

Reasons of emergence of Malaria in KBK region of Orissa, India: An Anthropological approach

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The epidemiological figure of the state of Orissa in India and KBK region contributes 33 percentages of malaria deaths and almost 50% of malaria morbidity of the whole state in each year from 1992 onwards. The malaria incidence is increasing in the present year because of varied region and among them the socio-cultural reasons are seems to be an important aspect. The present study is an attempt to find out the reasons of occurrence of malaria in the region. With the help of anthropological techniques of field data collection 16 malaria endemic villages with a total number of 480 respondents were interviewed for this purpose. The selections of villages are done as according to the past malaria data of last five years and as according to concentration of the tribal population in the area.

The study finding revealed the fact that, preventing the spread of diseases in the area is necessitating the collective action both at individual level and also in community level. The government has spends lakh of rupees in terms of DDT spraying, distribution of bed-nets to the poor people etc. But despite all efforts malaria is continuing its role of disaster in the area. The interaction with people reveled the fact that spraying activity is wastage of money as not a single mosquito is dying because of its effects and according to people this is creating other problems of generating of other household bug in the house. Also people in the study are not allowing the spray man for spraying all their rooms because of their lack of knowledge towards the benefit aspect of DDT spray. The knowledge, attitude and belief aspect of people reveled that people don't considering mosquito as the only responsible for malaria. According to them water, forest and area having malaria germ and it will not cure unless until individual protection of using kerosene oil while visiting jungle, water should be purified by boiling etc. The suggestion of use of local leafs namely "Gangaseuli" is a important preventives for malaria among the localities and especially among the tribals. Besides using roots, leaves the tribals believe in local gods for cure of malaria. They use to go for government hospital after waiting of at least two or more days to ripe the disease in their

body. The waiting for mature of the fever as believe by the tribals are because the disease may not cure fully if it has not reached its climax and if efforts will extend to check the disease it may leads to deaths. On the matter of utilization of modern health care facilities, there is clear-cut distinction among the tribals and non-tribal people living in the same area. The former do believe that seeking helps from the modern health care facilities unnecessarily creates economic burden so they are not showing any interest in it. On the other hand the non- tribals are using health care facilities more frequently.

From our study it has been clearly find out that the persons engaged in the health care units are showing little interest towards malaria disease as other programme like immunization, RCH etc are coming in its line in a regular basis. Hence, the malaria treatment aspect is being neglected and the people having fever if approach then they are giving 4 tablets of Chloroquine medicine with out any diagnosis. The blood slide examination and the results of the test taking a minimum time of 15 days and this is because of location of technician only at PHC level. Curative aspects of treatment of malaria in the study area reveled that informed medicines are to be propagate and accessible to the person especially the tribal people who are in the disease victims as well as the recessive carried of parasite in their body. The renewed appearance of malaria in study areas thus cause due to the negligence in treatment, blind beliefs, inadequate medicine and increase dominance of faulty medicine man in the area, poor IEC campaign and more importantly lack of knowledge of disease and its causative aspect among the people.