

Overview

[The Global Health Education and Learning Incubator at Harvard University](#) (GHELI) supports interdisciplinary education about world health through the production, curation, and dissemination of educational public goods. This exemplar work was a final project for “World Health: Challenges and Opportunities,” a General Education course at Harvard College taught by GHELI Faculty Director Sue J. Goldie. For this creative assessment designed with support from GHELI, students systematically analyze a societal health challenge they care about and create a “real world” product intended to influence policy or motivate change.

Abstract

A painting exploring the impact of alcohol use disorders in India and its troubling intersection with domestic violence.

Artist

Aditi Chitkara (2019)

Caption

India is the third-largest and fastest growing market for alcoholic beverages. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the consumption of alcohol doubled from 2005 to 2016, going from 2.4 liters of pure alcohol per year to 5.7 liters. While this average is still less than the 10 liters in developed countries, the average consumption in rural India is a staggering 11.4 liters. Alcohol use disorders, especially in rural areas, are linked with several social consequences—like the increase in domestic violence. Increase in consumption of alcohol also makes public spaces inaccessible to women, who, across Indian surveys and interviews, report feeling unsafe and instances of harassment.

Artist Lens

It Takes a Village, is my response to this growing health problem. Alcohol use disorders can be a pit. A very hard to climb out of pit. Women are often the collateral damage. People need to be aware of the problem. The stigma needs to end. A whole community needs to put in effort. And last, but not the least, people deserve appropriate and professional medical support. I chose to present my ideas in the form of an art piece because I really enjoy expressing myself through art. Domestic violence is so deeply intertwined with alcohol abuse in rural areas in India, that not including it in my final project or expressing it through a less intimate medium didn't feel right.

Alcohol use disorders are treatable and preventable. It just takes a village.

[Watch Aditi Chitkara Reflection](#)

Media

Painting

