

AIDS Awareness Through the Evolution Of Gandhian Three Wise- Monkeys

Major Dr. M. F. ANSARI and M. M. GIRNI

Associate Professor and Principal & N.C.C. Officer, Department of Zoology, Nehru College & PG Centre, HUBBALLI-580020 (Karnataka, India)

**Associate Professor*

Department of Zoology, Nehru College & PG Centre HUBBALLI-580020 (Karnataka, India)

Corresponding Author: Major Dr. M. F. ANSARI

Abstract:- AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) is caused by a virus named HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). According to the data of the Global Health Observatory (GHO) of World Health Organisation (WHO) (2015), all over the globe 1.1 million people died due to AIDS, and 36.7 million people have been living with the HIV. Since no vaccine is invented / available to cure AIDS, the authors thought of creating awareness about AIDS through the method of evolving Gandhian three wise-monkeys by adding the fourth monkey called Shizaru which indicates “do no evil”. The authors thought of referring the caption “do no evil” to - not to have unsafe and unhygienic sex without using condoms.

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I. INTRODUCTION

It is a well-established fact that the AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) is caused by a virus named HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). Once the HIV enters the blood stream, it acts as a “silent killer” and starts targeting two types of white blood-cells such as CD4 lymphocytes and monocytes. As a result, the immune system of the body gradually starts deteriorating. The HIV-infected person becomes susceptible to a wide range of infections called “opportunistic infections.” Besides, the person also starts suffering from different diseases by losing weight and developing the respiratory problems. The unsafe sexual intercourse (may be vaginal, anal or oral) is one of the major means of transmitting HIV from person to person; which is mainly through the practice of prostitution.

History and Concept of the Gandhian Three Wise-Monkeys

Most of the people who came to see Gandhi, sought his advice on something or the other. But one day a party of the visitors from China came to visit Gandhi. They said, “Gandhiji, we have brought you a small gift. It is no bigger than a child’s toy, but it is famous in our country.” To Gandhi’s delight it was a set of three monkeys that were later to become well-known and to be kept carefully by him for the rest of his life (Marjorie Sykes, 1997). The “Three Wise-Monkeys” also called the “Three Mystic Apes” is a sacred ancient icon whose original meaning is intentionally being hidden from us by the Elite (Richard Cassaro, 2012). The proverb was possibly brought to Japan and then probably rephrased into “see no evil, hear no evil and speak no evil”. In Japanese language, it is called Mizaru, Kikazaru and Iwazaru respectively. The three monkeys are pictured in three different modes: closing her eyes, closing her ears and closing her mouth. In English, the monkeys’ names are often given as Mizaru, Mikazaru and Mazaru (Judika Malau, 2008).

It is noticed in the available images of three wise-monkeys that the sequence is not uniformly depicted. The authors therefore, thought of following the sequence of Japanese language as see no evil, hear no evil and speak no evil (Fig 1) followed by the fourth monkey “Shizaru” indicating “Do no evil”. “Shizaru” is the seldom-quoted and depicted fourth monkey of the ancient proverb. The reasons for his / her absence in modern recensions are unclear. Shizaru embodies the simple principles of “doing no evil” (Dorren Kilroy, 2013). In fact in some depictions, there is actually a fourth monkey (Shizaru) which indicates “do no evil”, symbolised by a monkey crossing his arms and covering abdomen (Ben Jones, 2008). It suggests, “We cannot ignore someone’s right; we could not sleep with other women besides our spouse”. To suggest it, the term “Shizaru” is borrowed from Japan, and it means “do no evil” for fourth wise-monkey (Judika Malau, 2008).

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The four monkey-toys of medium size are brought from the market and named them as Mizaru, Mikazaru, Mazaru and Shizaru with the captions as see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil and do no evil respectively. The NCC cadets, NSS volunteers and the students of the College are given the explanation about four monkeys and created awareness about the AIDS among the student community through the fourth monkey, the Shizaru, she/he said-do no evil.

III. DISCUSSION (AIDS AWARENESS)

The authors thought of considering the term “Shizaru” meaning “do no evil”, in creating awareness about AIDS by adding fourth monkey to the existing Gandhian three wise-monkeys. They removed the forelimbs of the fourth monkey closing her/his abdomen and replaced them on her/his genitals by two forelimbs (Fig.2). The authors intended to convey the message, in this context, “Do no Evil” suggesting not to have unsafe and unhygienic sex without using condoms. The authors are of the opinion that the organisations involved in creating AIDS Awareness, should with the help of respective governments throughout the globe display the banners or the cut-outs of these four monkeys with captions at public places like markets, bus stations, railway stations, airports, banks, cinema-halls, malls, hotels, lodges, bar and restaurants, hospitals, call-centres, multinational IT and BT companies, court premises, apartments, streets, crossroads, dividers on roads, traffic signals, red-light areas, all government and public sector offices and so on. Apart from these places, with prime priority, it should be displayed at the educational institutions from the high schools up to the universities to create AIDS awareness amongst the students communities. By doing so, it no doubt reminds Gandhian three wise-monkeys but creates awareness about AIDS, and the fourth caption teaches a moral and ethical lesson. The Governments should also insist on showing the slide of four monkeys with captions in English and in their regional languages daily in cinema theatres and on TV channels throughout the globe. The print media should also be insisted to publish frequently the photo of four wise-monkeys in their daily news papers and magazines. To create awareness about the AIDS, the authors humbly request the editor to send or mail a copy of such articles published in their reputed journal to the concerned different organisations and government offices throughout the globe.

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Fig : 1. Gandhian three wise monkeys



Fig : 2. Addition of fourth monkey-Shizaru for AIDS awareness (Do no Evil)

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