



Tribal Health: Perception And Realization: A Book Review

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TRIBAL HEALTH: PERCEPTION AND REALIZATION; by A.N. Sharma, 2019, pp-1-184; LAMBERT Academic Publishing, Mauritius, ISBN: 978-620-0-44064-8, Price: 71.90 Euro.

This book is a fruitful outcome of the national seminar, which was conducted in the year 2017. The two days seminar was organised by the Department of Anthropology, Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh. The national seminar entitled on Holistic Anthropological Approach for Tribal Health: Perception and Realization. This book is reviewed with the permission of the editor. This aspiring work is done by Prof. A.N. Sharma keeping one thing in mind to highlights the tribal health domain from the Anthropological outlook. The book editor prepared a holistic account of perception and realization about tribal health, totally based on Indian scenario. This book is composite of twelve papers, which contributed by different authors, such as Anthropologists, Sociologists, and health professionals etc.

In chapter-I, author highlighted societies beat simple or complex have its own way to deal with diseases applying own belief, knowledge and practice. Karbi community is the early inhabitant of Karbi Anglong, Assam. Karbi have applied number of methods like, Karkli, Vur Kamatha and Kapherem, which means chanting, ritual etc., offered to supernatural powers. Through Kapherem the healer cure the diseases like Gastric, bone fracture etc. Kapherem is still practice for treatment of all major health issues among Karbi community. Kapherem is a type of oral magic to treat ailments and preserve their stories and maintain originality in art forms. In chapter-II, authors discussed the incidence of Malaria and its reduction rate in-between

1995 to 2014. They also discussed the prevalence of Malaria in the hilly forest tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh as it is obtained 4th rank in terms of Malaria all over the country and various precautionary measures adopted in dense forest areas such as Larvivorous fish, mosquito nets, spray of synthetic pyrethroid, formation of blood slides, rapid diagnostic kit etc. In chapter-III, authors highlighted socio-economic, maternal and child health of ST women and girl children and also compares with other women of Madhya Pradesh State. They were developed an index by taking 6 factors such as education, teenage fertility, medical access at birth, rate of infant mortality, birth order and total fertility rate etc. In chapter-IV, authors explained preventive, promotive and curative indigenous health practices prevalent among the people of Chhattisgarh. The study outcomes was people prefer home remedies used locally available plants and herbs for all sorts of diseases and lastly prefer to go to Baiga (local healer), if they fail or intensity of disease is outreach. In chapter-V, author focussed on how indigenous knowledge has faced challenges and opportunities in present societies in India. The basic aim of the study to conserve and recover the indigenous knowledge i.e., locally available sustainable and approachable resource to the people. In chapter-VI, author emphasised on the concept and mode of treatment among tribal people as the methods of treatment are found diverse among them. For tribal health, treatment patterns, death has distinct meaning reflects in terms of prayer, sacrifice, ritual, magical obligation, offering etc. Author also highlights different methods of dealing with diseases for treatment. In chapter-VII, author highlighted funds allocated for the development of Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Scheduled areas are misused. Author put emphasised and suggested that alternative model should be there which tribal friendly is and anthropologists opinion should be consider in planning, implementation and evaluation of developmental process.

In chapter-VIII, author highlighted health status of tribal's of three states viz, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland. By taking various indicators such as decadal growth rate, sex ratio, literacy rate, dropout rate, proportion of BPL, family planning, child marriage, child feeding practices, proportion of IMR and U5MR etc., holistic health status of three states were analysed. In chapter-IX, author focussed on health status and health care process among Gonds of Telangana. For Gonds, health means physical well-being and ailments are occurred due to natural and supernatural power and understanding of health is subject to age and education. The Gonds are practicing ethno-medicine as well as likely to have medicines from P.H.C and registered practitioner etc. In chapter-X, author highlighted, perception of health among the tribal's are associated with their culture and values. They still less access to modern health care practices and rely on ethno-medicine practitioner and also

emphasize the impact of IEC/BCC materials to mobilise the people and utilize the fullest by the community and role of health workers towards improving the health status in tribal areas.

In chapter-XI, author highlighted conventional practices attached with puberty, pregnancy and child birth during transition stages among Irula women of Puduchery. The rituals associated with puberty, pregnancy and childbirth are grounded with supernatural spirit. The author also emphasizes the traditional cultural practices of all these major stages of Irula women. In chapter-XII, author's highlighted tribal women are more attracted towards chewing tobacco just because of their ignorance of major health issues. The authors also underline some of the factors like toothache, morning sickness and peer, which influence the tribal women to chew Khaini, Zardapaan, and Gutka etc.

The concept of health among Indian tribal are associated with magico-religious practices along with herbal medicine and primarily depend upon shaman/local medicine man. The different dimensions of health aspects have got placed in this book which gave a holistic approach. In this book most of contributors used anthropological tools and techniques to analysed their research outputs. Though Anthropology is an empirical science it helps the readers to get firsthand experience. This book is very helpful for the academicians, scholars, bureaucrats who have working in the field of health and tribal's across India. As health is the basic priority for human being this book will help the scholars to gain fundamental knowledge for health research. The beauty of the book is based on people's perception on health from different parts of India and inculcate in the contextual format. The book price is very expensive, but it gives really thought provoking outcomes in tribal health research in the context of India.