**IMPLICATIONS OF LIQUOR BAN IN BIHAR**

**NAME-SHASHANK SHEKHAR**

**Designation-Research Scholar**

**Institute-Department of Sociology VKSU ARA.**

**E-mail- shashankshandilya1995@gmail.com**

**Abstract-:**

The almost eight-years-old booze ban enforced by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has been the subject of controversy.

It has been criticized and attacked by both parties, changed several times, and most significantly, produced no outcomes. The way this law has been implemented shows inadequate usefulness of mind, even though supporters have tried to protect it by emphasizing its many benefits. The result is that Bihar has reached every other intersection where a change is now unavoidable. The goal of the Bihar alcohol prohibition law, which was introduced on April 1, 2016, was to lessen alcohol-related crimes and address protests organized with community support. Alcohol sales and consumption are eventually outlawed throughout the state, and any figure situated in.

Alcohol possession is now criminalized. This sounded perfect on paper. Ultimately, though, this law hasn't accomplished much in terms of the economy or society. Since the implications of turning around are multifaceted, we will evaluate some of the more important ones in this paper. Our primary concern is the rehabilitation of young people whom bootleggers use as easy targets and how to prevent them from turning to organized crime. The assessment highlights the development of a black market, income loss, difficulties facing law enforcement, and societal unrest as important problems related to the prohibition. To address alcohol-related issues while reducing unintentional bad effects, legislators must carefully evaluate the ban's results going ahead and take into account other approaches.

**Introduction-:**

The term ‘prohibition’ refers to the fact that the production, transportation, import, export, storage, sale, purchase, or consumption of alcohol is prohibited. It is more commonly referred to as ‘banning’. Alcohol prohibition is in place in several states of India, including Gujarat, Nagaland, Manipur, and the Union Territory (Lakmadweep) of Kerala. The State of Kerala has been gradually implementing alcohol prohibition since 2014. The Chief Minister of Bihar, Nitish Kumar, announced on 26 November 2015 that alcohol would be prohibited in Bihar from 1 April 2016. Violations of the law will be subject to 5 to 10 years imprisonment. On Se 30 2016, the High Court Patna ruled that the ban was illegal, impractical, and unconstitutional. The Government of Bihar had announced that it would enforce the ban as the only option. However, the design of the design did not give the expected result. The State government has created a massive human chain where 5 crore people tied their hands together to show unity. The decision is never easy.

**Methodology**

This study is more qualitative; both qualitative and quantitative methods are used to understand the amenity of the problem of the research. Both primary and secondary sources have been used to fulfill the objectives of the research

. For Primary Data- Personal and Group Interviews of the respondents and stakeholders. Personal observation is the way of data collection

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

**LITERATURE REVIEW-:**

To Drink or Not to Drink— Is Not the Question! For a Comprehensive Liquor Policy (Economic & Political Weekly, 2018): Kripa Ananthpur in his article criticizes the state government’s move- “Bihar provides an excellent example of how not to implement prohibition. The draconian ways in which the Bihar government is trying to implement prohibition is a serious cause for concern. Provisions such as the arrest of all adult members of the family if alcohol is found in the household, the imposition of a fine on the entire village if alcohol is found in any household within that village, and a 10-year jail term for violating the policy have been severely criticized by the public as well as the opposition parties.”

Bihar’s Alcohol Ban Good Intentions, Impractical Policy (Economic & Political Weekly, 2016): Sanjeev Kumar and Nishith Prakash in their article, question the claim made by the state government regarding the decrease in domestic violence incidents. According to them, liquor has nothing to do with the practice of domestic violence. They give the example of Gujarat- “ Gujarat is at the top among the major states with 74% of men of the opinion that wife-beating is justified when the wife does the following: going out without telling the spouse, neglecting children, getting into arguments, refusing to have sex, burning food, being unfaithful, and misbehaving with in-laws. The corresponding numbers for Bihar and UP are 51% and 38%. Given that the number is highest in Gujarat, one can potentially infer that abstinence from alcohol may not extend to abstaining from the belief that it is alright to beat one’s wife for some transgressions.”

Alcohol Prohibition In Bihar: A Policy Analysis by Sunil Vatsyayan.Already many years before, in March 2013, Bihari women started protesting alcohol-fueled harm in public. “Humari aabroo ki keemat pe sharab ka dhandha nahi chalega.” (The sale of liquor will not continue at the cost of our honor.)

**DISCUSSION-:**

We studied in our research on the liquor ban implications in a state where approximately 1.5% of the world's population resides In 2016 April in the 3rd tenure of Nitish Kumar government has brought the new excise policy which states the selling manufacturing and transportation of alcohol in any form as illegal.This decision was taken but its implications were multi-dimensional.Our study was also revolving around some of its implications.So before coming to any of its dimensions we need to know some of its facts as in 2006 when NDA led Nitish Kumar government came after a long battle against the so-called jungle raj of 15 year Lalu Yadav government Nitish Kumar government has brought a very soft excise policy that gave rise to the number of shops now every 3 panchayat has one liquor shop officially the number of shops in 2006-07 was 3436 that went to more than 6000 shops in 2016 the revenue collected was 500 crore that goes up to 4000 crores that in itself collected 1% of the entire GDP of the state that is a large amount for the impoverished state like Bihar.So moving beyond all these shining data of excise revenue.Nitish government decided to implement the ban during the state elections during campaigns wherever he went he received demands for liquor prohibition especially from women as this section of the society was highly affected of alcohol-related domestic violence.So he promised during the campaign that if he resumes power he will definitely bring the alcohol ban policy.As our research is sociological the focus should be on things that came out from the work done few things need attention like gender discourse and caste factor these issues are the hot potatoes of contemporary society. Now gender inequality and the endeavour of achieving gender equality is the ultimate goal in the liquor prohibition implications we see this gender inequality in how after a prolonged demand government fulfilled the promise through how women and girls were victimised before the ban also these sections saw a drastic heap of problem especially alcohol fuelled.There are several anecdotal evidence illustrating women's groups united and protesting against alcohol violence.The first such movement was started in Konar village of Rohtas district.But the point I want to draw is a question of gender equality and caste atrocities.Talking to the customs superintendent of my field area and many local people on the ground on asking about the gender-specific role they replied based on the experiences and observations they gained while talking to them in custody and during several operations via women arrested in raids they said they used to do this by the compulsion propelled by their husbands to an accomplice in this trade.As they said they earn a substantial amount in worming meager hours for this which help in adding a hand to the income of the family apart from doing the household work and the risk is also very low in comparison to their counterpart's spouse so everything is done by their spouse but the final delivery and execution were done by them.On the ground, I was told that small tea sellers fish selling markets pan cigarette shops are the main points of sell.Though I am not articulating the fact with exact evidence but these were based on the narratives from locals.Myriad people asserted these facts.Now as coercive actions were taken from the administration these mafias changed their method of working now their prey are school and college-going youth especially girls because of low risk as checking is difficult for the cops for those girls.Now this statement was the main problem of our research and this was clearly articulated by an RJD MP of Rajyasabha to an interview given to a media firm that a push location in Patna you have girls and boys are delivering the liquor to the home from where the order came to fulfill their prodigality.So women and girls are the soft weapons.Lack of opportunities and unemployment lead to these type of crises.It is a type of oxymoron that on the one side these women and their groups fuelled up the movement while on the other hand they were used as ammunition for this nexus and activities Now the next question of caste factor playing an important role though we need to see some social factors and engagement of certain caste groups like mushar community who are traditionally engaged in making of traditional liquor from mahua and cereals,there are much desi liquor bhatti situated in various far flanged remote areas near the river side and in the remote locations though the another aspect why they are doing while knowing the fact that it has now been illicit there many things emerges like there is no rehabilitation for them even for anyone though in beginning it was announced to have the selling of nira which can gives some amount of relaxation to pasi and it's allied communities through CONFED but all it was a hollow propaganda on the ground it was zero.So maximum times raid happens only in the areas where caste groups are larger in number.many times administration doesn't take action despite they take moral actions as repeatedly the same people were arrested a number of times. So So.rehabilitation and opportunities must be created for them to avail their breadwinning But we need to see various dimensions of action acting here Political dimension-Since 2005 when the regime changed Nitish government decided to increase liquor shops though at that time also illegal liquor were trafficked but for the issue of rate and after he came he softened the existing excise policy which allowed every 3panchayats has one liquor shop's which also helps in adding significant amount in the government treasury.Later after 10 years he completely changed his narratives for political benefits and to appease women's vote bank which accounts for almost 50% of the total vote account in the state.So 2decisions of the present regime earlier taken was giving 50%reservation in the village panchayat and local bodies and latter was alcohol prohibition which helps him in getting a good image and a strong mandate though opposition parties alleged this as a cantrip step for image transmogrification As why government earlier opened the liquor shop every panchayat now this had been accessible and in the reach of common people and there is no rehabilitation for those 5lakhs people engaged in the liquor trade.A BJP MLC alleged that there are many businessmen whose money got enmeshed due to this prohibition.Many big bigfish involved in the illegal business have the background of political parties couple of videos virally on social media flaunting liquor so these things need to be noticed while the policymakers design and should consider notes that there should be no relaxation anyhow to anyone though many times DGP of police exhorted that nobody is above the law and strict action were taken against everyone no ruling no opposition will be in mind wherever actions is required it will be taken.A couple of times he during the investigation went to the ground if any complaints were made and evidence was verified against on the toll-free numbers provided because the Nitish Kumar government has made this issue as a strong dogma of his good governance image and he can't tolerate any single blot.He rallied a couple of places in MP& UP and urged people there to demand the prohibition bill in their respective states.A couple of media reports that due to the lockdown down tourism conferences are not held in the state and going to several nearby pilgrimages of Varanasi and Deoghar Ranchi Kolkata increased because there is no liquor in the state and traditionally these occasions demand liquor.Bihar is a landlocked state and one of the bimaru states in the RBI list so this leads the situation bad to be worse.Earlier there is such a huge unemployment problem and this prohibition added fuel to the fire a couple of reports show a decline in the rate of crime but on the ground, people say that crime is still happening but my observation is that some amelioration has been observed especially in the molestation case and rarely you find anyone drinking and wandering especially during festivals.On the other talking to government officials like the Commissioner Of Excise, Director General of Police and others said this is not alladin ka chirag but the government is strictly working on the ground they gave examples of murder and many other culpable crimes is happening but the law helps in encountering these menace as there are some people always there to spread negativity a couple of times CM Nitish reiterated these points that come are happy people now investing on their livelihood.

.

**CONCLUSION-**

In conclusion, I would like to repeat a very important phrase from Shakespeare's Hamlet "to thine truly be true". During my visit which I conducted at the beginning of this month, I realized that if any government makes any policy that is not only the government's responsibility but also the responsibility of the police and administration, then if the public does not cooperate, then it will take an hour for both the police and the public to work together to fight this huge problem. Rome was not built overnight, so we should work step by step to achieve the goal. On the ground, the government provided all the necessary infrastructure such as a separate wing in the police department called "utpad" and "madhyanished", where the personnel was deployed in every rank as per the demand raised, under the command of an officer rank of the Inspector General. Talking to the staff, they said that no matter what is required, the government is very quick to fulfill it. There are few instances where the chieftain in the police department accepted that few policemen are supporting the nexus**.**,he a couple of times amid the field examination himself went and tended to the issue.But each cloud encompasses a silver lining we must see to the positive side of the coin as there are all over few people groups who are continuously spreading cynicism so our part is to see the half glass full side not half glass purge one. One more issue is of number of de enslavement middle which is additionally exceptionally less in comparison to the populace so it moreover has to be be tended to as just by ceasing supply won't as it work request side ought to too be ascertained. However, for mindfulness government has sorted out the human chain within the whole state which was checked by discussion and it was gathered to the inclusion of 5.5 crore people.So the government is endeavoring on the ground but excellence is an ever-approaching target.

**REFERENCES-:**

● https://movendi.ngo/blog/2019/05/16/alcohol-prohibition-in-bihar-a-policy-analysis/

● https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/alcohol-ban-bihar-impact-tourism-cm-nitish-kumar-liq

uor-1647240-2020-02-17

● https://www.newsclick.in/How-Effective-Bihar-Liquor-Ban

● https://theprint.in/opinion/nitish-kumar-must-lift-alcohol-ban-to-rescue-bihar-from-low-gstand-corona-crisis/416750/

● https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/nitish-kumar-calls-for-nationwide-ban-on-alcoholsays-prohibition-has-not-made-his-state-poorer/articleshow/741657

● https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/topic/Bihar-liquor-ban

● https://www.firstpost.com/tag/bihar-liquor-ban

● https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/liquor-ban-over-two-lakh-cases-p

ile-up-irked-patna-hc-raps-bihar-govt-119112200241\_1.html

● https://www.newindianexpress.com/business/2020/jun/09/confederation-of-indian-alcoholi

c-beverage-companies-urges-nitish-to-permit-liquor-trade-in-bihar-2154368.html

● https://caravanmagazine.in/gender/bihar-women-prohibition-benefits-wane-alcoholism-per● https://movendi.ngo/blog/2019/05/16/alcohol-prohibition-in-bihar-a-policy-analysis/ ● https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/alcohol-ban-bihar-impact-tourism-cm-nitish-kumar-liq uor-1647240-2020-02-17 ● https://www.newsclick.in/How-Effective-Bihar-Liquor-Ban ● https://theprint.in/opinion/nitish-kumar-must-lift-alcohol-ban-to-rescue-bihar-from-low-gstand-corona-crisis/416750/ ● https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/nitish-kumar-calls-for-nationwide-ban-on-alcoholsays-prohibition-has-not-made-his-state-poorer/articleshow/741657 ● https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/topic/Bihar-liquor-ban ● https://www.firstpost.com/tag/bihar-liquor-ban ● https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/liquor-ban-over-two-lakh-cases-p ile-up-irked-patna-hc-raps-bihar-govt-119112200241\_1.html ● https://www.newindianexpress.com/business/2020/jun/09/confederation-of-indian-alcoholi c-beverage-companies-urges-nitish-to-permit-liquor-trade-in-bihar-2154368.html ● https://caravanmagazine.in/gender/bihar-women-prohibition-benefits-wane-alcoholism-persist.