

Tribal youth war on alcoholism continues

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Express News Service

Rajahmundry, Sept. 10: The tribal youth of Kakavada village, who successfully conducted a peaceful agitation and forced an unlicensed arrack shop in the village to be closed down some time ago, are now faced with the problem of illicit brewing, distillation and sale of liquor in the village itself.

It is learnt that some of the villagers are now involved in illicit brewing and distillation of liquor, who sell it to some tribal alcoholics.

Alcoholism among the tribals is an age-old problem and even women consume it.

The youth, realising the evils of alcoholism, have started an agitation, at least to curtail the habit, if not to completely eradicate it.

Dr. P. Sivaramakrishna, director of Search for Action and Knowledge of Tribal Initiative (SAKTI), who led the crusade against the establishment of the unlicensed arrack shop at the village, said that it was difficult to prevent illicit distillation of liquor in the village, as some of the tribals of the village themselves were involved.

Even the excise department officials expressed inability, as they do not have enough manpower to deal with the problem.

The sales tax department officials, who could take some action against the illicit transport of jaggery, had excused themselves,

stating that it was a problem for them to reach the area and deal with illegal transport of jaggery and other materials used in the distillation.

However, the youth express optimism and seek time to play their cards.

There is another problem that of extremist activities, which had been hampering the free movement of the champions of tribalism, who could be mistaken for extremists by the police.