of life.

- There is a significant relationship between the monthly income of the wives of alcoholics and physical health satisfaction, cognitive health satisfaction and...
overall perceived quality of life whereas there is no significant relationship between the monthly income of the respondents’ and social health satisfaction.

- There is a significant relationship found between the monthly income of the wives of non-alcoholics and physical health satisfaction, social health satisfaction as well as the overall perceived quality of life, however there is no significant correlation with regard to cognitive health satisfaction of the wives of non-alcoholics.

- There is a significant correlation between the husbands’ income of the wives of alcoholics and physical health satisfaction, social health satisfaction, cognitive health satisfaction and overall perceived quality of life.

- There is a significant relationship between the husbands’ income of the wives of non-alcoholics and social health satisfaction, whereas there is no significant relationship between the respondents’ husbands; income and physical health satisfaction, cognitive health satisfaction and overall perceived quality of life.

- There is a significant correlation between the family income of the wives of alcoholics and the dimensions of perceived quality of life as well as the overall perceived quality of life.

- There is a significant correlation between the family income of the wives of non-alcoholics and physical health satisfaction, whereas there is no significant relationship between the respondents’ family income and social health satisfaction, cognitive health satisfaction as well as the overall perceived quality of life.

- There is a significant correlation between the duration of marriage of the wives of alcoholics and social health satisfaction, cognitive health satisfaction and overall perceived quality of life, however there is no significant relationship between the respondents’ duration of marriage and physical health satisfaction.

- It is also noted that there is no significant correlation between the duration of marriage of the wives of non-alcoholics and the various dimensions of perceived quality of life as well as the overall perceived quality of life.
• There is a significant correlation between the number of children of the wives of alcoholics and cognitive health satisfaction and overall perceived quality of life, whereas there is no significant relationship found between the respondents' number of children and physical health satisfaction as well as social health satisfaction.

• There is a significant correlation between the number of children and physical health satisfaction of the wives of non-alcoholics whereas there is no significant relationship between the number of children of the wives of non-alcoholics and various other the dimensions of perceived quality of life as well as the overall perceived quality of life.

• With regard to the dimensions of perceived quality of life of the wives of alcoholics, it is found that the various dimensions show a significant positive correlation with one another as well as with the overall perceived quality of life. Hence it is seen that an increase in one dimension as well as the overall perceived quality of life leads to an increase in all other dimensions as well as perceived quality of life.

• With regard to the dimensions of perceived quality of life of the wives of non-alcoholics, it is found that the various dimensions show a significant positive correlation with one another as well as with the overall perceived quality of life. Hence it is seen that an increase in one dimension as well as the overall perceived quality of life leads to an increase in all other dimensions as well as perceived quality of life.

FINDINGS WITH REGARD TO INTERCORRELATION AMONG THE MARITAL CORRELATES

• With regard to the overall marital correlates among the Wives of Alcoholics, it is found that all the marital factors have significant positive relationship with one another. Hence it is noted that an increase in one dimension increases all other marital dimensions.

• With regard to the overall marital correlates among the Wives of Non-alcoholics, it is found that all the marital factors have significant positive
relationship with one another. Hence it is noted that an increase in one factor increases all other marital factors.

**IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTION**

The present study investigates five significant marital correlates among wives of alcoholics and wives of non-alcoholics. The relationships of these variables among themselves as well as their association with socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents were also investigated. Major findings of the study and the conclusions drawn from them indicate that there is a significant difference between the wives of alcoholics and wives of non-alcoholics with regard Conflict Tactics, Proactive Coping, Family Interaction Pattern, Marital Quality and Perceived Quality of Life. Careful analysis of the data brings to light that the wives of alcoholics perceive higher level of Conflict Tactics, lesser Proactive Coping, lesser Family Interaction Pattern, lower Marital Quality and lower Perceived Quality of Life when compared with their counterparts.

It is also found that the subject variables (i.e) conflict tactics, proactive coping, family interaction pattern, marital quality and perceived quality of life have a significant positive relationship with one another. Thus it is obvious that the subject variables selected for the present study, have a contributing and concomitant effect on one another. In other words, an increase in any of these factors will generate an increase in all other factors as well as in the overall marital life. This finding is in line with the conceptual model adapted by the researcher as indicated in (Fig. 1).

The intention of this study, from the social work perspective is to bring the wives of alcoholics sharply under focus in alcoholism treatment programmes. It may be pertinent in this regard to make an observation from one’s limited personal experience in the field. Spouse involvement in most de-addiction programmes is seen to be peripheral and often of a routine nature either for the purpose of intake or for the purpose of pre-discharge counseling of the alcoholic. The TTK Hospital, Chennai (where the researcher had some voluntary work experience) insists on a parallel intervention and comprehensive coverage and lasts for the entire duration of the husband’s in-patient stay at the centre.
Understandably, other de-addiction centres run mostly by voluntary organizations may be hampered due to lack of required personnel and the necessary infrastructure required for such a comprehensive de-addiction package. However one still feels that it would be worth the effort with regard to therapeutic outcome, to involve the alcoholic’s spouse to a greater extent in the treatment program than is now the practice.

Several researchers have documented a better treatment outcome in spouse involved treatment programs than in other conventional methodologies dealing exclusively with alcoholics (E.g; McCrady et al, 1991; Bowers and Al-Redha, 1990). Further, lower relapse rates have been reported in families which provide a more positive and relative orientation and manifest less conflict (Desai et al., 1992; Barry and Fleming, 1990). Researchers have emphasized the need to obtain the spouse’s point of view in order to have a more accurate picture of a couple’s marital dynamics. All this evidence conclusively points to the need for greater spousal involvement in alcoholism treatment programs.

The non-alcoholic spouse is often instrumental in continuing the drinking of the practicing alcoholic and may contribute to the slips of a recovering alcoholic. Several authors have argued that reduction or even elimination of alcohol consumption is not automatically linked to social, vocational or psychological improvement. This implies that for all round improvement in the family’s general functioning, these elements must be specifically incorporated as part of therapy. Bowers and Al-Redha (1990), observe that marital dysfunction and relationship problems are prominent and highly probable features in the alcoholic’s life. If the couple is shown effective coping mechanisms to deal with these stresses, the result can be a more cohesive family environment and in turn a more positive treatment outcome.

Thus it is important to evaluate the marital life of couples coming for treatment on a highly individualized basis, to understand the deficiencies in their marital functioning and to identify interactional anomalies. Intervention may then be individually given for both spouses or through conjoint family therapy or through their involvement in group work activities with other similarly distressed couples. The
couples have to be enabled to realize the extent and the manner in which there behaviour and response to one another contributes to their marital relationship, the anomalies in their perception of one another and the existing communication barriers. The effort of the social worker would be ultimately, to strengthen the marital union by enabling a more favorable perception among the partners, a better understanding of one’s roles and behaviour, opening up channels of communication, instilling impulse control and self regulatory mechanisms and to enable partners to understand areas of potential conflict, their avoidance and management.

Griner and Griner (1987) observed that informed and perceptive therapists will 1. Understand alcoholism as a family illness, 2. Detect alcoholism through its impact on family members, 3. Be aware of the unique stress on the family at the time of intervention and 4. Recognise the value of family therapy (including self-help groups) for the recovery of both, the alcoholics and their dependants.

The current study indicates a need for marital therapy, which should focus in alcoholic education, improve communication skills, problem solving skills among couples, reducing role strain and improving affective involvement among the partners, aimed at increasing the deprived marital correlates. Family therapy and individual therapy is also required so that the wives would get educated regarding the role taking behaviour and facilitating support system within the family. Also the spouse would gain knowledge to individuate and build support system and coping outside the family through self help groups and support centres. The emphasis on spouse involvement in treatment programs and the importance of marital / family therapy being stressed by the researcher is of course not to undermine the importance of social work intervention with the alcoholic himself, who all through out remains the primary concern.

ROLE OF SOCIAL WORKERS

It is only of late (particularly in India, over the past decade) that social workers are gradually staying into the field of alcoholism marital research. Most of the literature generated in the field so far has been by clinicians, probably since the “disease concept of alcoholism” makes it their natural domain. However, given the scope of extensive work being done by social workers in the field of de-addiction and their access and proximity to patients and their families, it is time that more from the fraternity,
particularly those in the field get involved in research in the field of alcoholism and with issues pertaining to marital and familial dynamics of alcoholics in particular.

Looking at the mental health scenario in our country, it is perhaps the de-addiction setting where social workers are employed in large numbers and have won acceptance and recognition today. The social worker is an important constituent of the multi-disciplinary team and is in a vantage position from the viewpoint of intervention since his/her professional responsibilities entail not only working with the alcoholic but also in close proximity with his family. As such, a conscious effort to step beyond the routine case history taking and the almost stereotyped marital and group therapies being conducted, to more intensive and specific personality oriented intervention along with couple-specific marital therapy would go a long way in enhancing therapeutic outcome in alcoholism treatment programs thereby strengthening the credibility of social work intervention.

Prevention is the major arena for psychiatric social workers intervention. At primary level educating all the school children about the ill effects of alcohol through life skills approach is required. Sensitizing the youth to the burgeoning problem of alcohol dependence through media posters and campaigns is the primary responsibility of the social worker. At the secondary level early identification of families' where men have started regular drinking. Specific intervention like family counseling, referrals to the state run or NGO run de-addiction centres/clinics.

To reduce the impact of alcoholism on family functioning, the families should be educated on their role functioning, prevention of formation of 'parentified children' and other family dynamics. This would help to identify co-dependence in the family members and educate them on how they should conduct themselves towards the alcohol abusing family members. At the tertiary level people with alcohol dependency syndrome can be referred to treatment centres. The social workers can provide effective interventions for families of alcohol dependence, to the spouses and children by organizing group meetings for care givers of alcohol dependent and also self help groups.
The social workers should work towards integration of alcohol sensitization program along with other workers, facilitation of formation of self-help groups among the wives of alcoholics in the community, thereby creating a platform to share their common concerns at the community level; this in turn strengthens their support system. They should promote self-reliance for the wives of alcohol dependents by training them on entrepreneurial endeavors.

A wide range of intervention techniques both supportive and reflective in nature such as catharsis, insight development, psycho-education etc, could be used by social workers for motivating the wives, enabling them to deal with denial, enhancing their self esteem, conflict management to name a few potential aspects of intervention. Non-Government organizations, which are working in the community, can promote prevention of alcohol abuse. Intervention based modules can be developed by mental health professionals. Information about various aspects in family therapy needs to be a part and parcel of MSW curriculum.

SUGGESTIONS

This section presents the suggestions and recommendations pertaining to intervention with the wives of alcoholics. Though this study does not per se incorporate elements of intervention, it would be relevant to examine the efficacy of intervention with these issues involving different modalities. A review of relevant literature on these aspects hence finds a place in this chapter. Finally suggestions emerging from the perspective of future investigations in these areas have also been presented.

Results of the study by Stuart et al., (2003) has revealed decreased alcohol and psychological abuse from baseline to 6 and 12-month follow-up. Men reported no significant decreases in wife-to-husband violence from baseline to 6- and 12- month follow-up. Female partners reported a significant increase in marital satisfaction from baseline to 6 and 12-month follow-up.

Family therapy and relationship counseling have long been considered important components of treating addicted adults. Women of alcohol dependents experience high level of stress, they fear that partners may not be ready or willing to
endorse the goals and process of relationship counseling free of constraint from partners. Hence, the assessment phase is especially important for these women.

Health risk behaviours that have been examined empirically include alcohol consumption, lack of exercise or inactivity, illicit drug use, tobacco use, eating disorders, sexual activity with numerous partners, sexual intercourse early in a relationship, failure to use contraceptives, and sexual activity while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Research suggests that unless these traumatic events are addressed, prevention and treatment efforts are likely to fail.

PREVENTION
Primary Prevention

The concern here is to target large populations of individuals (e.g. Wives of alcoholics) who may or may not have experienced marital problems due to their husbands drinking. These programmes attempt to educate participants by providing information about prevalence of marital problems, refuting myths and stereotypes and challenging attitudes that support these problems, or they may attempt to provide skills, such as communication and resolution strategies, in an effort to promote conducive family atmosphere.

Secondary Prevention

In contrast, secondary prevention programmes concentrate on individuals deemed at risk for marital problems. Programmes at this stage strive to create highly relevant interventions, focusing on skills and education as it pertains to the participants being treated. At this point, little is known about the efficacy of one prevention type over the other, largely due to limited outcome data available. However, it has been suggested that programmes targeting skills, such as communication, show somewhat greater promise.

IMPORTANCE OF SPOUSE INVOLVEMENT IN THERAPIES

The involvement of the spouse in therapies is important owing to the family system dynamics that caused, enabled or perpetuated the dependency, observes Coleman (1987). Treating the disease of alcoholism first, followed by marital therapy, is recommended. The treatment of the alcoholic will be more successful if the spouse or
family is included in the initial evaluation and subsequent treatment plans. This would help in the better formation of a more comprehensive psychological diagnosis and subsequent intervention plan. In this context, it is relevant to keep in mind that the spouse may be a more reliable source of information about drinking problems than the alcoholic spouse himself.

Kumpfer et al., (2003) observe that because “substance abuse” is a “family disease” of life style, including both genetic and family environmental causes, effective family strengthening and prevention programmes should be included in all comprehensive substance abuse prevention activities. National searches by these authors suggest that there is sufficient research evidence to support broad dissemination of five highly effective family strengthening approaches (e.g., Behavioural parent training, family skills training, in-home family support, brief family therapy and family education). Additionally, family approaches have average effect sizes that are two to nine time larger than child-only prevention approaches. Comprehensive prevention programmes combining both approaches produce much larger effect sizes according to these authors.

Couple based intervention is effective on three counts. First, to motivate an initial commitment to change, in the alcoholic, second to help stabilize the marital relationship and support in the alcoholics drinking following treatment and third to reduce deterioration and support maintenance of marital and drinking gains during long term recovery, observes O’Farell (1991). Mood, anxiety, stress, general health, and quality of life problems should be addressed by groups that provide couples’ treatment or counseling to female partners of alcoholics.

MARITAL FAMILY THERAPY (MFT)

Campbell et al., (2002) observe that although relatively scarce, there are a number of treatment and intervention programs that focus on the couple (Hamel, 2005; O’Farell et al., 2004). Marital counseling, therapy or intervention programmes must address issues pertaining to alcohol use among couples while concurrently providing information about healthy relationships and helping couples develop skills to attain them.
Family therapy is a promising method for alcoholism treatment. The key for changing the drinking behaviour lies in changing the complex relationship between the alcoholic and his spouse. Their relationship is characterized by a power struggle between two people with strong dependency needs. The relationship between them is such that it perpetuates the need for alcohol. The major focus in therapy is therefore to understand and change the marital relationship, observes Shapiro (1997).

O'Farrell and Fals-Stewart (2003), reviewed 38 controlled studies of Marital and Family therapy (MFT) in alcoholism treatment. They conclude that, when the alcoholic is unwilling to seek help, MFT is effective in helping the family cope better and motivating alcoholics to enter treatment. Specifically, (a) Al-Anon-facilitation and referral help family members cope better; (b) Community Reinforcement and Family Training promotes treatment entry and (c) the popular Johnson intervention apparently does not effectively promote treatment entry. Once the alcoholic enters treatment, MFT, particularly Behavioural Couples Therapy (BCT), is clearly more effective than individual treatment at increasing abstinence and improving relationship functioning. BCT also reduces social costs, domestic violence and emotional problems of the couple’s children.

BEHAVIOUR COUPLES THERAPY (BCT)

Earlier researchers who have done considerable work in the area of BCT, reports that in the year before BCT, verbal aggression was significantly greater –being five to seven times more prevalent for clinically elevated aggression and substantially more frequent-for the alcoholic husbands and their wives than for a demographically matched, non-alcoholic comparison sample. In the two years after BCT, both alcoholic men and their wives showed significant and substantial reductions in verbal aggression as compared with the year before BCT.

Randomized studies comparing BCT with individual-based treatment show a fairly consistent pattern of more abstinence and fewer substance-related problems, happier relationships, and lower risk of marital separation for alcoholic patients who receive BCT than for patients who received only individual treatment. Behavioural couples therapy with alcoholics and remission after individual alcoholism treatment have been associated with improved family functioning in a variety of domains,
including reduced family stressors, improved marital adjustment, reduced domestic violence and verbal conflict, reduced risk of separation and divorce; improvement in important family processes related to cohesion, conflict and caring, and reduced emotional distress in spouses.

**DEALING WITH AFFECTED SPOUSE**

**Increase Collaboration Among Service Providers:** Because the range of services that need to be offered are extensive, it is not practical for a single agency to deliver all of them. Greater collaboration among state agencies, NGOs, and the corporate sector is essential. There are only a few examples of coordinated voluntary and government efforts, such as counseling cells located within police stations. Effective networking to build a coordinated public response can result in an expansion of the range of services and a better utilization of existing resources.

**Economic empowerment of women:** Improve women’s access to and control of income and assets, recognize her shared right to the family home and matrimonial property, and incorporate the principle of division of community property into divorce laws. Productive assets and property are critical to strengthening the economic and social status of women, providing income opportunities and improved respect for women outside marriage and family.

**Integrate Child Support Services with Protection Services for Women:** All intervention programmes need to better address the needs of children affected by the parents alcoholism. This is a critical area of intervention that forms the basis of prevention in a future generation of adults. In addition, shelter homes must be made more accessible to women with children in both principle and practice; for example, through providing child care facilities. Although some shelters have a provision for allowing children, it is not encouraged.

**Promote Involvement of Corporate Sector:** An increase of financial resources is an urgent need for sustaining the existing interventions, improving the quality of such services, and implementing new innovations. Quality of services critically depends on better infrastructure as well as improved terms and conditions of those engaged in the provision of services. The corporate sector is an un-addressed stakeholder in the
context of the wives of alcoholics/ under focused community in alcohol awareness campaigns, and this could be tapped for its potential to financially support preventive and supportive services to redress alcoholism. Financial incentives in the form of tax breaks or subsidies could be introduced to encourage corporate sector funding of such activities.

**Rural Outreach and Extension:** Coverage of services and programmes needs to be expanded to rural areas. Apart from interventions such as lok adalats and the village panchayat, grievance redressal mechanisms for women facing alcoholic problems in rural areas are few or simply absent. In addition, all women police stations are primarily located in urban areas. The voluntary sector has attempted interventions in rural areas successfully but their efforts are hampered by the non-availability or limited access to referral and health services.

**Provide Comprehensive Medico-legal and Psychological Services:** Programmes must integrate the provision of comprehensive medical and psychological care and support services for survivors of abuse. Immediate medical care is provided to some extent by different organizations, but little attention has been paid to mental health services, such as therapeutic counseling, support groups, and family therapy. These are critical in rebuilding and sustaining the well-being of the woman and her family.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH**
In the light of this study and the dearth of comprehensive research on alcoholic families in general and the spouses of alcoholics, in particular in the Indian context, the following themes are suggested for future researchers:
1. Longitudinal investigation from the developmental perspective of the family cycle and the progress of alcoholism.
2. The extent to which the marital dynamics influence alcohol consumption patterns and the progress of alcoholism.
3. Investigation of marital variables in wives of alcoholics belonging to community samples.
5. Comparison of alcohol complicated marriages, which are terminated, and the dynamics of those, which survive.
6. Investigation into the marital life of spouses of female alcoholics.
7. Family burden and dysfunction in alcoholic families.
8. Sexual adjustment in alcohol complicated marriages.
10. Those respondents who have perceived low of conflict tactics, proactive coping behaviour, family interaction pattern, marital quality, and perceived quality of life can be taken as separate sample and in-depth study can be undertaken.

CONCLUSION

The present study is a humble attempt by the researcher to understand the Marital Correlates among the Wives of Alcoholics and Wives of Non-alcoholics. This study compared few selected marital correlates in wives of alcoholics and non-alcoholics. The findings of the study have two major implications for de-addiction management. First, they point towards the need for specific spouse directed therapy to enable her overcome her personality deficits and psychological problems. Second, for better de-addiction outcome, it is imperative for family therapists to take into account the aberrations manifested in the couples marital functioning and to work towards their resolution. Thus the need is to provide a holistic intervention package involving both spouses, that besides dealing with the physiological and psychological issues of the alcoholics but also focusing on the marital dimensions of both spouses.

In spite of certain difficulties faced by the researcher, it was a challenge to collect data. The researcher enjoyed the process of meeting the wives of alcoholics and non-alcoholics, interacting with them, discussing about the research topic to know their views and sharing related information. Few wives took keen interest in the study and also wanted to know the results of the study. On the whole it was a learning insightful experience for the researcher.
SUMMARY

Alcoholism has far reaching repercussions on the alcoholic, his family, his employers, society in general and even the economy of the nation. Researches have demonstrated an important link between husband’s alcohol use and marital dynamics among couples. Having an alcoholic at home, leads to the depletion of family resources, breaking away the marital bond between the couples. Thus the bond between the alcoholic and the wives tries to establish a new homeostasis and the relationship turns to be dysfunctional. The present study was undertaken to find out if there is any significant difference between the wives of alcoholics and wives of non-alcoholics with regard to certain marital factors namely Conflict Tactics, Proactive Coping, Family Interaction Pattern, Marital Quality and Perceived Quality of Life. The study attempted to determine and compare the manifestation of the studied marital dimensions; hence Ex-Post Facto research design was adopted. After careful investigation, it was decided to choose the de-addiction cum rehabilitation centre in Khajamalai Ladies Association, Tiruchirappalli from where the wives of alcoholics were chosen. Based on the field visits, the feasibility of conducting the study could be ascertained. A self prepared interview schedule, consisting of questions relating to socio-demographic characteristics and standardized scales such as Conflict tactics scale 2 short form, proactive coping inventory, family interaction pattern scale marital quality scale, and perceived quality of life scale were used to collect data. By following Census method, for the wives of alcoholics and purposive sampling method for the wives of non-alcoholics, 300 respondents (150 from wives of alcoholics and another 150 from wives of non-alcoholics) were selected for the study and interviewed to collect data. The data thus collected were put to statistical tests such as mean, standard deviation, median, chi-square, ‘z’ test, one-way analysis of variance and Karl Pearson’s Co-efficient of Correlation. Major findings of the study and the conclusions drawn from them indicate that the wives of alcoholics have significantly higher conflict tactics, less proactive coping, less family interaction pattern, low marital quality and low perceived quality of life when compared with the wives of non-alcoholics. Thus the study has revealed that there is a significant difference between the Wives of Alcoholics and Wives of Non-alcoholics in terms of the chosen marital correlates namely Conflict Tactics, Proactive Coping, Family Interaction Pattern, Marital Quality and Perceived Quality of Life.