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[Abstract Title]

Impact of Amphan on the Health Sector of Kolkata: A Small Study on the People Going through Cancer Treatment

[Abstract]

The cyclone Amphan hit West Bengal on 20th of May around 4-6 pm in the evening causing major destruction throughout the southern districts of Bengal including Kolkata. It disrupted the lives of several people to such an extent that millions were left homeless and the cyclone had massive effects on agriculture. On the contrary, this particular disaster had an adverse effect on health care facilities in Kolkata with the rise in the COVID cases throughout Bengal. This cyclone adds to the difficulties of already vulnerable patients who are going through treatments that compromises their immunity during the pandemic. This paper will try to explore the different layers of the vulnerability of Cancer patients living primarily in Kolkata, as a result of the ongoing pandemic and the natural disaster. More specifically, this paper will focus on those patients who had unavoidable health emergencies during the days following the cyclone. In the process of exploring the complex feeling of helplessness of these Patients, emphasis will be given on the narratives of the participants, the articulation of their lived experiences during the difficult time. In the context of this research, this narrative analysis of the lived experiences of the participants will try to unfold their perception of what constitutes a particular disaster. Qualitative in-depth interviews will be used as the primary tool of investigation with the help of the interview schedule concentrating on the narratives of 5 participants.



[Keywords]

Natural Disaster, Amphan Cyclone, Pandemic, Cancer Patients, Narratives, Vulnerabilities