

**CULTURAL FACTORS IN MALE ADOLESCENT ALCOHOL  
USE AMONG EDE ETHNIC MINORITY  
IN CENTRAL HIGHLAND VIETNAM**



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M.A. (HEALTH SOCIAL SCIENCES)

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This study aims to describe the culture of alcohol use among Ede ethnic adolescents in highland central Vietnam. The ethnographic study was done in two villages of M'Drak district, Dak Lak province. Twelve male adolescents (15-19 years old) who were drinkers and non-drinkers, and eight key informants (parents, headers of the village, older people, and the owner of the alcohol outlets) were interviewed in depth. Participant observation with different groups was implemented.

The results show that all of the ceremonies of Ede people are opportunities for male adolescents to learn how to drink Kpie Ceh and how to play Ede music, to sing and to dance. Ede people believe that Kpie Ceh (pot of wine) that uses a bamboo straw for drinking, made by Ede people, is necessary for their life. They use Kpie Ceh for every day offerings or in ceremonies. In the past, large amounts of Kpie Ceh were consumed. Several times a year, villagers gather to celebrate events such as rice harvests, festivals, weddings or funerals. They did not drink any other kind of alcohol except Kpie Ceh. Today, Ede adolescents have been increasingly using rice wine, beer, and other alcoholic drinks. The study also indicates that each adolescent can drink up to one liter of rice wine a time. Some adolescents are allowed to drink with their parents.

In conclusion, under the immense impact of social and cultural change since the economics renovation policy, Kpie Ceh drinking extends to various types of alcohol drinking. As such, Ede male adolescents drink various types of alcohol and they are exposed to taking risks in violence and unsafe sexual practices. The study concludes with the recommendations of a culturally adapted alcohol limit policy, programs for male adolescents, and social security of education, and employment opportunity for adolescents.

**KEY WORDS : EDE / ADOLESCENT / CULTURE / ALCOHOL USE /  
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