

Title :Ethno medicine among Munda tribe: An alternative path for ensuring equity health

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Health is a common theme in all culture and ensured by our Constitution as a fundamental right for all under Article 21. It is not only essential for our well being but ubiquitous for very survival. In all human groups no matter how small or technologically primitive, there exists a body of belief about the nature of disease, its causation and cure, and its relations to other aspects of group life.

The paper discuss about the ethno medical beliefs and practices in relation with various dimensions of health and ill health and its intrinsic relationships with economic, political, socio-religious and other institutions as existing among the Munda tribe of Ranchi district in Jharkhand. Munda tribe is the third most populous tribe of Jharkhand having time immemorial traditional knowledge about health care practices derived through close observation of nature and socio-cultural diversity. Due to acculturation, erosion of bio-cultural diversity, change in economy, impact of market, constant intervention of state for allopath system and such other factors there has been significant changes in their ethno medical beliefs and practices in particular and in their world view as a whole. The paper discusses on it and supports it through the findings.

The methodology comprises of primary source data collected through interview schedule and quasi-participant observation as well as secondary sources of data. The paper while critically evaluating the bio-medical approach of health and allopath medicinal system discuss about the alternative path of health care by integrating the ethno medicinal therapeutic system embedded in their bio-cultural diversity with the existing health care system for an easily accessible, affordable, holistic, safe and equity health.