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REVIEW ARTICLE

ROLE OF PHARMACISTS IN EVENT MANAGEMENT: KUMBH MELA

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ABSTRACT

Maha Kumbh Mela - occurs every 144 years, only in Allahabad. Kumbh Mela is celebrated at different locations depending on the position of the planet of Brhaspati (Jupiter) and the sun. When Jupiter and the sun are in the zodiac sign Leo (Simha Rashi) it is held in Trimbakeshwar, Nashik. When the sun is in Aries (Mesha Rashi) it is celebrated at Haridwar When Jupiter is in Taurus (Vrishabha Rashi) and the sun is in Capricorn (Makar Rashi) Kumbha Mela is celebrated at Prayag. and Jupiter and the sun are in Scorpio (Vrishchik Rashi) the Mela is celebrated at Ujjain. Each site's celebration dates are calculated in advance according to a special combination of zodiacal positions of Sun, Moon, and Jupiter.

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INTRODUCTION

Kumbh Mela is one of the most ancient, and yet still living, traditions of India's glorious past. The festival dates back to the pre-Vedic period, as even in the Vedas Kumbh Mela is described as a tradition that was already well established. The popularity of Kumbh Mela has only increased over the millennia, gathering millions together every twelve years at each of the four holy places in which the auspicious event occurs and making it the world's largest gathering of people on Earth for one common purpose. It is said that even those saints and sages who live in divine isolation, high in the Himalayas, engaged only in meditation and austerities, emerge from the mountains to attend the Kumbh. Kumbh is a world-renowned trademark of India's proud antiquity, and is a matchlessly divine occasion. Kumbh Mela is a microcosm of the beauty and rich diversity of India. Amidst all the pomp and liveliness, one can drink in the nectar of India's ancient spiritual traditions. No matter where you go within the Mela, there will be people sitting in satsang with India's saints and sages, bathing in the sacred rivers, meditating at the banks, engaging in yogic practices and attending yoga classes, chanting mantras and singing bhajans.

Even the 330 million gods and goddesses of the Hindu pantheon are said to attend the Mela on the inner planes. Every corner of the Mela is permeated with ancient tradition and spirituality. Kumbh Mela is a mass Hindu pilgrimage of faith in which Hindus gather at a sacred river for a bath in the river. It is held every third year at one of the four places by rotation: Haridwar, Allahabad, Nasik and Ujjain. Thus the Kumbh Mela is held at each of these four places every twelfth year. Ardh ("Half") Kumbh Mela is held at only two places, Haridwar and Allahabad (Prayag), every sixth year. The rivers at these four places are: the Ganges (Ganga) at Haridwar, the confluence Sangam of the Ganges and the Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati at Prayag, the Godawari at Nasik, and the Shipra at Ujjain (A report "Status Paper on River Ganga", 2009).

Kumbh means a pitcher and Mela means fair in Hindi. The pilgrimage is held for about one and a half months at each of these four places where it is believed in Hinduism that drops of nectar fell from the Kumbh carried by gods after the sea was churned. The festival is billed as the "biggest gathering on Earth". There is no scientific method of ascertaining the number of pilgrims even approximately and the estimates of the number of pilgrims bathing on the most auspicious day may vary widely from two to eight millions.

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This year Kumbh Mela has been organized at Allahabad. To prepare for this event the organizers set up new temporary roads, toilets, hospital facilities, police stations, fire stations, post offices, railway reservation centers (Singhania, Neha, 2011), Bhule Bhatke Kendra, new water and sewage systems, tourists camps to accommodate large number of Indian and Foreign Visitors.

Background and Context of the Study

Kumbh Mela is the largest mass gathering in the world which happens after every 3 years. The next Kumbh Mela will be held at Nasik, a city which is 75 miles away from Mumbai, Maharashtra. So, in this perspective, Maharashtra Govt. assigned DFY team (A report of Central Pollution Control Board, Ministry of Environment and Forests "Ganga Water Quality Trend" 2009).

The main objective behind this study is to

- Identify the resources available in the Mela area, list out the Govt. Organizations, Non- Government Organizations and their interventional areas.
- Find out the common health problems, facilities available for health diseases treatment of common diseases, accessibility, affordability and quality of the health care services / facilities / institutions.
- Overall living condition inside the Mela area i.e. drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, awareness level of common peoples on Wash.
- Study to find out the major problems, gaps and future needs (A report of Water Resources Planning Commission, "Report on Utilisation of Funds and Assets Created through Ganga Action Plan in States under Gap 2009).

It provides water to drinking purpose and irrigation in agriculture about 40% of India's population in 11 states. After 27 years and Rs. 1000 crore expenditure on Ganga river, it has a critical situation. In modern times, it is known for being much polluted, 30 polluted nals flows in Ganga river from Varanasi city within seven kilometers.

Human waste

The river flows through 29 cities in which cities population living above ten lakh. A large proportion damp the solid and liquid wastes in Ganga river like domestic usage (bathing, laundry and public defecation), Sewage wastes, unburnt dead bodies through in Ganga river. Patna and Varanasi cities are more responsible to water pollution in Ganga and 80 % sewage wastes are responsible to water pollution of Ganga.



Industrial waste

Countless industries lies on the bank of the Ganga river from Uttrakhand to West Bengal like chemical plants, textile mills, paper mills, fertilizer plants and hospitals waste. These industries are 20 % responsible to water pollution and run off solid waste and liquid waste in the Ganga river. It is very dangers to water quality, their chemical properties and riverine life.

Religious factor

Festivals are very important and heartiest to every person of India. During festival seasons a lot of peoples come to Ganga Snans to cleanse themselves. After death of the people dump their asthia in Ganga river it is a tradition of India because they think that Ganga gives mukti from the human world. Khumbha Mela is a very big festival of the world and billion peoples come to Ganga Snans at Allahabad, Hardwar in India. They through some materials like food, waste or leaves in the Ganges for spiritualistic reasons. Devprayag will submerge about 1200 hectors of forest. In India wildlife has been warning that the wild animals will find it difficult to cope with the changed situation (Das, Subhajyoti 2011).

Human beings

An analysis of the Ganges water in 2006 showed significant associations between water-borne/enteric disease occurrence and the use of the river for bathing, laundry, washing, eating, cleaning utensils, and brushing teeth. Exposure factors such as washing clothes, bathing and lack of sewerage, toilets at residence, children defecating outdoors, poor sanitation, low income and low education levels also showed significant associations with enteric disease outcome. Water in the Ganges has been correlated to contracting dysentery, cholera, hepatitis,

as well as severe diarrhea which continue to be one of the leading causes of death of children in India. Findings and Analysis of the Study

Health Care Interventions

During our interaction with the Zonal Officer Health Department, the team was informed that health care services became operational in mid November'12, around 250 doctors including specialists, Ayush doctors were deputed in the Mela area. 10 Sectors hospitals have been constructed in the Mela area, each of these hospitals comprises of a general OPD and 20 bedded in-patient unit. The hospitals operate 24x7 throughout the duration of the Mela, 4 MBBS doctors are deputed in each sector hospital, 2 doctors work in 8 hour shift and another 2 doctors work 12 hours shift. Apart from that nursing staff and 1 ambulance are also deputed for each sector hospital. The doctors come from the new PHC's in Allahabad Mandal area and are assigned to Mela for two months. It has been observed that the daily OPD load is around 250-300 patients in each sector hospital. Each sector hospital has a pharmacy and medicines are provided free of charge (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pollution_of_the_Ganges).

Apart from that 22 First Aid centers have also been set up by the health department in 12 sectors, each first aid centre having 1 Ayush doctor, 1 Pharmacist and 2 bedded inpatient unit. There are 2 infectious disease hospitals in the Mela area with 20 beds each. The focus of this healthcare delivery system is the Central hospital in sector 2.

Here patients can be seen by a range of specialists, including Orthopedics, Medicine, Surgery, ENT, Eye, Skin and Obstetrics.

There is a 100-bed inpatient unit and a 2-bed ICU. Diagnostic facilities such as X-ray, ultrasound, ECG, laboratory is also available. The Additional Director Health supervises the entire healthcare delivery system from the Mela field office set up.

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