HIDDEN FACE OF ALCOHOL ABUSE AMONG UGANDAN YOUTH

DRINKING AWAY THE FUTURE
BY ROGERS KASIRYE
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LOCAL GIN KILLS 40 PEOPLE
YOUNG PEOPLE ENJOYING LIFE
Hidden Face of Alcohol Abuse among Ugandan Youth

Outline:

I. Geography/Vital national statistics

II. Availability and use of alcohol

III. Way forward
I. COUNTRY MAP: GEOGRAPHY
I. A. Vital Statistics and Demographics

- Uganda has one of the youngest populations in the world, with 50 percent of its population between age 0 and 14 years.

- 2.1 million children are orphans due to HV/AIDs.

- Child vulnerability and orphanhood due to civil instability and HIV/AIDS are key factors.
I. B. Poverty issues

- Population: 31 million, predominantly rural—75%

- Economy: poor    GDP: ranked 83rd

- Income per capita: USD $300 annually

- 45% live below the poverty line

- Alcohol is the 5th major cause of poverty in Uganda. *(People drink because they are poor and are poor because they drink).*

- Benefits connected to production, sale and use of alcohol come at enormous costs to society.
WHO (2004) indicates that Uganda was number one with the highest alcohol consumed per capita at 19.47 litres.

- The age is getting younger and younger in terms of drinking.

- Drinking occurs in risky environments that may accelerate risky sexual behaviors.
II A. AVAILABILITY AND USE OF ALCOHOL

- 70% drink mainly homemade brew.
- Can be packaged by anyone and sold anywhere, anytime.
- Age limit is not a factor. Any age can buy it.
II. B. UNETHICAL MARKETING BY THE ALCOHOL INDUSTRY

- Free alcohol promotions at discounted prices
- Under-declared amounts of alcohol content
- Unfortunate poisonings and blindings due to excessive methyonal.
- Cheaper plastic packaging (0.20ml) - easy for young people to buy and hide in pockets/bags.
- Sold on the streets
- Advertised outdoors everywhere, every time, especially on the radio
II. C. Factors escalating the use of alcohol

- High alcohol content
- Packing small
- Cheap
- Advertising
- Poor law enforcement
  - (place, time and age)
II. D. ASSOCIATION WITH POVERTY, ROAD ACCIDENTS AND HIV/AIDS

- The 5th major cause of poverty in Uganda.
- Road accidents have tripped in the last 5 years and mostly affected young people.
- Unprotected and high risk sexual behavior and teenage pregnancies are associated with HIV/AIDS.
- Food shortage/famine because young people spend more time drinking, less time in the fields.
- Domestic violence increases and compromises power relations in homes.
III. THE WAY FORWARD

a) Raise awareness of alcohol use and abuse in the country.
b) Reactivate trade licensing and a minimum age limit of 18.
c) Govt. should regulate the industry.
d) Update and enforce law on sale hours, production, and distribution.
e) Strengthen penalties for those who break the law.
f) Develop substance abuse treatment programs.
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