Title: ALCOHOLISM: ITS GENETICS AND IMPACT ON HEALTH – A STUDY AMONG MEITEIS OF MANIPUR, INDIA

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Abstract:

The present study attempts to understand the etiology of alcoholism among Meiteis of Manipur. Data pertaining to personal details, anthropometric, physiological and biochemical variable was collected from 484 males from Thoubal, Imphal East, Imphal West and Bishnupur districts of Manipur. Early age at onset of alcohol drinking, low economic status, low occupational status and smoking are found to be independently playing a significant role in the causation of alcohol dependence among Meiteis of Manipur. Of the eight SNPs selected only ANKK1 TaqI A and DRD2 -141C Ins/Del polymorphisms are found to be associated with alcohol dependence. Only A1 allele of ANKK1 TaqI A polymorphism is found to affect the trait after controlling the confounding factors. The effect of associated polymorphisms in the causation of alcoholism becomes more pronounced when combined with unemployment, lower educational status, smoking and early age at onset of alcohol consumption. Alcohol consumption seems to play an important role in the causation of adverse cardiovascular variables in terms of high BMI, hypertension, and abnormal lipid profile along with abnormal liver enzyme levels. The population thus needs to be counselled regarding the ill effects of alcohol consumption not only in early ages of life specifically in school days but also when people opt for occasional and moderate drinking. Better employment opportunities with improved economic status are expected to bring down the alcohol consumption in the population. Though the present study clearly indicates the role of A1 allele of ANKK1 TaqI A polymorphism in AD cases, further validation of this result is recommended to develop right interventional strategies and therapeutics.