

POVERTY AND ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM :
AMONG BANJARAS OF BELLARY DISTRICT IN
KARNATAKA

Dr. V. Jagadeesh*

Key Words: Poverty, Health, Settlement, Stage and Capacity.

Introduction:

Forest environment degradation is the basic cause for poverty among Banjaras. Poverty means hunger and sick, not being able to see a doctor. It is related with lack of food resources, employment, schooling and infrastructures. Precisely poverty is the lack of multiple resources that leads to hunger and physical deprivation. Illness among societies like Banjaras is often dreaded because of the experience that it plunges families into destitution because due to lack of health care, the costs of available health care and the loss of livelihood due to illness. Prolonged illness reduces working capacity among the people and they may not able to meet their minimum food requirement. Some of the respondents very sadly expressed that we are all ill because of poverty. Poverty is like an illness. The poor Banjaras repeatedly said that they have neither access to government health services nor private health care system. Some of the settlement respondents are of the opinion that we watch our children die because we cannot pay the high hospital bills.

Methodology

The filed work and data collection were conducted in four stages that is pilot survey, tool testing survey extensive and intensive many surveys in two stage. All together for period of eleven months during holidays of my college were spent in the filed between June 2009 to May

* Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Karnatak Arts College, Karnatak University, Dharwad.

2012. The Banjara households spreading over 7 Talukas of Bellary District have been covered for data collection. Field methods like schedule, Genealogy interview, Case study and secondary sources were also collected the total sample has comprised households

Desiccation

When poor Banjaras talk about access to formal health services, issues of corruption and cost repeatedly arise. For poor families, who are already highly Vulnerable, the costs of a sudden illness can be devastating, both because of lost of income and the costs of treatment. While the actual treatment itself can be prohibitively expensive, in many cases, there are other hidden costs that add to the overall financial burden of health care. These hidden costs include the expenses incurred on traveling to a place where health care can be received, and psychological stigma of having been treated for certain diseases like tuberculosis, leprosy, STD and RTI. Costs are also incurred from Banjaras that must be paid and gifts presented to doctors and other health care workers in order to ensure adequate treatment. The poor Banjaras identify all of these factors as significant barriers to access. Therefore the following tables have been analyzed on minor and major health problems and nature of treatment taken by the Banjara patients.

Minor And Major Health Problem

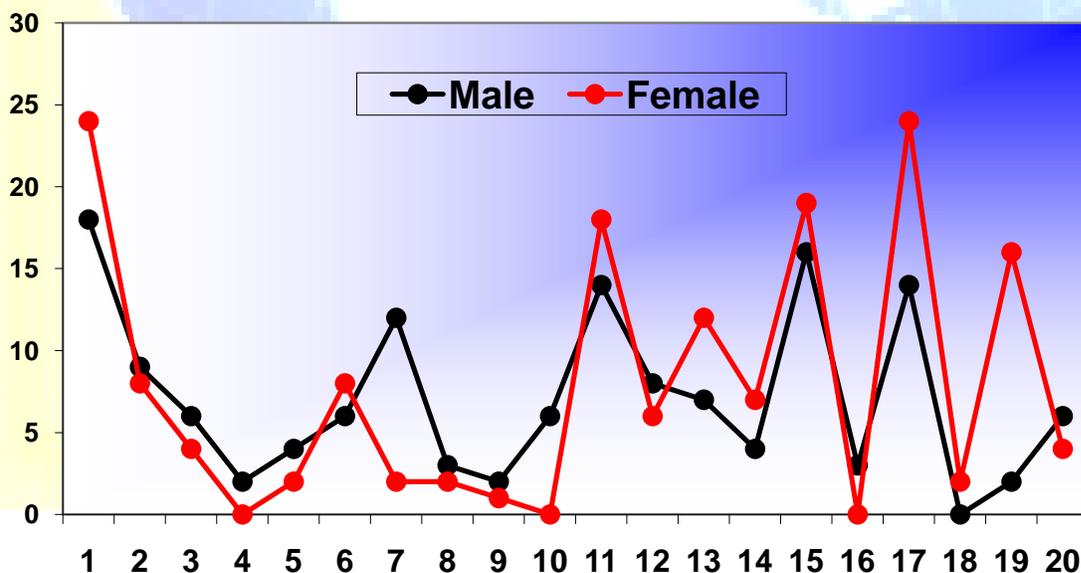
The Banjaras regularly effected with the minor ailments like cough, cold, fever, headache, body pains, small injuries and epidemic diseases, chronic and contagims diseases, skin diseases and eye infections. Endemic diseases like goiter, malaria and dengue fever are very frequently occur. The incidence of malaria is very high among Banjaras of Bellary district.

Table: 1

Health problems among Banjaras of Bellary Taluk.

Sl. No	Health Problem	Male	Female	Total	Male%	Female%	Total%
1	Malaria/Fever	18	24	42	13	15	14
2	Cough	9	8	17	6	5	6
3	Asthma	6	4	10	4	6	3
4	Arthritis	2	-	2	1	-	1
5	Paralysis	4	2	6	3	1	2

6	Diarrohea	6	8	14	4	5	5
7	Skin disease	12	2	14	9	1	5
8	TB	3	2	5	2	1	2
9	Leprosy	2	1	3	1	1	1
10	Goiter	6	-	6	4	-	2
11	Eye infections	14	18	32	10	11	10
12	Scorpionbite	8	6	14	6	3	4
13	Dental pain	7	12	19	5	7	5
14	Dysentery	4	7	11	3	4	4
15	Headache (Migraine)	16	19	35	12	12	12
16	Scabies	3	-	3	2	-	1
17	Weakness	14	24	38	10	15	13
18	Stones	-	2	2	-	1	1
19	Chiken Pox	2	16	18	1	10	6
20	Ohers (injuries, Fractures, hepatihsetc)	6	4	10	4	2	3
Total		142	159	301	100	100	100

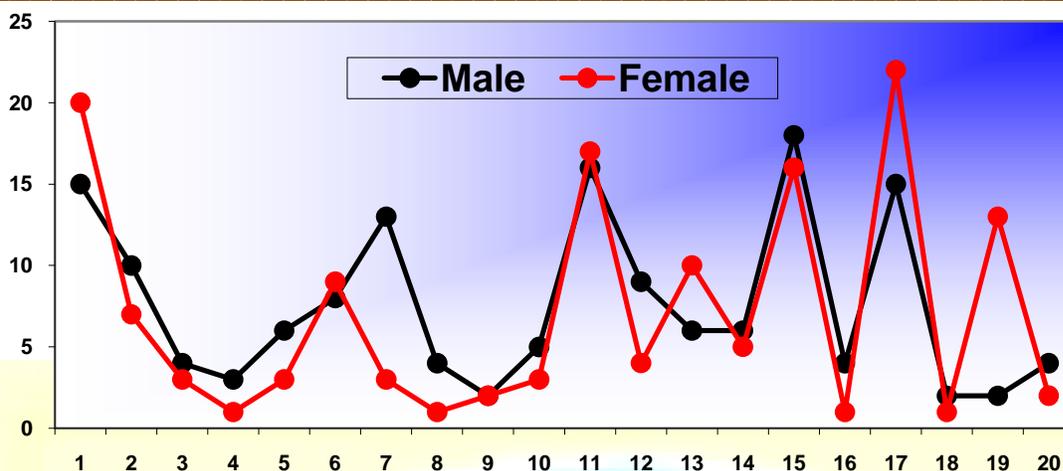


The above table shows Bellary taluk health problems in sample of 400 families during the last one year (2009 – 2010). It is noticed from the table that the incidence of endemic disease malaria/ fever still much reported from them. Like wise the incidents like weakness, (38) headache (35) eye infections (32) and dental (19) pain were also reported much.

Table: 2

Health problems among Banjaras of Hospet Taluk.

Sl. No	Health Problem	Male	Female	Total	Male%	Female%	Total%
1	Malaria/Fever	15	20	35	10	14	12
2	Cough	10	7	17	6	5	6
3	Asthma	4	3	7	3	2	2
4	Arthritis	3	1	4	2	1	1
5	Paralysis	6	3	9	4	2	3
6	Diarrohea	8	9	17	5	6	6
7	Skin disease	13	3	16	8	2	5
8	TB	4	1	5	3	1	2
9	Leprosy	2	2	4	1	1	1
10	Goiter	5	3	8	3	2	3
11	Eye infections	16	17	33	11	12	11
12	Scorpionbite	9	4	13	6	3	4
13	Dental pain	6	10	16	4	7	5
14	Dysentery	6	5	11	4	4	4
15	Headache (Migraine)	18	16	34	12	11	12
16	Scabies	4	1	5	3	1	2
17	Weakness	15	22	37	10	15	13
18	Stones	2	1	3	1	1	1
19	Chiken Pox	2	13	15	1	9	5
20	Ohers (injuries, Fractures, hepatihsetc)	4	2	6	3	1	2
	Total	152	143	295	100	100	100



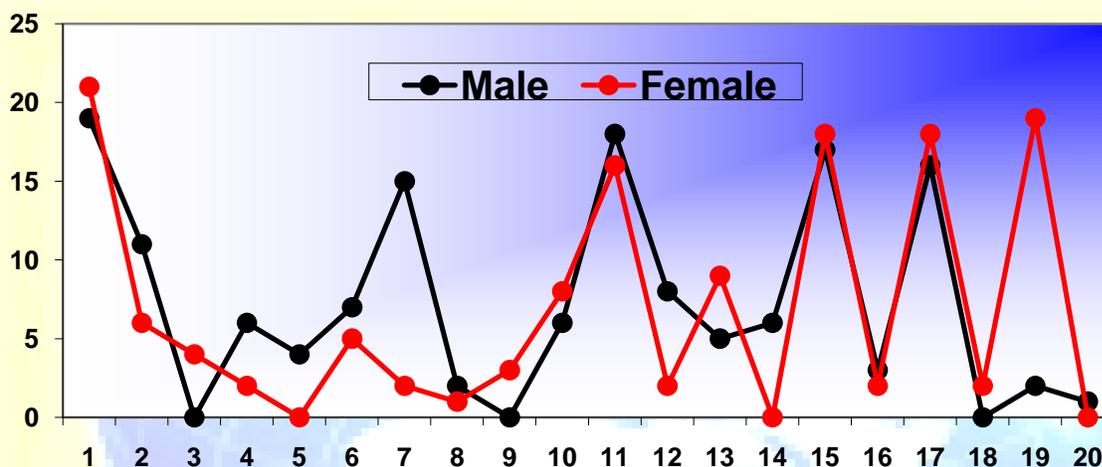
The above table shows Hospet taluk health problems in sample of 400 families during the last one year (2009 – 2010). It is noticed from the table that the incidence of endemic disease malaria/ fever still much reported from them. Like wise the incidents like weakness, (37) headache (34) eye infections (33) and dental pain (16) were also reported much.

Table: 3

Health problems among Banjaras of Siruguppa Taluk.

Sl. No	Health Problem	Male	Female	Total	Male%	Female%	Total%
1	Malaria/Fever	19	21	40	15	18	16
2	Cough	11	6	17	8	5	7
3	Asthma	-	4	4	-	3	2
4	Arthritis	6	2	8	4	2	3
5	Paralysis	4	-	4	3	-	2
6	Diarrhoea	7	5	12	6	4	5
7	Skin disease	15	2	17	12	2	7
8	TB	2	1	3	2	1	1
9	Leprosy	-	3	3	-	3	1
10	Goiter	6	8	14	5	7	6
11	Eye infections	18	16	34	14	13	14
12	Scorpionbite	8	2	10	6	6	4
13	Dental pain	5	9	14	4	4	6
14	Dysentery	6	-	6	5	-	2
15	Headache (Migraine)	17	18	35	13	15	14
16	Scabies	3	2	5	2	2	2

17	Weakness	16	18	34	13	15	14
18	Stones	-	2	2	-	2	1
19	Chiken Pox	2	19	21	2	16	9
20	Ohers (injuries, Fractures, hepatihsetc)	1	-	1	1	-	-
	Total	127	117	244	100	100	100



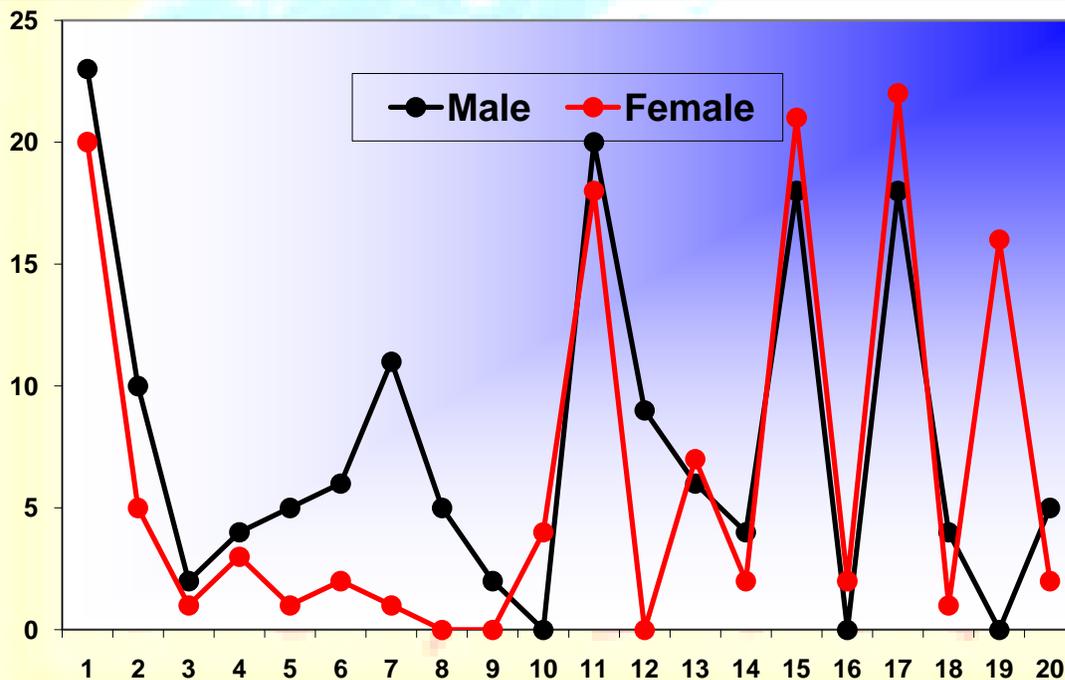
The above table shows Siruguppa taluk health problems in sample of 400 families during the last one year (2009 – 2010). It is noticed from the table that the incidence of endemic disease malaria/ fever still much reported from them. Like wise the incidents like weakness, (34) headache (35) eye infections (34) and dental pain (14) were also reported much.

Table: 4

Health problems among Banjaras of Sandur Taluk.

Sl. No	Health Problem	Male	Female	Total	Male%	Female%	Total%
1	Malaria/Fever	23	20	43	18	18	18
2	Cough	10	5	15	8	5	6
3	Asthma	2	1	3	2	1	1
4	Arthritis	4	3	7	3	3	3
5	Paralysis	5	1	6	4	1	3
6	Diarrohea	6	2	8	5	2	3
7	Skin disease	11	1	12	9	1	5
8	TB	5	-	5	4	-	2
9	Leprosy	2	-	2	1	-	1
10	Goiter	-	4	4	-	4	2

11	Eye infections	20	18	38	15	17	16
12	Scorpionbite	9	-	9	7	-	4
13	Dental pain	6	7	13	4	6	5
14	Dysentery	4	2	6	3	2	3
15	Headache (Migraine)	18	21	39	14	19	17
16	Scabies	-	2	2	-	2	1
17	Weakness	18	22	40	14	20	17
18	Stones	4	1	5	3	1	2
19	Chiken Pox	-	16	16	-	15	6
20	Others (injuries, Fractures, hepatihsetc)	5	2	7	4	1	3
Total		129	108	237	100	100	100



The above table shows Sandur taluk health problems in sample of 400 families during the last one year (2009 – 2010). It is noticed from the table that the incidence of endemic disease malaria/ fever still much reported from them. Like wise the incidents like weakness, (40) headache (39) eye infections (38) and dental pain (13) were also reported much.

Table: 5

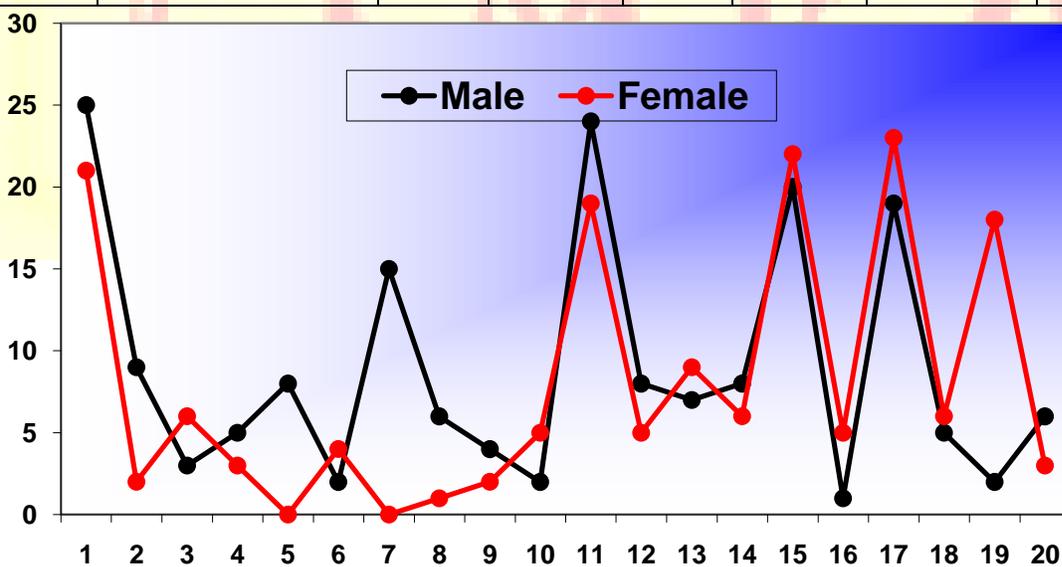
Health problems among Banjaras of Hagaribommanahalli Taluk.

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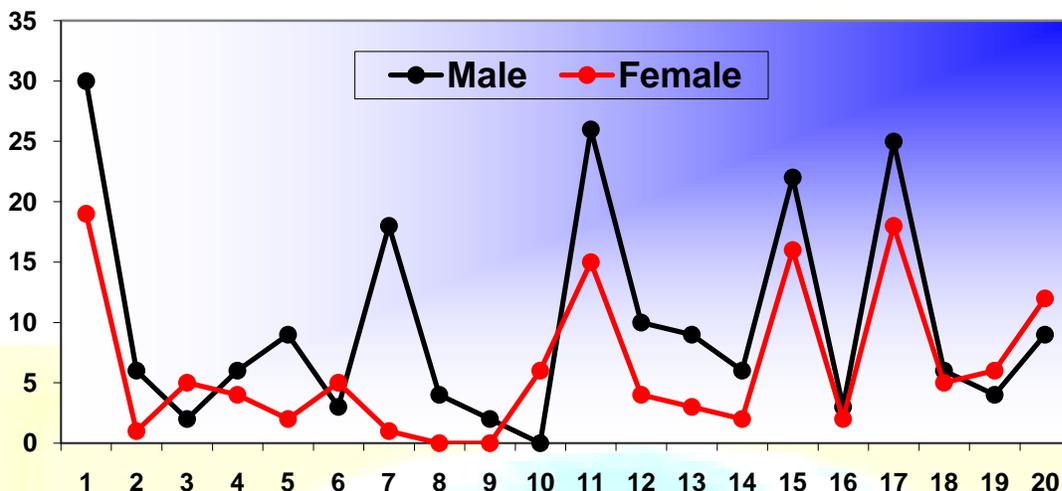
Sl. No	Health Problem	Male	Female	Total	Male%	Female%	Total%
1	Malaria/Fever	25	21	46	16	15	16
2	Cough	9	2	11	6	1	4
3	Asthma	3	6	9	2	4	3
4	Arthritis	5	3	8	3	2	3
5	Paralysis	8	-	8	5	-	3
6	Diarrohea	2	4	6	1	3	2
7	Skin disease	15	-	15	10	-	5
8	TB	6	1	7	4	1	2
9	Leprosy	4	2	6	3	1	2
10	Goiter	2	5	7	1	4	2
11	Eye infections	24	19	43	16	14	15
12	Scorpionbite	8	5	13	5	4	4
13	Dental pain	7	9	16	5	6	6
14	Dysentery	8	6	14	5	4	5
15	Headache (Migraine)	20	22	42	13	16	14
16	Scabies	1	5	6	1	4	2
17	Weakness	19	23	42	12	17	14
18	Stones	5	6	11	3	4	4
19	Chiken Pox	2	18	20	1	13	7
20	Ohers (injuries, Fractures, hepatihsetc)	6	3	9	4	2	3
	Total	154	139	293	100	100	100



The above table shows Hagaribommanahalli taluk health problems in sample of 400 families during the last one year (2009 – 2010). It is noticed from the table that the incidence of endemic disease malaria/ fever still much reported from them. Like wise the incidents like weakness, (42) headache (42) eye infections (43) and dental pain (16) were also reported much.

Table: 6**Health problems among Banjaras of Kudalgi Taluk.**

Sl. No	Health Problem	Male	Female	Total	Male%	Female%	Total%
1	Malaria/Fever	30	19	49	18	18	18
2	Cough	6	1	7	4	1	2
3	Asthma	2	5	7	1	4	2
4	Arthritis	6	4	10	4	4	4
5	Paralysis	9	2	11	5	2	4
6	Diarrohea	3	5	8	2	5	3
7	Skin disease	18	1	19	11	1	7
8	TB	4	-	4	2	-	1
9	Leprosy	2	-	2	1	-	1
10	Goiter	-	6	6	-	6	2
11	Eye infections	26	15	41	15	14	15
12	Scorpionbite	10	4	14	6	3	5
13	Dental pain	9	3	12	5	3	4
14	Dysentery	6	2	8	4	2	3
15	Headache (Migraine)	22	16	38	13	15	14
16	Scabies	3	2	5	2	2	2
17	Weakness	25	18	43	15	17	16
18	Stones	6	5	11	3	5	4
19	Chiken Pox	4	6	10	2	5	3
20	Ohers (injuries, Fractures, hepatihsetc)	9	12	21	5	11	8
	Total	170	107	277	100	100	100



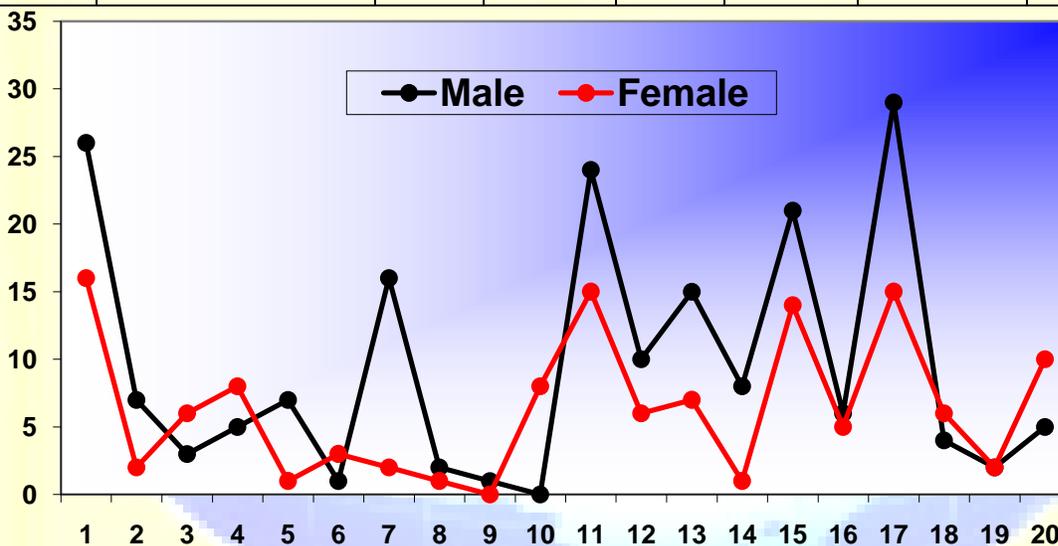
The above table shows Kudalgi taluk health problems in sample of 400 families during the last one year (2009 – 2010). It is noticed from the table that the incidence of endemic disease malaria/ fever still much reported from them. Like wise the incidents like weakness, (43) headache (38) eye infections (41) and dental pain (12) were also reported much.

Table: 7

Health problems among Banjaras of Hadagali Taluk.

Sl. No	Health Problem	Male	Female	Total	Male%	Female%	Total%
1	Malaria/Fever	26	16	42	16	14	15
2	Cough	7	2	9	4	2	3
3	Asthma	3	6	9	2	5	3
4	Arthritis	5	8	13	3	7	5
5	Paralysis	7	1	8	4	1	3
6	Diarrohea	1	3	4	1	3	1
7	Skin disease	16	2	18	10	2	6
8	TB	2	1	3	1	1	1
9	Leprosy	1	-	1	1	-	1
10	Goiter	-	8	8	-	7	3
11	Eye infections	24	15	39	14	13	14
12	Scorpionbite	10	6	16	6	5	6
13	Dental pain	15	7	22	9	6	8
14	Dysentery	8	1	9	5	1	3
15	Headache	21	14	35	13	13	13

	(Migraine)						
16	Scabies	6	5	11	4	5	4
17	Weakness	29	15	44	17	13	16
18	Stones	4	6	10	2	5	4
19	Chiken Pox	2	2	4	1	2	1
20	Ohers (injuries, Fractures, hepatihsetc)	5	10	15	3	9	5
	Total	166	112	278	100	100	100



The above table shows Hadagali taluk health problems in sample of 400 families during the last one year (2009 – 2010). It is noticed from the table that the incidence of endemic disease malaria/ fever still much reported from them. Like wise the incidents like weakness, (44) headache (35) eye infections (39) and dental pain (22) were also reported much.

Conclusion

The above table on heath problems among Banjaras of Bellary district indicates the results that the endemic results are more in seven talukas among Banjaras in the district.

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