

Reg No 177/2008-2009

ISSN: 2322-0325

PSSH PERSPECTIVE *of*
SOCIAL SCIENCES
and HUMANITIES

An International Multidisciplinary Refereed Research Journal

VOL 2, NO 2

JULY - DECEMBER 2013

Biannual

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Deoria (UP)

Publisher

Herambh Welfare Society

Varanasi (India)

The social Aspects of cancer: A Sociological Study

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Societies are not homogenous and variations between people of different social classes in many aspects of life style, culture, economic status and behaviour have clear repercussions with regard to health. In most studies of social economic differences and cancer occurrence measures have been used that are constructed on the basis occupation, habit (alcoholism, cigarette, tobacco etc.) education, income and wealth of area of residence.

Both internal and external factor effect a cancer patient's social behaviour. Misconceptions about cancer weigh on our social energy. Although negative emotions such as guilt and depression can alienate those around us, cancer can also effect the social relationships strongly.

There are certain cancers which are common in lower socio-economic classes. The treatment outcome is related to social classes as patients belonging to the higher class have better survival probably due to better access to the health care and ability to complete the treatment.

Inequality between social classes can increase and decrease over the time depending upon the changes taking place in the society. The social, culture, psychological and economic status play an important role in ailment similarly the morality of patients also affects the treatment.

Poverty and illiteracy and low morality leads to delay in diagnosis, inability to access health care facilities to complete the treatment.

Sociological perspective of cancer explores health, illness and healing experiences including those of patients, families and health care professionals. Here sociology focus on the utilisation of rigorous sociological research methods and theory to better understand the social, cultural, historical and political aspects of

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contemporary cancer care and survivorship. Sociology explores the perceptions and experiences of those with, and impacted on, by cancer.

Sociological perspective interrogates cancer as a social cultural and physiological entity and those who are affected by it as embedded in system of knowledge and practice that require certain things of them. Such understandings are aimed at helping provides better care and services to patients and families and support health professionals.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

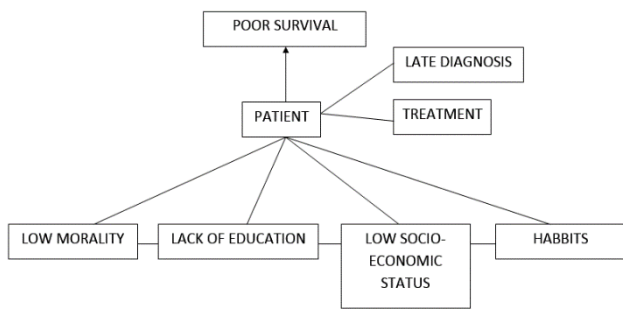
1. The purpose of the multidimensional study is to investigate sociologically relevant features related to cancer and cancer patients.
2. To identify the association between different socio – psycho – economic and demographic characteristics and cancer.
3. To investigate the anxiety patterns and morality of patients.
4. To associate cancer with sociology.

HYPOTHESIS

- Cancer is not only physical toll but it is also social toll.
- The social factor of like - sex, age, marital status, economic conditions may exert own psychological pressure on patient.
- Social class structure and inequality effects the ailment and morality of patients.
- There is causal relation between cancer and society.
- Pollution, habits, geographical status affects the treatment & healing.
- Cancer may cause of anxiety and suicide.
- Socio – economic factors affects the treatment.

If we see the medical aspect of cancer it means we are ignoring the whole aspects of cancer. Cancer is not only a physical damage but it is also a social drawback of society.

The patient's economic, social, psycho, residential, habits, education level affects the treatment and healing.



The above figure shows that there is a clear and deep connection between external factor like literacy, habits, morality, socio-economic status and cancer healing and survivorship. It is the fact, societies poorer and less privileged members live in worse health and die much younger than the rich and more privileged ones.

AREA OF STUDY

The following research paper is based on targeted interviews and case study with the key informants.

The study is based on information collected during the period of intensive fieldwork in outdoor and indoor patients of Sir Sunderlal Hospital, B.H.U, Varanasi. The main focus of the study is to present an authentic and scientific study of class structure of patients.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- The socio – economic aspects affects cancer treatment, similarly, the treatment affects the economic conditions of the patients and his / her behaviour and social relationships.
- Cancer is one of the prominent causes of anxiety and suicide.

PREVENTION AND SUGGESTION

Detection at the early stage and their treatment helps the patients for recovery and cure with less expenses or medicine while the detection in later stages causes lot of problem and unexpected expenses or medical treatment with little hope of recovery. Patients need family support and awareness about prevention & cure will help the patient's cope with cancer's social & health effects.

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