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## **Social Factor Facilitating Liquor Ban in Bihar**

***Shashank Shekhar***

Department of Sociology, VKSU ARA

E-mail- [shashankshandilya1995@gmail.com](mailto:shashankshandilya1995@gmail.com)

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### **ABSTRACT:-**

Controversy has pursued the liquor ban imposed by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar two years ago. It has been attacked through people and critics alike, undergone various amendments, and most importantly, didn't provide results. Though proponents of this regulation have attempted to guard it through focusing on its numerous virtues, the manner in which this regulation has been enacted indicates insufficient utility of mind. The result: Bihar has reached every other junction where a change has become inevitable.

Introduced on 1 April 2016, the Bihar alcohol prohibition law sought to reduce crimes associated with alcohol and respond to protests being held with the aid of numerous communities. Sale and consumption of alcohol become banned at some stage in the State, and any character located in possession of alcohol become penalised. On paper, this sounded ideal. In effect, however, this law has not been able to achieve much — neither fiscally nor socially. In this paper we are going to assess some of the major implication turning around as its implication is multidimensional. Our main focus is on the rehabilitation and the youth used as a soft prey for bootlegger and how we can stop it yielding to the organised crime.

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**KEYWORDS-** Banishment, Prohibition, Bootlegging, Implications, Liquor, Mafias

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### **Introduction:-**

Prohibition of alcohol is the term used to denote that the making, transporting, importing, exporting, storing, selling, purchasing, and or consuming of alcohol is an illegal act. Prohibition of alcohol is more commonly just called prohibition. Alcohol prohibition in India is in force in the states of Gujarat, Nagaland and parts of Manipur, as well as in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. Kerala has been implementing prohibition in a phased manner since 2014. On 26 November 2015, the Chief Minister of Bihar Nitish Kumar announced that alcohol will be banned in Bihar from April 1, 2016 and violating the law carries a penalty of 5 years to 10 years imprisonment. While on Se 30 2016, High Court Patna ruled that ban is illegal, impractical and unconstitutional. Although before the high court order came Govt of Bihar announced that it will enforce the ban on liquor as only option in various

states of the country has not produced the expected result as the design was not participatory enough. The State government has organised massive human chain in support of the ban where 5 crore people have tied their hand together to show the unity. It is never an easy decision for a state government to declare a ban on alcohol in India. That's primarily because liquor revenues are not easy to ignore and safeguard to government funds. State like Bihar where no other source to generate government fund because of no industrialization, no Special Economic Zones and other sources it's a hard decision by government to take. There are many yea and nay of alcohol prohibition. Yea like: - to control liquor addiction in youth, health, control in crime, control in domestic violence (particularly against women), etc. Nay's like Economy- crunch in government revenue, black marketing, freedom of choice, restrictions in cultural practices of consuming alcohol. Through this study my focus on Socio-Economic Condition of the People of the Bihar after the alcohol ban, there advantages and disadvantages on the people of Bihar. Though Article 47 of the Indian constitution under directive principle states the state to endeavor for the banishment of intoxicated drinks like alcohol, But in the temptation of huge handsome revenues rarely state do so. Alcohol is a major obstacle to sustainable development, 14 out of 17 new SDG are adversely impacted by alcohol harms. Evidence shows that alcohol policy are substantial catalyst for achieving development for all.

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### **Methodology**

This study is more qualitative in nature; both qualitative and quantitative methods are used to understand the amenity of the problem of the research. Both primary and secondary sources has been used to fulfil the objectives of research. For Primary Data- Personal and Group Interviews of the respondents and stakeholders. Personal observation are the way of data collection

For Secondary Data- Literature Review. Internet will is another source of information to understand the complex of the research topic.

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## LITERATURE REVIEW:-

Alcohol Prohibition and Addictive Consumption in India (2003): Lupin Rahman in his paper examined the effects of alcohol prohibition on the consumption of alcohol and other addictive goods. Using a series of household expenditure surveys for India, it found that alcohol prohibition had differential effects on alcohol by type and sector. In particular, prohibition reduced the consumption of arrack, IMFL and beer, although its impact on the rural sector was lower. As expected, prohibition did not have any significant effects on the consumption of toddy - the local home brew.

Chandreshwar Prasad Thakur in his article puts some light on liquor ban happened in 1979 in Bihar- "It appears however that prohibition had a greater impact on alcohol related crime than on hospital admissions, even after November 1979. The alcohol was available on the black market but people drank indoors not in clubs and pubs. The explanation may be that when people became severely intoxicated at home, their relatives take them to hospital because of threat to life, whatever the state of the law. But because of the Prohibition Act someone who has been drinking will keep off the street, and the criminal will be careful not to be picked up for drinking. Thus in this instance legislation of total prohibition was a relative failure. Alcohol which is consumed by a large population for pleasure and for relief from the stresses and strains of life cannot be prohibited by law.

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## DISCUSSION:-

Four years ago when Nitish Kumar government brought a bill for the complete banning of alcohol created a new sense of quease in the society now the question discussed all around how the things will be? Because liquor has been a very prominent carrier of our lifestyle for any celebration liquor is needed

.But it's not like that only it is limited to celebration but there are thousands of people and their families who were highly dependant on it. On the day when it was implemented 6000 shops were there in Bihar, now there is a problem of employment for those thousands of people engaged in the profession directly or indirectly like there were directly employed while others were in transportation some were in parallel business of small chakhna snacks business. So this decision has not affected the economy but overall structure has been affected. Now we need to understand the chronology behind it as broadly we all know that there was a strong demand from the women section to Nitish kumar government for this ban. So after winning election in October 2015 he decided it to implement it in 2016 new financial year. Now the whole draft was ready from 1st april it was earlier decided to ban on deshi liquor while after 4 days all types of liquor were banned. Though to all the shopkeepers they were intimidated informally regarding it now later when any quantity of liquor was left to any shop it was ordered to return it back to Bihar state beverage corporation through which liquor is sold. In 2005 when Nitish government came to power the total revenue was 500 crore which was increased to 5000 crore rupees in one decade so this government only who decided to have 1 liquor shop in every 3 panchayat and through which a large number of shops were opened and the argument given by the government that time was revenue that is gives a lot of revenue and through lottery system shops were distributed. Later only after a decade the government decision to ban it completely give rise to couple of questions which need to be answered. In this paper I have also raised couple of questions and through my research tried to answer it which is raised by couple of people. Any government decision brings multifaceted implications so as this. Now the biggest question was of rehabilitation that what people will do who were earlier engaged in this business?

There are numerous people you find when you talk about the ban and the reply given by them will surprise you when they will tell that varieties these bootlegger and mafias discovered for illicit trafficking. Various factors are involved in the illegal liquor trade business. There is hierarchy and connection of people from top to bottom people from different age groups involved in which the lion's share of the population is unemployed youth several places school college going boys & girls and women are also involved as they are least doubtful among them, due to strictness adopted by the administration. Though this research paper focus mainly upon the implications and factors facilitating the ban however it is not based on any empirical evidence but on the experience of the people residing in the area. During my field work, I met people from different age groups gender and caste. As this is very sensitive issue so no one can go directly and talk to those who are involved in the illegal business

.During my field work in June 2019 when I was collecting my data from those people who were engaged in this profession, what are they doing right now? I met 20-25 people of those who were running liquor syndicate of 70-75 people in the district of Muzaffarpur Bihar. All of them unanimously mentioned that they have switched to another profession. Then if people switched their profession who are involved in the illegal business? Now this enigma raises my inquisitiveness in depth. Of the total people whom I talked they 7 out of 10 people have shifted and rest people who are in the business from long time are still in it through negative means. Because the liquor trade was very cosy and cash oriented. During the discussion they told me that they are those people who are having some political background like district president secretary. My field area was Muzaffarpur which is located 80km from Patna the state capital of Bihar. It is difficult and challenging for me to meet and talk to them so I prefer to talk to the local people of the area and those people who were in this profession earlier. Muzaffarpur is a very prominent city in North Bihar it is near to Nepal also and in the epicentre from neighbouring states of Uttar Pradesh. Earlier they will hesitate to answer or talk to you but when you make him comfortable they will you many ponderable points. Like earlier we need to go to shop but now you will get home delivery being done by the mafias. This home delivery word is in the trend in Bihar. One more point is of the supply demand imbalance if only supply will be stopped and doing nothing for the stoppage of demand side then it will never be terminated. Now if you visit to any place in Bihar ask randomly to anyone and ask about liquor prohibition they will use this word repeatedly may the way of doing it will differ but it happens everywhere. Though they will tell you about it but when you ask them to complaint it to the administration they will told you that every police station knew about them but they are providing them tutelage for money so why will they put them in danger because if police is giving them the support and if any common men will do something will ultimately be backfired. On the other hand administration police and excise department say that if something like this happens there are multiple forums that has been made for complain where

identity has been kept with anonymity. Like toll free numbers of excise and police department has been published where you can register. But the matter of fact is one or the another is addicted and he need it so nobody wants a ride for the fall and the situation became as previously.

Now Coming back to answer the question in more precise manner that how people are surviving under banishment so the very clear answer is that those people who were mild addicted have left drinking but those who were highly addicted they are able to manage it from somewhere and bottle which cost earlier rupee 500 is now costing 1500 and you will get it. Now underneath it there are multitudes involved from purchasing to home delivery as I mentioned about the 30% people who has not switched to other profession are those who earlier started this now multiple people and groups involved in it, because Bihar is highly unemployed state and for cash money there are many people who are easy prey for the bootleggers. On enquiring to the authority because they arrest many people and the information they gave is that for 8hrs working they can earn 500 or the MNREGA emolument is 235 but by selling liquor they can easily earn 2000 in a very short span of time. Earlier when there people gone arrested they start adopting multiple measures for the illicit trade to happen. The result is very evident that the number of mafias are mushrooming that is showing the profitability for this business that there are so many arrest but then also number is not coming down.

Also there is a very beautiful example to explain the social implications of liquor ban in Bihar shared by a very renowned Armchair economist describes very beautiful about "seatbelts" that when it was introduced there was an intention to reduce accidents but it led to more deaths happening as it gives a sense of false security to drivers hence their recklessness going up which resulted to number of pedestrian deaths though number of driver deaths reduces. There is a beautiful case of Forbes Mackenzie Act in Scotland in 1853 in which at 11pm on weekends and Sundays to close liquor shops and bars which resulted into adulterated alcohol cheap drinks later all this propelled the government to repeal the ban.

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## CONCLUSION-

The province liquor ban additionally runs on similar lines. as a result of the govt. didn't conduct ample analysis and didn't think about factors equivalent to availability of substitutes and bootleg sellers whereas enacting the law, it's currently attempting to eliminate this uncaused consequence by amending it. In fact, had the province government thought the policy through, it'd have checked out Scotland's example and not introduced this faulty act within the 1st place. The Forbes Mackenzie Act of 1853 tried to chop alcohol consumption by closing Scotland's pubs at eleven pm on weekdays and every one day on Sundays. many licensed drinking institutions closed as a result, solely to get replaced by sheebens — non legal drinking dens mercantilism low-cost, impure, and infrequently dangerous alcohol, that caused the govt. to repeal the act. This case study provides province a window through that to make sure that the policies it styles ought to be thought-out and meticulously planned. If policies as formidable because the province liquor ban are to be enforced, the govt. must widen its space of inputs, involve the individuals, study the incentive-structures that verify public selections and thru a method of discussion and discourse style policy that's strong.

So what I observed is as per our research questions the best way forward is to provide alternate rehabilitation measure for those 5lacs people directly indirectly involved in this trade. Also there are certain caste groups involved traditionally into it they don't have any immediate breadwinning option. Government should not treat them as criminals though moral counsel should be provided to them as criminal activities will not stopped in a single day which grown in the vicinity of the alcohol.

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