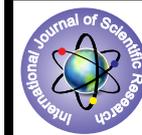


Common Diseases Among Danu Nagar Slum Dwellers : A case Study in Danu Nagar of Dharwad, Karnataka



Social Science

KEYWORDS : Slums, Technique, Disease, wood and habit.

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ABSTRACT

Slums are the most disorganized areas of the city. They have become an inseparable part of city life. A majority of cities in India have a sizable number of slums. Unfortunately, slums are increasing in terms of size and in terms of population.

Introduction

Slums are the most disorganized areas of the city. They have become an inseparable part of city life. A majority of cities in India have a sizable number of slums. Unfortunately, slums are increasing in terms of size and in terms of population. Owing to high land value, many urbanites are not in a position of constructing their own homes. Due to low wages and high rent, people are facing the problems of housing. A majority of city dwellers are living in single roomed houses. There is a shortage of residential dwellings in urban areas. The continuous influx of migrants has also aggravated generated the problem of housing. It has increased the number of slums in cities.

Methodology

Anthropology directly plunges into the field work, Since Danu Nagar was very close at hand and I knew the people and children earlier, thus to frame this article academically to get authentic information. I went to each home personally and collected the information. The secondary source of data was collected by referring to and by studying books, journals, Gazetteers and write ups on the research topic. Apart from these reference works at libraries data was also collected from Gram panchayat records maintained by authorities.

Diseases

People of Sudgad are not so much affected by the venerable diseases like Gonorrhoea and siphelias. But there were cases of people having HIV, and some have died with the same.



Cold

Since the sudgads keep travelling and going in for collecting rags and wood at different places they drink water from any source that is available freely. So they will easily catch cold. Sudgads have their own house made medicine for cold but they also consult the local doctor in case of emergency.

Cough

The eating habits of Sudgads are not proper. They eat anything that is available. Especially children eat without minding the consequences. They also eat raw and ripened tamarind, while on the way to work. So cough is the common disease found among the children.

Typhoid

This illness is little lengthy one to get cured. This is observed more among the aged men and women who work as daily wage earners. But this is not observed often.

Headache (Taleslhule)

This is also very common among the sudgads. Everyday at least one case will be of this disease because the people work hard without minding the sunshine during the day. They usually buy tablets like Crocin, Vicks Action 500 etc. from the shop and take it.

Influence

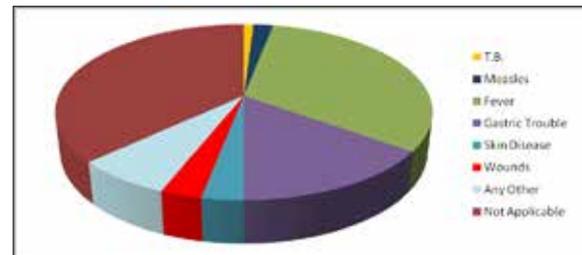
This is common among Sudgads. This occurs when the weather changes. Since the sudgads to different cities in search of work and better salary, they live in a bad condition under the tree or in a hut. So they will be the easy victims of this disease. The medicine used is both home made and modern. Sudgads do not feel the need to go to the government hospitals unless the patient becomes very seriously ill.

Diarrhea

This is mainly found among the children for their disorderly eating habits. During this time they treat the patient with congi (gungi) and they consult the local doctor.

Table-1
Previous one year's History of Illness

Sl. No	Typesn of Illness	No. of Cases	Percentage
1.	T.B.	3	1
2.	Measles	7	2
3.	Fever	94	32
4.	Gastric Trouble	44	15
5.	Skin Disease	9	3
6.	Wounds	10	3
7.	Any Other	22	7
8.	Not Applicable	111	37
	Total	300	100



In the above table we can study the illnesses that occurred during the course of one year. Diseases like TB and Measles cases were just nominal whereas the cases of fever and Gastric trouble were recorded more among the sudgads. Some cases of skin disease were also seen among the children. People including children had wounds which were 4% in all.

Environment

The environment or the surroundings of the houses of Sudgads is very dirty and sickening. The gutters have stagnant thick black coloured water which has become a heavenly abode to the mosquitoes. And pigs loiter around freely, after their bath in the gutters. No body is bothered to clean the gutters nor does any one take responsibility in informing the munsipal authorities.

The people also throw the daily waste in the gutter itself and no one takes responsibility or extra care to throw it in the garbage bin in the corner of the slum. All Sudgads are of the same mentality, if asked, they blame the other families. While verbal fighting they use very offensive and vulgar language so people of other religion will not go to fight with them easily.

Lavatory facilities

The Hindus and Muslims have the lavatory facilities attached to their houses. But the Sudgads did not have this facility until recently. Only 7 houses among the Sudgads have the lavatory facilities attached to their houses. But they do not allow others to use it, except one or two families. There are two lavatories in the whole of Danu Nagar constructed by the government for the slum dwellers. But they are located in the centre of the slum where Hindus and Muslims are a majority in number. So Sudgads do not feel the need to go there because they feel it is far from their houses. Since the railway tracks are near they find it

as a safer place. Children using the railway track in the broad light are a common phenomenon.

Conclusion

Both the elders and the children are very much prone into bad habits like smoking, drinking, eating pan, gutkha, supari etc. men at the end of the day when they return home come drunk and have constant quarrels with their wives. They beat them up sometimes and snatch away the money from them if they want to drink more. They also smoke heavily especially the Bidi, because cigarette becomes costly for them. Thus with all these bad habits the strong and able bodied men have become weak to work and are very easily prone to diseases. Children, following the examples of the elders have taken into smoking the leftovers of bidi and with the money got from begging in and around Dharwad city they eat pan, supari, and gutkha. They also drink the local arrack in hiding. Thus the children are also prone to many sicknesses. Some women also drink and fight with the neighbours.

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