

**IMPACT OF AMPHAN ON THE
HEALTH SECTOR OF KOLKATA: A
SMALL STUDY ON THE PEOPLE
GOING THROUGH CANCER
TREATMENT**

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INTRODUCTION

- The tropical cyclone Amphan hit the Eastern region of India (West Bengal and Orissa) on 20th of May 2020.
- This natural disaster hit West Bengal during a time when the whole world going through a pandemic regarding the outbreak of COVID 19.
- The southern part of Bengal has been severely affected including North and South 24 Parganas and Kolkata
- As a result of ongoing pandemic West Bengal is already dealing with economic crisis as well as labour displacement and migration.

Impact of Amphan in Urban Spaces

- Total loss of communication
- Loss of electricity
- Water scarcity
- Transportation difficulties

Impact of Amphan in Rural areas

- Devastation of agricultural land along with crops
- Loss of settlements
- Huge amount of displacement

Challenges in Relief Initiatives

- Lack of proper resettlement facilities
- Lack of communication due to insufficient infrastructure
- Disruptions of the guidelines regarding social distancing during these relief activities
- Lack of healthcare facilities in Rural as well as Urban areas of West Bengal

CANCER PATIENTS AND THEIR DOUBLE VULNERABILITY

- The participants of this research already belong to a group who comes among the highly vulnerable population within the covid crisis.
- They are going through unavoidable health emergencies that not only lowers their immunity but also high exposure to pandemic for their treatment purposes.
- With steep decrease in the Gross Domestic Product of India, they are one of the most economically vulnerable due to their unavoidable health circumstances.
- In rural areas several such patients have lost their homes with absolutely no help from the local authorities.

OBJECTIVE

- This paper will explore the complex feeling of insecurity and helplessness of these vulnerable identities in this difficult times.
- On the contrary, the guidelines of social distancing have already made this vulnerable group alienated from the surroundings due to their health conditions.
- Through the articulation of the lived experiences of this people, this paper will try establish a connection between Social Capital, Resilience and Health care within the wider economic and political framework of India.

METHODOLOGY

- Semi structured interview schedules will be used in this process of looking deeply into the long term mental health effects of these participants.
- The use of narrative analysis in this case will help in finding the causal continuity of the lived experiences of the participants within the wider crisis.
- The exploration of the participants perception of disaster will help in unfolding the stories of personal crisis in relation to the wider structure.

STORYTELLING AS A PROCESS OF EMOTIONAL RECOVERY

- The retrospective analysis of the lived experiences often has therapeutic values in cases of over coming the post disaster trauma.
- On the other hand stories and narratives gives different meanings to a particular individuals experiences of what constitute a particular disaster.

FINDINGS

- The participants who has been interviewed in this process have emphasised on the diagnosis of cancer and the prolonged treatment as a disaster itself, which has a long trauma.
- The covid crisis have made this trauma even more difficult when it comes to establishing a collective expressions of people going through similar experiences.
- The cyclone has added to their physical as well as mental vulnerabilities which disrupted their the collective network in this difficult times making individuals less resilient.

CONCLUSION

- This crisis needs to be addressed as it give us incites into the personal and the political experiences of the vulnerable identities which will help in the formulation of system of disaster management that focuses on trauma and individual recovery.