

on the Obstetrics of Jarawa Mothers of Kadamtala" is a glowing tribute to traditional methods of delivery which leave the mother and child untouched by the wear and tear of protracted labour. But they are now being given modern medicines without any study of the impact of the use of these drugs on their immune system. Decisions like immunizing the Jarawa against measles and Hepatitis B have been taken with some consultation, but considering the high risk of immunising healthy carriers of Hepatitis B, it requires a second or even third opinion.

Administration expressed need for a standardized protocol for treatment of the Jarawa. To prevent syphilis, clothes are provided to the Jarawa when they enter hospitals, but it causes skin infections. They are made to bathe with soap since their bodies give out an odour because of their diet. But what about the chemical reaction of soap on their skin which is amazingly soft and glowing? Reports from non-official sources indicate that the Jarawa have now started demanding soap and we saw a few Jarawa boys in the forest wearing shorts. Despite this and recommendations from many committees, distribution of clothes and provision of mainland food continues at hospitals.

Dependency

Dependency is a cross-cutting theme. Many aspects of it have already been covered under various sections of this report. However, given the dangers of dependency, they need to be reiterated and highlighted. This sub-group is of the opinion that while dependency is not desirable, especially when it involves an unequal relationship, it should not be viewed in a "one-dimensional" manner.

Currently, the Jarawa are being provided food, tools, utensils, medical aid and clothes by administration which feels that these measures are essential for their survival and protection. The question before the sub-group is are these interventions necessary and the ensuing dependencies inevitable?

Administration admitted that immediately after contact was established it had started doling out hundreds of kilograms of bananas and coconuts to the Jarawa. Consequently, they reduced their hunting activities. Now this practice has been changed and the Jarawa are provided food only on demand. The Jarawa traditionally