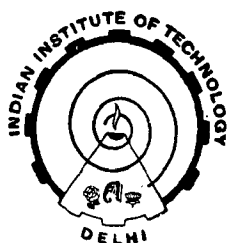


SOCIAL IMPACT OF SOME CHRONIC DISEASES : A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF DELHI POPULATION

By

AMITA BOSE

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Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, DELHI

1985

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled "Social Impact of Some Chronic Diseases: A Sociological Study of Delhi Population" is the bonafide work of Mrs. Amita Bose, conducted in the Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi under my guidance and supervision.

The results contained in this thesis or any part thereof has not been submitted to any university or institution for the award of any degree or diploma.

Raha Sharan
6/12
DR. (MRS.) R. SHARAN
SUPERVISOR
Department of Humanities
& Social Sciences,
I.I.T. Delhi.

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AMITA BOSE

Abstract

In recent years the explosive growth of population has become a great concern in cities of India. Out of the magnitude of problems in city life, maintenance of general health among urban people remains a difficult task. Over and above, misconceptions and prejudices regarding some diseases have made this task much more difficult. An understanding of the social stigma and consequent family disruption can unveil some factors which obstruct the speedy recovery of the patients. It is in this area, precisely, a sociologist can render some help.

Considering the above factors, the present study attempts to focus on the sociological implications of some diseases which require prolonged treatment and which bear social stigma in societies.

To be more specific for this exercise, leper and schizophrenic patients have been studied in an urban setting. The focus of this study was on understanding the relationship of sick persons with their family members and friends and problems of patients' adaptation with disease.

This dissertation is divided into seven chapters. Chapter one provides the review of literature, objectives and hypotheses of this study. Chapter two deals with the research design. Chapter three gives the social background

of respondents. In chapter four Parsonian model of sick role is applied on leper and schizophrenic patients. Chapters five and six deal with the social problems of leper and schizophrenic patients. In chapter seven findings of this study are reported. The main findings of this study are:

1. Role exemption in sickness varies according to age, income and occupational background of sick people.
2. Education plays a pivotal role in limiting the incidences of disease.
3. Attitudes of relatives/friends of leper and schizophrenic patients differ according to socioeconomic background of patients.

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