



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

THE ROLE OF WOMEN AS WARRIORS DURING COVID-19 : A CRITICAL STUDY

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Abstract :

Woman is the magnificent creation of God. She is the second creator of earth, nourisher of child and destroyer of impiousness and irreligiousness. Woman is adorned with most venerable title-“MATA” the mother. So in sanskrit the panegyrist praises “*Yatra narjyastu pujanya, ramante tatra devatah.*” The deities become joyful where women are adored. Where is no respect for women, there is no imagination of creation. She plays all the roles and acts wholeheartedly and inefficiently. Time is passed. Now woman is acting as well as a man. The world started to recognize the ability, efficiency and potentiality of the women in the present Covid-19 pandemic situation. The contribution of them towards society is quite commendable. There is no field left where they have not presented their dexterity. They are working in several fields like Politics, Social welfare, Health, Engineering, medicine, Administration, Sports and music etc. In present covid-19 women are taking a valuable part in this world like warriors in the battle-field. They are brushing their shoulders with their male counterparts in every field. Absolutely, in present situation they are suffering so much, but their sacrificing is unbelievable.

Key words : magnificent, wholeheartedly, Covid-19, dexterity, adored.

Introduction :

Woman and man are the two fragrant flowers of a stalk of creation- the flowering tree. There is no imagination of completion without each other. She is not only the bedridden

and enjoyable for man, but the life dreams of the industrious, inspiring scientist and the poet's imagination also. Woman is the incarnation of goddess. So her role in the observance and operation of the structure of society is unparalleled. Negligence of women in social life is not possible for the betterment of society. In ancient tradition of holy India had a lot of respect for women. In the vedic period, women were like men writing mantras. They were pious, learned, noble, virtuous, ascetic and honored. In the middle ages, some superstitions such as child marriage, untouchability and satiety entered India. Women's lives became miserable. Gradually women's freedom deteriorated, she was a man-made sports doll and became men's crippled servant. The woman became asshole. Adorned woman was trapped between family chains and the walls of her house. Education became a curse for women. The days are gone and human beings have entered a new age. Now Article- 14, 15, 15(3), 16, 39(a), 39(b), 39(c) and 42 of the Constitution are of the constitution provides blessings for the women. It provides various opportunities for development of women in their personal and social life. The heroine of the dream city, a symbol of bondage and reunion, is at the height of success today.

The Context :

Women are empowered in many ways. Various plans are being put in place for women's empowerment. Eighth March 1903 is a memorable day in the history of world. This is our glory that in this day women's awakening begins in the United States of America. We have been celebrating the "International Women's Day" on March 8th every year all over the world to remember the glory of women according to the instruction of United Nations. It's a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. Therefore, from the countryside to capital, from earth to space, from kitchen to Educational fields and women have been able to fly their victory flag. It's essential for the present days. We can say, "Educated women are the beauty of the country."

Rationale :

The outbreak Covid-19 was first identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. The World Health Organization declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 30 January, and a pandemic on 11 March. Women have been continuing service to the public in various sectors fearlessly while epidemics such as Covid-19 engulf the world. But now the author is especially concerned about the health department in India. In this sector so many lady workers as well as male workers are working dedicatedly. Forgetting own life and own family, the doctors, the Multiple Female

Health Workers(MFHW), the anganwadi workers(AWW) and the "ASHA Karmi"s as corona warriors, continue to serve faithfully. Similarly the administrative bodies, the Police department, Fire department and Teachers are working as corona warriors too. The author met some nearer field workers and learned problems from the short talk with them. Especially the field workers are suffering so much obstacles on behalf of publics while they are going to maintain their daily duties. The works and the activities of ungrateful people are more shocking than the joy of the service of women in health department. So the author became bound to prepare this article for the future sincerity and build a safety life. It should be remembered that consciousness and self sincere person seldom suffers. A self-guided and disciplined person has no problems and he is able to fly the flag of victory in every field.

Objectives :

- 1.To Identify the causes of covid-19 infectious disease and it's effect on human beings.
- 2.To develop an understanding about the roles of respected field workers' importance in the health department.
- 3.To create awareness and to develop respecting mind towards the doctors, health-workers and other field-workers.
4. To develop self realization and self-consciousness in covid-19 pandemic situation.

Impact of Covid-19 on human beings :

Corona Virus Disease(Covid-19) now known as a world-wide infectious disease which can infect a community at a particular time. It is the most dangerous virus than pneumonea which stays in throat for minimum 4 days, creates more problems in digestive system, breathing system within a few days in the deficiency of immunity power and becomes causes the end of life.

Field Workers in Health Department :

The Author likes to present a data of a Sub Centre under Public Health Centre in this step as a sample to clarify all about the activities of field workers. Similarly, other sub-centres are running in several districts in Odisha. Health Supervisor, Health Worker/MPHW(F)/ANM,Health Worker/MPHW(M), Anganwadi workers and ASHA Karmees are working as field workers in Health & Family Welfare Department.

1.Health Supervisor :

He/She appointed as govt.employee on Regular and contractual basis and getting remuneration and other time to time facilities as per govt.norms. A HealthSupervisor plays a role as a direct representative of Community Health Centre of a District and communicate all the health status of all Sub Centres under a Public Health Centre to CHC to take necessary steps to eradicate of all problems in this regard with the help and instructions of medical officers. He/She is responsible for several activities such as

- Supervising of staff members and evaluating performance efficiency of them.
- Generating and organising schedules for healthcare teams.
- Ensuring that resources such as equipment and medications are available.
- Organising and recording information that is pertinent to the function of the facility.

2.Multi Purpose Health Worker :

A multipurpose health worker (MPHW) is the key functionary in a Sub Center. Auxiliary nurse midwives (ANMs) or Multipurpose Workers (MPWs) female and HWs male (M) provide an interface with the community at the grass-root level, providing all the primary health-care services. Their services are considered as important work to provide safe and effective care to village communities. They are appointed as govt.employee on Regular and contractual basis and getting remuneration and other time to time facilities as per govt.norms.

3.Anganwadi worker (AWW)

The Anganwadi worker is the most important functionary of the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS). The Anganwadi worker is a community based front line worker of the ICDS Programme. She plays a vital role in promoting child growth and development. The Anganwadi workers are now getting a monthly remuneration of Rs 7,500. Mini Anganwadi workers are getting Rs 5,375 while Anganwadi helpers are getting Rs 3,750.

4. Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) :

An accredited social health activist (ASHA) is a community health worker instituted by the government of India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MHFW) as a part of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). The mission began in 2005; full implementation was targeted for 2012. Their tasks include motivating women to give birth in hospitals, bringing children to immunization clinics, encouraging family planning (e.g., surgical sterilization), treating basic illness and injury with first aid, keeping demographic records, and improving village-sanitation. Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers are getting a monthly conditional remuneration of Rs 3,500 monthly on discharging of five mandatory and four assured activities. Now all over Odisha 47,000 ASHA Karmis delivering their services during all weather conditions. It is a matter of pleasure that realising their dedicated services, once the Chief Minister Mr. Naveen Patanaik had announced that each ASHA will be provided with several facilities like steel almirah, ladies bicycle, chappal, umbrella and rechargeable torch. For this purpose, each are provided

with Rs 10,000 grant which is remitted directly to their bank accounts. The ASHA workers will receive the honorarium amount under Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) after completing at least 10 years of service or get retired at the age of 62.

In present Covid-19 they are working enthusiastically with Doctors as Corona warriors. The author had attended a sector meeting on last two Saturdays i.e on 01.08.2020 and 08.08.2020 and met all the field workers while they were participating and discussing on the progress of health awareness during covid-19 including their own weekly duties and collected some data. Now a short note is prepared according to the data as follows to draw the attention of public. After these tables we are able to know details the activities of the said field workers in the health sector.

Table-1

SUB CENTRE under SIMULIA CHC		WORKING AS FIELD WORKERS				
KALASUNI S/C under ADA PHC(N)		Health Supervisor Regular	Health Worker(F) Regular	Health Worker(F) Contractual	AWW	ASHA
VILLAGE	POPULATION	MALE (1)	H.W(F)(1) Ada PHC(N) with Additional in-charge of KALASUNI SUB-CENTRE	Bhagyashree Sathy (for Muruna Panchayat)	11 (MAIN) 02(MINI) (Total=13)	06
08	7573					

This table refers to the sample of this research paper on which the author has focused to prepare this article and collection the details data regarding the lady field workers' activities. The sample as follows :

State : Odisha

District : Balasore

Block : Simulia

CHC : Simulia

PHC(N) : Ada

Sub Centre : Kalasuni

Table-2

Sl. No.	Name of the AWC	Name of the Health Supervisor	Name of the Health Worker(F)	Name of the AW Workers	Name of the ASHA Karmees
01	MURUNA-1	SHIBA NARAYAN PANDA	SUKANTI NAYAK	SANJUKTARANI DAS	MINATI DAS
02	MURUNA-2			SUVRABALA UPADHYAYA	KAUSHALYA DAS
03	MURUNA-3			KRISHNA ADHYA	MINATI DAS
04	DHUBAGADIA			RASMITA DAS	
05	BANGURUPADA-1		Bhagyashree Sathy(contractual) (for Muruna Panchayat)	URMILA PATRI	SUKANTI PADHI
06	BANGURUPADA-2			MADHUSMITA PANDA	
07	GOVINDAPUR			SMITANJALI MOHAPATRA	MAMATA BEHERA
08	NARASINGHPUR			JYOTI PRAKASHINI MOHANTY	SEBATI DAS
09	KALASUNI-1			BASANTI ROUT	PANCHALI DAS
10	KALASUNI-2			JANAKI DAS	
11	CHHATRAPUR-1			MANJULATA DAS	SEBATI DAS
12	CHHATRAPUR-2			MANORAMA SETHI	MINATI MALLICK
13	HALISO			GHUMALATA BEHERA	

This table means the name of village wise field workers who have been eagerly working regularly before covid-19 till now inspite of several field problems. Not only they promotes awareness for public but also they participate in various social works as per need of public to enhance the cooperation among them.

Table-3

DAY	WEEKLY ACTIVITIES OF FIELD WORKERS (Health Dept) FIXED	ADDITIONAL Activities	NATIONAL PROGRAMME
MONDAY	SCREENING OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE(NCD)	1.Post Natal Care (PNC) visit	1.PULSE-POLIO PROGRAMME.
TUESDAY	VILLAGE HEALTH NUTRITION DAY(VHND)	2.G.K.S meeting	2. VITAMIN- A CAMPAIGN
WEDNESDAY	IMMUNIZATION	3.Village Health Awareness meeting	3.NATIONAL DE-WARMING DAY(Distribution of De-Warming Tab and Syrup)
THURSDAY	SCREENING OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE(NCD)	4.Care of Adolescent girls	4.IDCM(Intensified Diarrhoea Control Month)Programme
FRIDAY	VILLAGE HEALTH NUTRITION DAY(VHND)		5.MDD(Malaria,Dengue and Diarrhoea)eradication programme.
SATURDAY	SUB CENTRE REVIEW MEETING AND WEEKLY HEALTH REPORT SUBMISSION		6.Leprosy eradication programme.
			7.RNTCP(Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme)
			8.MDA(Mass Drug Administration)-Filaria Control Programme.

In this table the author tries to draw the attention of public to know the several activities of the above field workers based on health improvanace of Pregnant women,Infants,Children, Adolescent girls and all Old aged fellows.

Now the Odisha government has appointed around 7,000 trained health professionals, mainly Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), temporarily to run Covid Care Homes being set up in 6,798 gram panchayats across the state. These trained workers are engaged to smooth management of the Covid Care Homes (CCHs) where mild and symptomatic cases are to be lodged for observation. These base-level health activity in these CCHs are managed by unemployed trained and registered ANMs, and each of them is given Rs 850 per day as remuneration.

In this connection the author pleased to say that in the present Covid-19 Pandemic situation a large numbers of women in health department are working eagerly as corana warriors all day and night forgetting own happiness and try to save people from this epidemic. Unfortunately, some has lossed their lives during this service. In the discussion regarding activities of covid warriors it was known that many people are uneducated in KALASUNI Sub Centre. More than 500 people were staying in other states as migrators and working private sectors in daily wages basis. During this epidemic they are suffering a lot financially, mentallly and phisically for which they are not caring the covid rules, wandering around monopoly and try to search works to maintain their families. Some others are misbehaving the field workers. Not only in this area but in several areas and in several states it is found to see that covid warriors are being offended seriously and oppressed for the lack of consciousness, poor knowledge and secularism. It is seen also that having no mask, without maintaining social distance many indiscipline people are wandering around, gathering, violating covid rules and engaging in a variety of immoral acts. So they have to face so many problems while convincing these people to aware of the bad effects of Corona Virus. Therefore, poor covid warriors are suffering unnecessarily by their chaos and the carona virus infection is on the rise. However, due to the strong efforts and vigilance of the carona warriors in the areas under Simulia CHC, Simulia Block, Balasore, the cause of the infection has been largely prevented. Field workers are proud of this success.

Acts should be adopted by people in Covid-19 :

- Should not go within 6 feet of the sick person unless you or they have covered both mouth and nose with a mask.
- Should not touch face unless or mask unless have cleaned hands.
- Provide the sick people a dedicated and sanitised space.
- Clean hands often minimum 20 seconds and thoroughly with soap or alcohol rub.
- Should clean surfaces with soap or disinfectants.
- Should consult Health workers, Asha karmis and doctors immediately if breathing trouble or chest pain ocured.
- Maintain social distance unhasitatingly.
- Should drink worm water and avoid cold drinks, alcoholic liquids, junk food etc.
- Sanitise daily the rooms, including tables, hard-backed chairs, doorknobs, rremote controls, light switches, handles on cabinets and refrigerators, desks, toilets, sinks, computer keyboards and mice, tablets, mobiles etc.
- No visitors should be allowed inside house or office without sanitising.
- Should take foods to enhance the immunity power of body.
- Should give more attention to children and old aged fellows.
- Should obey the advise of covid warriors who are working dedicatingly for the public and respect them.
- Adopt the rule : “STAY HOME, STAY SAFE”

The Govt.of India and State Government are taking so many steps working together to save human resource in the society. But regretly it has to say that some people going beyond the rules and increasing corona virus infection.So Govt. should take the strict decision in this regard and help to improve the mental power of the covid warriors especially of the female field workers in the health department.

Conclusion :

Women are more dedicated and devoted to their duties and have much patience and politeness than men by nature. They are more hardworking,more sincere and developer of children also.There is no doubt that women are playing a vital role in the national building, but the men are still not in favour of giving them the given due powers. The empowerment of women by itself cannot place women on equal footing with men,the need of hour is the change of social attitudes towards women. So Ravindra Nath Tagore said :

“Woman is the builder and moulder of a nation’s destiny, though delicate and soft as lily, she has a heart, stranger and bolder than that of a man, she is the supreme inspiration for man’s onward march”

Similarly, Dr.Rajendra Prasad said *“Our women have a very great part to play in the progress of our country as the mental and physical contact of women with life is much more lasting and comprehensive than that of men”*

It can be undoubtedly said that the Present Covid-19 has brought this strong evidence of the women empowerment. Truly, women are revered and omnipotent. In this present situation the author bounds to bow down his head before their dedicating and devotional works.

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