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Health Issues of Kulathupuzha Teens

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Abstract

Tribal Children of Kulathupuzha tribal settlements not keep a satisfied level of health status. It is noticed that the region is a tourism destination but its benefits not getting to this indigenous community. Children of this community suffer by ill health due to once affected diseases in their past. This low health status raises a severe challenge to the better future of them by education. Children having ill health stop their education and go to child labor with their low physical condition. Lake of enough care and parents' ignorance regarding medical treatments enlarges this issue in the study area. It is recommended both NGOs and Government measures should give more importance for resolving the health issues of Kulathupuzha tribal children. Face to face interview method adopted to collect data for this study. Simple tables are used to convey the results easily.

Key Words: Education, Ill Health, Health Status, Teenager.

Health Issues of Kulathupuzha Teens

Tribes of Kulathupuzha village got special consideration from us due to their struggle for maintaining an average health status among their teenagers. Khalahasar, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Snake bite, Pneumonia, Communicable and non-communicable diseases are present among the teenagers of the study area. Fifty tribal children were selected for this study with the help of STPs. The fifty samples are from an age group of 12-18 from different settlements of the village. Among them it was found that child labor doing samples with ill health, out of school children, abandoned children because of ill health, school drop outs etc. The same time most of all ill health having tribal children were supported by their poor families in a pity way to attain their needs including education. Education is done only in government schools by all the fifty samples. And it was found that all the respondents generally they approaches their own natural medical practitioners and government PHCs [Primary Health Centers] for health problems. Poor economic status still prevent ST [Scheduled Tribe] families from regular hospital visit for their children, prompt vaccination and timely thorough medical checkup from other medical centers offer advanced treatment facilities. All most all parents are illiterate or having very low educational status. This made unawareness about modern treatment ways practiced in hospitals and they fear it. More than 50% of the teenagers in the fear injection 64% fears ECG and 80% fear scanning. It was found that when they watched booklets with pictures and explanations. Also it was found that 46% of them not interested to take natural medicines because of its control over regular food dishes. Kulathuppuzha village is a region of Nedumangadu tehsil and it comes in the group of tribal villages having more than thousand tribal populations. Kulathupuzha village has a distribution of Seven ST settlements called Villumoola north, Villumoola south, Kulambi, Peruvazhikala, Randam Mile, Vatakarikam and Peramkovil. All these settlements contribute ill health having children. Most of all respondents are infront of a threat, that is their health problem is a challenge their better future. The below tables depicts some results we got from this study.

1. Health Problems of the Respondents

SI. No	Health Problems as a result of	Number	Percentage (%)
1	Khalahasar	5	10
2	Disability	2	4
3	Hepatitis B	2	4
4	Pneumonia	20	40
5	Typhoid	11	22
6	Snake Byte	4	8
7	Chicken Pox	6	12
	Total	50	100

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2. Present Status of the Respondents

SI No.	Present Status	Number	Percentage[%]
1	Going School	30	60
2	Going to Child Labor	15	30
3	Dropped Out from School	10	20
4	Staying Home	3	6
5	Out of School	2	4
6	Abandoned	1	2

The above table there school going children are supported by their family even they keep poor financial status. Child Labor going group contains the dropped out, Out of School and abandoned children due to their ill health.

Here let us conclude, Kulathupuzha is a tourism destination also. Lot of local and outside tourists visit this place regularly. Even this income is not used for the welfare of the tribes. Welfare measures from government side spends huge fund per year to STs, but not reaching it to the grass root level people of this indigenous community. Both NGOs [Non- Governmental Organizations] and social workers should give more concentration in health empowerment related goals in Kulathupuzha especially among the teens. School authorities have a lot to do in this issue among their tribal students by awareness generation programs in school. Teachers can motivate both their students and their parents very much to achieve the goal of good health among Kulathupuzha teens.

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