Editorial

Friday, September 14, 2018

Realizing the importance of Forest and Environment:

Ringui villagers have done; its upto Forest department to built peoples' trust

Development is a multi dimensional concept covering political, economic, social, cultural, spatial, scientific, technological, moral, spiritual, ecological and environment development.

Everybody is aware of the ecological deterioration and environment degradation, but none acted to do something to save it. Every pedestrians see plastic bottle, and other waste scattered in our footpath. But, 'blame' to those who threw it or perhaps to the government authority is the reaction. He or she will not pick it up to throw it to the right place. There are many who talks saving our environment, rivers and forest. But everyday the thousand people dump their waste at the roadsides, threw garbage at the river smuggled woods using any unfair means. Some waited for camera to take a shot while planting a sapling to show their love for the mother nature but will never look back to see whether the sapling he or she planted is grown.

It is we human being, which is responsible for the crime committee towards the nature. The recent flood across the country including Manipur is fall out of what we human being had committee for hundreds of years. Deterioration of nature is more committee to less develop and developing countries. City based intellectuals who visited only once or twice to complete their thesis keep blaming the ignorance of the common people who have less knowledge of saving the environment as survival is more important for them. Schemes and projects always turn a flop show as they were prepared on table without studying the need of the people residing in interior forest land. And the money which are meant for the environment are gold mine for those working on the table.

The state of Manipur has witness five times devastating flood since N. Biren Singh took charge of Chief Miister. Discussions over the issue blamed the people in the Hill area who never had any knowledge of how much money has been sanctioned for the preservation of the forest land in their respective land.

Perhaps for the first time in the history of Manipur , A village called Ringui in Ukhrul district donated around 600 ares of land to the Forest department. Though the village is far from Imphal with limited access of Education, they have showed their enthusiasm in protecting the environment and rebuilding a forest. Forest and Environment Minister, Th Shyamkumar assurance to make the piece of land as a forest zone need to be converted into action. The good service of the villagers of Ringui will not make their village famous but will help in reducing the global warming, even though it might effect only .00001%. But the villagers have set an example. If more villages in the state of Manipur started donating land for plantation of trees than Manipur will set another example in the protection of the environment in the whole country. What remain skeptical is the sincerity of the forest department authority.

Well the challenges before the country particularly in the state of Manipur is to preserve and protect the natural environment or revive it where it has been degraded. It must be remembered that the problem of environmental degradation is social problem which has to be solved by the people themselves with some sort of policy and programme from the government

A short term course in Ecology and Environment al Awareness should be arranged for the benefit of the elected representatives starting from PRI, Municipalities, corporation, MLAs, MPs, Development planners and administrators which would give them a proper understanding of nature, the important of flora and fauna and other natural resources especially forest wealth and their management.

The recent series of activities taken up by Forest and Environment Minister Th. Shyamkumar showed his enthusiasm to save the environment. He indeed is a man of action but only enthusiasm and action will not help what he wanted as awareness is also important to make all people understand the importance of protecting forest. For that broadcasting environment programme on television and radio at least for 10 to 20 minutes everyday in prime time. Besides, placing of hoarding with communicable languages in almost all districts of the state will help people thinking about the importance of Forest and our environment. Traditional media like folk media should also be utilized as this medium is still popular among the villages.

Not the least but yesterday's gesture of the Ringui village need to be appreciated by all and people are watching if the Forest and Environment Minister acts to built trust to the people.

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The double-edged challenge for women with disabilities

By - Elayne Clift

W hen disability rights advocate Anastasia Somoza, a young woman with cerebral palsy, gave her rousing speech at the Democratic National Convention in July, she did more to bring disability into the mainstream's view than anyone in recent memory. She also reminded the world there is a gender dimension to disability, one too long overlooked, misunderstood or left unaddressed.

One in five American women — about 27 million of them — have a disability. That number, which is growing, includes women veterans. But women with disabilities often have to fight against two forms of discrimination, one related to disability, the other to gender. This is especially true for women living in poverty, women who are members of marginalized ethnic or racial groups or women who are part of the LGBT community.

One problem, grounded both in disability and gender discrimination, is lack of access to appropriate, affordable, quality health care or regular health screenings, not only in the United States, but everywhere. This double-edged issue is exacerbated by the employment challenges disabled women face. The United Nations estimates that 75 percent of women with disabilities are unemployed, and that employed women with disabilities often earn less than their male counterparts and women without disabilities.

Internationally, gender disparities

Verb: The NPicture of representation only

also exist in education. For example, while the overall literacy rate for people with disabilities worldwide is 3 percent, UNESCO estimates that it is just 1 percent for women and girls with disabilities.

Even more disturbing is the fact that females with disabilities are often disproportionately subjected to violence, sexual abuse, neglect, maltreatment and exploitation. Studies have shown that women and girls with disabilities are twice as likely to experience gender-based violence as those without disabilities. They are also less likely to receive reproductive health care services and, in some places, they are subjected to forced sterilization.

That may well be because many people assume disabled women have no interest in or lack the ability to have a sex life. This troubling mistake is artfully addressed by women like Jennifer Bartlett, co-editor of "Beauty is a Verb: The New Poetry of Disability." In a recent New York Times piece, she provided larger insight into the issue of disabled women's sexuality when she wrote: "I know I'm lucky not to be sexually harassed as I navigate the New York City streets. But I am harassed in other ways that feel much more damaging. People stare. People insist that I have God's blessing. People feel most comfortable speaking about me … to avoid speaking to me."

It seems to me that Bartlett is reminding us that no woman wants to be treated like a sexual object, but it would be nice if they could be treated like sentient human beings who do, in fact, have sexual feelings.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has recognized that women and girls with disabilities are often at greater risk by virtue of abuse, injury, neglect and exploitation. It has also emphasized the need to "incorporate a gender perspective in all efforts to promote the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities."

Those are nice words consistent with the kind the U.N. routinely crafts for documents that sit on shelves and generally remain ignored.

But the fact is that disability impacts all of us at some time in our lives, whether we face reduced mobility, problems with thinking, memory, impaired vision or hearing, or other challenges that ultimately affect our ability to live independently or without assistance. For women, who often end up living alone in impoverished conditions, these challenges are even more dramatic, especially if they are black or Hispanic.

The Americans with Disability Act has made a positive difference, to be sure. But the fact remains that with new "disability growth areas" like depression and anxiety, eating disorders, still-undefeated cancers, traumatic brain injuries, autoimmune diseases, dementia and autism spectrum disabilities, we still have much work to do.

One of our tasks is to realize and address the "double disabilities" women face, whether by way of programs, policies or personal attitudes. The fighting spirit of women like Anastasia Somoza and Jennifer Bartlett can do much to help show us the way.

State of the science: use of biomarkers and imaging in diagnosis and management of Alzheimer disease.

..... Contd. from yesterday

Levels of A[[beta].sub.42] in CSF are about 30%-50% lower in patients with AD than in patients without demenia (Fagan & Holtzman, 2010). Using reduced A[[beta].sub.42] in CSF as a biomarker diagnoses AD with sensitivity of 96% and specificity of 76.9% versus patients without dementia (Weiner et al., 2010, 2011), but when compared with other types of dementia, specificity is reduced to 60% (Hampel et al., 2008). Reduced A[[beta].sub.42] has been shown to be inversely correlated with both number of plaques on autopsy and positive PET amyloid scanning (Hampel et al., 2008), indicating that it is an effective biomarker for diagnosing amyloid deposition. Reduced A[[beta].sub.42] therefore shows similar potential to amyloid PET for use in preclinical diagnosis and monitoring of amyloid-modifying therapies.

PET scans that use [sup.18]FDG as the tracer (FDG-PET) reveal patterns of reduced glucose metabolism in the precuneus, posterior cingulate cortex, and temporoparietal areas of the brain in patients with AD and in the frontal cortex in advanced AD, indicating reduced synaptic activity in these areas (Kadir & Nordberg, 2010). In fronto-temporal dementia (FTD), hypometabolism is seen more in the frontal cortex, and in dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB), it is seen in the parieto-occipital region. FDG-PET patterns have shown sensitivity of 83%-99% sensitivity and 78%-93% specificity for discriminating between AD and normal controls (Mosconi et al., 2008; Weiner et al., 2011). FDG-PET has also shown to differentiate between AD and DLB with 99% sensitivity and 71% specificity and between AD and FTD with 99% sensitivity and 65% specificity. FDG-PET also has the potential to be very useful in revealing whether drags and other treatments are improving cognition (Kadir & Nordberg, 2010) and in revealing whether cognitive impairment is because of AD in its earliest stages (Hampel et al., 2008).

Elevated levels of tau and P tau in the CSF can also be used to diagnose AD. Total tau (T tau) is about 300% higher in the CSF of AD patients than in patients without dementia, with a sensitivity of 80% and specificity of 90% for this finding (Hampel et al., 2008). However, because tau is released into the CSF when neurons die, T tau in CSF indicates the extent of neurodegeneration in multiple types of brain pathology and so is less sensitive and specific in differentiating between AD and other forms of dementia (Hampel et al., 2008). The level of P tau in the CSF has been shown to be correlated with the number of neurofibfillary tangles on autopsy (Fagan & Holtzman, 2010), and elevated levels of CSF P tau have been shown to have 80%-90% sensitivity and specificity in distinguishing patients with AD from normal controls (Hampel et al., 2008). P tau can also differentiate between AD and FTD and between AD and normal pressure hydrocephalus with greater than 85% sensitivity and specificity. In addition, normal values of P tau have been shown to rule out AD with 90% accuracy (Hampel et al., 2008). Therefore, P tau may be a better biomarker for diagnosis of AD, whereas T tau shows promise in revealing whether drugs and other treatments are effective in reducing neurodegeneration.

Structural MRI reveals patterns of brain atrophy in AD. These patterns have been shown to correlate well with sites of tau deposition and with the progression of cognitive impairment. The sites of atrophy apparent in early AD include the hippocampus, posterior cingulate cortex, and entorhinal cortex, areas affecting memory. Later, atrophy can be seen in the parietal and frontal cortices, areas associated with language, visuospatial, and behavioral impairment. Rates of change in structural MRI measures including changes in volume of the whole brain, the temporal lobes, the hippocampus, the entorhinal cortex, and the size of the ventricles also correlate with cognitive change and disease progression in AD (Frisoni, Fox, Jack, Scheltens, & Thompson, 2010). Structural MRI measures have shown sensitivities and specificities of approximately 70%-80% and 75%-90%, respectively (Weiner et al., 2011). Structural MRI is also useful in differentiating between AD and other forms of dementia. Vascular dementia is indicated by the presence of infarcts or extensive changes in the white matter. FTD is supported by asymanetric atrophy in the frontal and/or temporal lobes. DLB is suggested by relative preservation of the medial-temporal lobes and greater parietal and occipital atrophy (Frisoni et al., 2010; Hazewinkel & Barkhof, 2011). Structural MRI could therefore be useful in diagnosing AD and tracking disease progression and promises to reveal effectiveness of future treatments aimed at slowing neuronal loss in later stages of AD.

The ADNI model of AD progression described suggests when biomarkers and imaging techniques are likely to be most useful in diagnosis, tracking disease progression, and assessing effectiveness of treatments. In presymptomatic AD, A[beta] begins to accumulate in the brain, making CSF A[beta] and amyloid PET techniques most likely to be useful in identifying patients without symptoms who might go on to develop AD. In very early symptomatic AD, synaptic dysfunction and impaired cognition might be detected and quantified by FDG-PET. As neurodegeneration begins, neuronal loss might be indicated by elevated CSF T tau and P tau levels and volumetric changes on MRI (Weiner et al., 2010).

Combinations of biomarkers and imaging techniques have been shown to be more effective in differentiating AD from normal controls than single modalities alone (Hampel et al., 2008; Hazewinkel & Barkhof, 2011; Zhang et al., 2011) and in differentiating AD from other types of dementia (Hampel et al., 2008; Hazewinkel & Barkhof, 2011; Zetterberg, 2008; Zetterberg et al., 2010). Research is underway to determine which combinations of biomarkers and imaging techniques offer the most definitive diagnoses. Combinations of biomarkers and imaging techniques aimed at measuring the same underlying disease processes could also provide better monitoring of treatments intended to modify those processes.

Table 2 (adapted from Hazewinkel & Barkhof, 2011, and Zetterberg et al., 2010) summarizes how findings from multiple biomarker tests might be combined in differential diagnosis of dementia.

Recommendations and Summary

A vast amount of research is currently being conducted on the pathophysiology of AD, on ways to prevent it, and on new treatments. Recent developments in biomarkers and imaging techniques are enabling more definitive diagnosis of AD in living patients and may soon make diagnosis before symptom development a possibility. For the time being, biomarkers and imaging techniques should be used for diagnosis of AD only in research and in specialized neurological practice when clinical diagnosis is unclear. However, this field is rapidly evolving, and nurses and nurse practitioners will need to stay abreast of current research to be prepared for future developments in prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of AD. **(comcluded.)**