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PRIMITIVE TRIBAL COMMUNITIES AND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IN INDIA

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edical Sociology has to play very effective role in improving the health care system for Primitive Tribal Communities in India. Primitive tribal communities are most backward and poorest of the poor sections of the society. They live in remote forest and hills, inaccessible regions; where even primary health care amenities are not available. They still depend for their livelihood upon hunting and food gathering. Most of the Primitive Tribal People in India are living in acute penury, they do not have a proper house to live, safe water to drink, medical facilities to protect from various contagious, water born, genetic diseases and other health problems arising due to malnutrition. In the year 2005-06 author conducted a research entitled "Diminishing population of Hill Korwas (a primitive tribal group)", funded by Chhattisgarh State Government and IFAD a body of UNO. In this study researcher found that though slowly but their population was declining, due to malnutrition, diseases and lack of health care facilities. On the basis of the study, researcher suggested to the state government, a number of measures to be initiated immediately. Some suggestions were improvement of health care facilities, giving them right to explore forest products for their livelihood, providing housing facilities, safe drinking water, elementary education, primary health care facilities like health visitors, nurses, trained midwife to take care of pregnant women and their delivery. On the basis of the research report both the Central and State Governments took various steps to improve the pathetic conditions of the tribal people. An evaluation study was conducted by the researcher, in the year 2010-11, which concluded with encouraging results. The health conditions of the tribal group were improved considerably so was seen in the other sectors like shelter, drinking water, education, food and nutrition and infant mortality rate etc. Declining trend in the population was checked completely and population graph had started giving positive signals.

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MANAGEMENT OF HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA: A CASE STUDY

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Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is one of the most lethal cancers worldwide. The tumor has a poor prognosis with median survival following diagnosis between 6 and 20 months. We know very little about structural arrangements and organizational dynamics within the healthcare system when it comes to HCC management. This exploratory study investigates the current state of care in the field of HCC management with specific focus on healthcare system capacity. A case study of HCC management at the VA (Veterans Affairs) is conducted. We conducted interviews with VA HCC experts and a descriptive data review is done to understand patient flow, site capacity, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Based on our findings, we can conclude that the management of HCC is complicated and is beyond clinical assessment alone. The level of expertise needed from the interdisciplinary care team, lack of access to adequate resources, limited availability of data that can be applied to improve outcomes and cost associated with treatment are some of the issues posing a significant challenge to providing patient centered care for VA patients. The role of tumor boards in helping mitigate some of these challenges emerged as a promising solution to increase the delivery capacity of the existing delivery system. In conclusion, this case study provides meaningful insights into some aspects of HCC management. Though not a comprehensive and generalizable evaluation there are a few action steps that can be taken to improve quality of care for HCC patients.

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