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Conclusion: -

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Considering all the facts, the medical team is of the opinion that health status of Great Andamanese population is very satisfactory. The incidence of anaemia and growth retardation is very much comparable with the national figures. Here it can be stated that four children below 13 years of age were hybrids showing mixed racial characteristics. Though living in the same environment their growth was better than the Andamanese children. This shows that retarded growth observed in the children were related more to the racial characteristics of Andamanese tribes than to malnutrition. These children do not show other features of malnutrition like Oedema, Pot belly, Dermopathy, Mental changes which are seen characteristically in cases of Protein Calorie Malnutrition. The report published in the Daily telegram recently which stated that there were wide spread malnutrition, Goitre, Vitamin deficiency and diarrhoea epidemics were not found relevant and is baseless.

The wide spread helminthic infection requires prompt health measures. All the Andamanese should be dewormed with Abendazole every 4 months. The intake of tablet should be ensured. Other persons residing in Striat Island should also be dewormed.

All those who are having low haemoglobin should be given Iron and Folic acid tablets and checked periodically.

In view of the some cases of growth retardation all children upto the age of 13 years should be given milk powder as protein supplement. At present it is provided only upto the age of 5 years.

The incidence of Alcoholism noted in Andamanes was disturbing as it may lead to serious health hazards. They can develop Cardiomyopathy and cirrhosis of Liver in a long run.

It is evident that the sharp decline in their population coincided with the period of penal settlement in these Islands. Since they were not having immunity to any of the common diseases like Tuberculosis, common cold and influenza, the contact with outsiders resulted in large scale epidemics in their population. This is a well known phenomenon seen all over the world like American Red Indians and every African tribe were extinguished after coming in contact with outside population. Although their number has been established over the years, non-availability of eligible match in the reproductive age may lead to down ward trend in future for that precautionary measure is to be taken at this crucial juncture.