

Traditional Health Care System of Pando tribes of Chhattisgarh: A Sociological Studies

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Abstract

Still today some of the tribal society living in dense terrains far away from modern civilization is treating themselves by various methods like- forest herbs, witchcrafts and black-magic. Sociologists called it their traditional method of treatment. Impact of modern civilization has also not distorted their faith in their traditional methods. They believe that their traditional health care practitioners to whom they called 'Bhaigas', 'Ghunias' or 'Devar' possess supernatural powers, can only relieve them from all types of health-related problems. It has been always challenging for human society to be free from disease. Since the beginning of human civilization, man is trying his level best to overcome disease or discomforts. Thousands of years ago from now when science was in its infancy, man has been treating maladies, illness and disorders through herbs, black-magic and other rites & rituals. With reference to tribal societies, views regarding health-matter also symbolize social-cultural specialties. In the present research paper, an attempt has been made to analyze the traditional methods and views of Pando tribes inhabiting Surguja district of Chhattisgarh.

Keywords- Forest Herbs, Traditional Health Care System, Pando Tribes, Black Magic, Bhaigas, Devar

Introduction :

Sound health is the basic need of human development. A healthy man can only create a healthy environment, which is helpful in the creation of a healthy society. Man is always in conflict; he has to face various physical and mental inhibitions which lead to the persistence of diseases in various diseases. Curiosity is the nature of human beings which made him toil for various types of remedies for his various discomforts due to diseases. By the help of various forest herbs, man is still trying to conquer diseases. Religious beliefs and mental states have given birth to different mediums for the treatment of diseases which include witchcraft, black-magic, religious performance and various other methods. The present study is in the reference of 'Pando' tribes of Surguja District in which analysis of related to origins of various diseases has been done.

Research Area:

Surguja district is rich in tribal culture. The study has been made in Surguja district of Chhattisgarh state. In this study out of 19 developing blocks, 11 developing blocks has been included.

Ample Number:- In Surguja district of Chhattisgarh approximately 5000 pando families are living (appr. Population is 31816) out of which 300 families were selected for the study.

Instruction Method:-

For the Present study 300 families were selected by “random sampling. Selection has been made in decreasing order families in total villages.

To accumulated information from Traditional health care practitioners like ‘Dewar’ Case studies were done.

Purpose of study: -

To study traditional methods of the causes of various symptoms and prevention in ‘Pando’ tribes and analysis of influence of the modern methods in the treatment is the main purpose of the study.

Introduction to ‘Pando’ Tribes:-

‘Pando’ tribe is one of the aboriginal tribes of Surguja district. Still this tribe is far away from modern ways of life. They are still struggling for their basic problems. State government has send a proposal to the central government to grant them the status of special schedule tribes. At present the state government has established “Pando

Tribes development board” whose head quarters is in Surajpur under Surguja district. Same of the traditional treatment practices by ‘pando’ tribes are as follows.

1. Trantras and Mantras (Black magic method) : -

Pando tribes believe that annoyance of many supernatural powers of nature is the causes of diseased. Their traditional health care practitioners can very soon

identify various diseases. In this method various types of Tender & Mantras are used to please these supernatural powers. For this various types of rites and rituals are also performed. Measles, 'Smallpox' and many other mental disorders are cured by them by alone method.

2. Medicinal Herbs : -

During survey one point is clear that these traditional health care practitioners have considerable knowledge of forest herbs. They know their utility in various diseases. During herbal treatment they use roots, flower, fruits and barks of various plants. During our study, information of near about 100 forest herbs has been achieved. These forest herbs are used in form of 'decoction', juice and boiled 'almanac'. In Several types of gynecological disorder, sterility in males and other feminine disorders, these herbs are used.

3. Religious Performance : -

These tribes believe that the annoyance of various supernatural powers are the reason behind these diseases. For example they believe annoyance of 'Shitala Maa' causes smallpox and measles, annoyance of 'Buddhi Mai' causes eczema and other skin diseases. And evil spirits are responsible for epilepsy, leprosy, blindness, heedlessness and weakness. In their traditional treatment of these diseases they perform religious – rite and rituals to please these powers. During this process many rituals and sacrifices are also made.

4. Witchcraft : -

By witchcraft their traditional health care practitioners treat various diseases. In this method they include herbs and several religious- performance. About 75% of tribal people have full faith in these types of treatment. They take support of witchcraft in the treatment of 'Snakebite' jaundice' 'intermittent fever' various types of headache, cholera and feminine problems.

5. Massage Treatment : -

Several ailments like muscular pain, fractures, feminine problems, swelling and for abortion they use massage treatment. For massage they use mustard and coconut oil mixed with juices and leaves of different types of herbs.

Modern Treatment : -

Due to awareness, education and various government health programs, interest among tribes for modern treatment has increased. These people have started accepting modern methods along with their traditional treatment like allopathic treatment, ayurvedic treatment and homoeopathic treatment. During survey it was clear that at times their social cultural position create restraint for modern method. About 77% of tribes when ill, give first preference to their traditional method only. So it is a great challenge for modern health care methods to keep a coordination between them and their traditional treatment. So that they can be provided with letter of health care treatment.

Summary : -

In the present research paper various types of traditional treatment of tribes of Surguja has been highlight. In this study, traditional health care practitioners, various patients and their families were included. Although there is no scientific bases to their traditional health care method. Then also they have a great knowledge of rare herbs on which scientific researches are necessary. Modern treatment process neglect their social cultural aspects that is why they cannot accept it easily. So it is a great challenge for modern health care practitioners to develop co-ordination among them and their traditional methods. According to the writer there should be a proper balance among modern medical facilities and tribal traditional practitioners should be provided proper training so that their diffused superstitions can be removed and they can get better medical and health care services.

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