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Health & Nutritional Status of Great Andamanese of Strait Island

A Medical team comprising of Dr. Alok Sinha, Senior Medical Specialist, Dr. Mishri Lal, Programme Officer (Tribal Health), Dr. shafique Qadir, Deputy Director (Leprosy) along with E.C.G. Technician, Lab. Assts visited Strait Island on 6th July, 1998 and conducted a detailed check up and investigation of Great Andamanese of Strait Island. A thorough medical check up was carried out which also included blood & stool examination. However, only 8 stool samples and one sample of semen were tested at the spot besides that a total number of 8 ECG were also taken as a preventive measure for detection of Heart Diseases among the old Tribal generation. All the findings and clinical details are enclosed at Annexure-I.

1. As per the report of the Investigation team it could not substantiate the findings of any Goitre mentioned in the ICMR report.
2. No evidence of Vit B Complex deficiency could be established in the Great Andamanese population.
3. The Medical team, also could not establish any old or fresh Ricketts (Vit. D deficiency) case.
4. Only one suspected case of Vit. A deficiency detected.
5. All the old patients who were suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis except Smt. Lichu found to be in good health and free from this disease.
6. Only one adult male was found suffering from skin disease.
7. Their oral hygiene was satisfactory and only two cases were having dental carries.
8. The health & general conditions of all the Andamanese as a whole were found to be satisfactory and none of them were suffering from any acute diseases except Smt. Lichu.
9. 6 cases of mild to moderate Microcytic Hypochromic Anaemia were seen out of which 2 children were below 5 years of age, 2 ladies were in reproductive age group and the other 2 were males.
10. Out of the 8 samples of stool examined, all of them were found positive for Round worm and Trichuris Trichura.