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IMPACT OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ON THE SOCIAL LIFE OF LEPROSY AFFECTED PERSONS

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Abstract

Background:

"It is well recognized in leprosy platforms of India that elimination was never actually achieved."

--- Ashim Chowla, CEO, Lepra Society in Secundrabad, India

In Indian society leprosy stigma is basically a type of social stigma, it is a strong negative feeling towards a person with leprosy relating to their moral status in society. It is also referred to as leprosy-related stigma, leprostigma, and stigma of leprosy. Leprosy still evokes social stigma and prejudices in the society and exercises constraints on the patients to live a socially excluded life¹. Though global prevalence of leprosy rate has declined to 0.18 per 10,000 populations in 2015 from 10 per 10,000 populations in 1985 even after the implementation of Multi Drug Therapy (MDT). It is true that India achieved the elimination in year 2005 at National level as per WHO criteria i.e., reduction of Prevalence rate per 10,000 populations to less than 1, but the World Health Organization (WHO) noted in 2016, adding that in 2015, India had accounted for 60% of the global total of new cases. Aim-The present study makes an effort to understand the impact of the ailment on social life of the sufferers. Method-60 patient respondents (20 non-contorted and 40 contorted respondents; out of 40 contorted respondents, 20 patients were contorted non-handicapped and 20 were contorted-handicapped) from TLM Hospital, Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh. The respondents were selected based on Purposive Sampling technique. Result-Present study reveals that 16.67%

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