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Genesis of Vaccination in Princely State of Mysore

Dr. Thriveni urs.

Associate professor, Mangalore University, Mangalore, India.

Abstract:

Princely State of Mysore (Now Karnataka, India) during the reigns of the British imperial India played a very prominent laudable role in bringing welfare to its subjects with regard to the public health. The contributions to the public health by Princely Mysore are plentiful and noteworthy. The current paper focuses on the development of vaccination and examines the legal measures adopted to contain public health. The launching of vaccination institute, efforts to counter the disease bound areas and plans to counter diseases resulting in outbreak are the other major issues highlighted in this paper.

Keywords; Vaccination, Princely state, Amildars,

Intervention of the Princess to popularize vaccination:

For the 1st time in Mysore and Probably in India Vaccination was introduced in 1806.There had been no remedy against the terrible scourges of small-pox prior to that period. Rani Lakshmi Ammanni wished to celebrate the Marriage of the young Raja Mummadi Krishna Raja Wodeyar but the bride having had small-pox the ceremony had been deferred. Rani communicated with Major Wilks, the British resident being apprised of the cause, they had given vaccination to young bride, then which was disappeared and she recovered as a result of this, Madras Government published a notification in 1806, communicating it to the general public.[i]

Development of vaccination in Princely Mysore State:

The Vaccination department was working under the department of public health with the supervision of the Senior Surgeon to the Mysore Government in 1881. It consists of 3 classes of subordinates, viz. first class vaccinators on pay of Rs.15, second class on Rs.12 and third class on Rs.10 per head. The vaccinators were paid in proportion to the number vaccinated by them, 100 in a month being the minimum number required of each to entitle them to the full pay of then rank. The whole cost of the establishment was borne by the State except in the Municipalities of Bangalore town and Mysore which had their own vaccinators. There were 7 first class Vaccinators on Rs. 15, 34 second classes on Rs.12, and 45 third classes on Rs. 10 per head. Supervising agencies were the District Medical officer, Deputy Commissioner of District and hospital assistance of camps, Amildars in town and villages. 8 Deputy Inspectors were appointed to each district to watch and check the work of the vaccinations. Arm to arm method was practiced before the establishment of the Vaccine Institute in 1881-82.

A separate department was placed under the **Deputy Commissioner In 1890**. The Government sanctioned the establishment of a Vaccine Institute to prepare vaccines **manufacture good lymph** from the calf is made into a paste by mixing it with anhyseous **Lanoline**. (Surgeon Major King's process) Vaccinators were appointed to one for each Taluk. It is usual however to add more vaccinators temporarily to the establishment when smallpox appears in an epidemic form.[ii] In the year 1890, 86 vaccinators were employed. Municipalities of Bangalore, Mysore and Srirangapatna had own vaccinators. Bangalore-2, 1 Male and 1 Female, Mysore 2 and in Srirangapatna-1. In 1890, 68,732 primary vaccinations 687 re-vaccination and total 58,171 vaccinations had completed. Total cost for Vaccination in 1890 was Rs 17,929.[iii]

The Government Vaccine Institute:

Princely Mysore Government sanctioned the establishment of a Vaccine Institute in the year 1881 and was established in 1890, started manufacturing small-pox vaccination. It

was located in the compound of the Lunatic Asylum Bangalore and was transferred to the LalBagh Lodge in the year 1914. The institute started to manufacture good lymph from the calf which was made into a paste by mixing it with anhydrous Lanoline according to surgeon major king's process. This was followed with the new stables for calves being built and other changes effected to meet the special requirements of the institute. The most noticeable feature of the record of work is the increase in the quality of vaccine prepared and issued from the institute. And it was the first largest vaccine manufacturing of smallpox unit in the State.[iv] The Bureau of laboratories started production of Anti-cholera, Anti- typhoid vaccines in the year 1920, in addition to plague vaccine. The experimental production of plague vaccine[v] was started in collaboration with great medical personality Dr. Haffkine, the Director of Public Health Institute and also called Superintendent of the Bureau in the year 1912. In the year 1932-33, 376 cow calves and 31 buffalo calves were vaccinated. The quantity of pulp collected was 41,617 grains, and the grains were used in the manufacture of glycerin lymph for seed experiments etc. The average yield per calf vaccinated was 105 grains of pulp.[vi] Vaccine Institute was preparing Glycerin Lymph and Lanoline Lymph to issue throughout the State. The Institute also started giving training in the technique of vaccination to vaccinators.[vii] In the Public Health Institute a chemical laboratory was started to examine blood, water and prepare vaccine to supply to the hospitals.

Special Laws:

In 1907, the special health scheme was sanctioned, that was a reserve vaccinator for each district for emergent work when necessary and to relieve vaccinators proceeding on leave. A law was passed in the year 1898 that made vaccination compulsory and **Compulsory Vaccination Regulation** to make provision for compulsory vaccination in the State, the Vaccination Regulation was passed on the 16 March 1906.[viii] A small money reward was started to give at the end of the year to the most active vaccinator of each Division.[ix] The compulsory vaccination was introduced in the cities of Banglore, Mysore and Kolar Gold

Field and five municipal towns in the districts of Banglore, kolar, Shimoga and Chitradrug with a view to secure satisfactory vaccination work Government replaced the staff of vaccinators by a better class of men, hospital assistance as public vaccinators.[x]

Compulsory vaccination was extended in 18 municipalities, and Vaccination Regulation was in force to 90 villages. A scheme for constituting, a self contained school Inspection Service proposed by the health department. The number of children examined by the Chief Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1923 was 36,570. Compulsory vaccination was introduced to all the selected villages in Bangalore district and survey of unprotected children was carried out by the rural health unit at Mandya and vaccination was conducted in all villages in the state.[xi]

Inspection:

District sanitary officers, district sanitary assistants and deputy inspectors were deputed to examine the person which bore marks of successful vaccination. Compulsory vaccination was newly introduced into five municipal towns. A preliminary survey of unprotected children was also carried out in the state. Government sanctioned a whole time sanitary commissioner for the state she was also director of public health institute, and the of whole-time district sanitary officers was sanctioned. Routine inspections were conducted by the sanitary staff and action was takes wherever sanitary defects were noticed.[xii]

The Government Industrial and Testing Laboratory:

Was established at Bangalore during the year 1932. Vaccine Institute started training the vaccinators. The Superintendent Vaccine Institute was entrusted to supervise the vaccinations in the model range to test several strains of lymph produced in the institute. The income and expenditure of the institute was Rs.24, 828, 90 and Rs.24, 795.90 respectively. Mysore Government permitted the Superintendent of the Vaccine Institute to go to Erode for

arranging the supply of calves for the vaccine institute. Princely State was purchasing Febrifuge and Cinchona from Madras government to Public Health Institution.[xiii]

It also started to manufacture large quantity of drugs and Medicine required for the use in the hospitals, which was being imported earlier by the State from places both in and out of India. This Laboratory also initiated investigating the possibilities of using indigenous drugs for medicinal purposes. During the year 1937 more than 70,000 Ibs of medicines were manufactured by the laboratory and its products were put on the market both in and outside the Mysore. Dr. M. Srinivasa Rao, Chemical Examiner and Bacteriologist were sent to England to acquire the diploma in Public Health and to study special methods in vaccination and was placed in charge of the Institute of Public Health.[xiv]

Pasture Institute at Kasauli:

It was established to prepare medicine for treatment of bites from rabies infected by the animals which the Government was purchasing it every month from outside. Princely Government started purchasing medicine from Coonoor Pasteur Institute and annual contribution was also given to the Institute to purchase Anti-rabies treatment in the Coonoor. Mysore Government permitted the Superintendent of the Vaccine Institute to go to Coonoor for arranging for supply of calves for the Vaccine Institute.[xv]

The Health Training Centre:

Vaccine institute was started giving training for vaccination in the year 1938 and training center was established at Close pet, for proper checking and verification of vital statistics and to train the candidates for qualifying in vaccination, besides these compounders, midwives and final year MBBS and LMP students' examinations of the Mysore University were also underwent training after completing the courses and they were granted certificates.[xvi]

Survey of Unprotected children:

Endeavour was being made to have preliminary survey of "unprotected" children made out, to constitute a basis for an efficient programme of vaccination work. Every inspecting officer of the department was instructed to make personal enquiry, the total number of "unprotected" children in the place he inspects. In Bangalore, Mysore and on the Kolar Gold Fields, census was taken in the year 1914-15. In Bangalore, a detailed register was maintained in each division in which all unprotected subjects between 6 months and 12 years of age were shown as regards other Municipal officer.

Medical Stores at Bangalore:

The Medical Stores at Bangalore was manufacturing and supplied the requirements of the Hospitals and Dispensaries maintained under the direct control of the Medical Department. The arrangement was under the Senior Surgeon in charge of the Institute. The Institution was placed in direct charge of a Superintendent. In the year 1929, 4 medical graduates of the state were deputed for training in sanitation to America by the Princely government.[xvii]

Conclusion:

The public health measures laid by the Princely Mysore State are indeed significant and noteworthy. Princely Mysore was pioneer in developing vaccination unit in the state. A law was passed in the year 1898 that made vaccination compulsory in the State, the Vaccination Regulation was passed on the 16th March 1906.

During the year 1937 more than 70,000 lbs of medicines were manufactured by the laboratory and its products were put on the market both in and outside the Mysore shows the sensitivity and forethought of Princely Mysore State in containing the epidemic diseases. The above measures resulted in eradicating the epidemic diseases of cholera, smallpox and plague

considerably and rapidly. Ever since, except few insignificant cases of malaria being reported, Mysore district never witnessed any of the epidemic disease outbreaks till this date.

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[i] Shama Rao, Mysore Gazetteer P.no 500

[ii] Mysore administrative report 1881 – 1886 p.no 121

[iii] Ibid

[iv] Mysore administrative report 1914 p.no 76

[v] Suryanath Kamath Karnataka Gazetteer p.no 722

[vi] Mysore administrative report 1912 p.no 69

[vii] Mysore administrative report 1935 p.no 121

[viii] Hayavadan Rao C Mysore Gazetteer p.no 451

[ix] Medical department file no 19 of 1902 p.no 1&2 Archives Bangalore

[x] Mysore administrative report 1910 P.NO61

[xi] Mysore information bulletin July 1939

[xii] Mysore administrative report 1947 p.no 145

[xiii] Quinine and febrifuge no 216 of 1902 p.no 1-4

[xiv] Special issue SALAR –E-HIND SAIF AZAD Bombay 1938

[xv] Medical File no 33 of 1917 p.no 1-6 Archives Bangalore

[xvi] Medical file no 214 of 1902 p.no 1-4 Archives Bangalore

[xvii] Shama Rao M Modern Mosore p.no 418