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Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.

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4183	14.07.2017	17.07.2017	Cuttack Odisha	www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/English http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/cuttack/cause-of-kidney-disease-in-narsinghpur-still-a-mystery/articleshow/59597846.cms
Title:	Cause of kidney disease in Badamba and Narsinghpur blocks of Cuttack district-Odisha still a mystery			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU-Cuttack, SSU-Odisha			

Since 2010, hundreds of persons in Badamba and Narsinghpur blocks in the district have lost their lives due to kidney diseases while thousand others are suffering from acute renal problem in the region, but the reason behind outbreak of the disease in the pocket still remains a mystery.

State government had formed an inter-disciplinary committee consisting nephrologists, officials of Regional Medical Research centre(RMRC), Indian Mineral and Material Technology(IMMT). Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) and non-communicable disease cell to examine the situation and ascertain the exact reason behind spread of the renal diseases. The team visited affected areas several times but they are yet to find out any concrete reason behind outbreak of renal disease. Even in 2015 a team from Centre had also reviewed situation in the area and collected soil and water samples. But it hardly yielded any result.

Officials have claimed that it takes years of research to find out the root cause of rising incidences in kidney problems. "We have to examine every aspect ranging from

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**Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India**

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environmental factors to soil quality, disease pattern to morbidity factors. It is complex to reach a proper conclusion and pinpoint exact reason for the problem," said a senior health official who wished not to be named.

Meanwhile, with each passing year the situation in the affected areas is turning from bad to worse. Though as per official records at least 21 villages in Narsinghpur block and 17 villages in Badamba have been worst affected by kidney diseases but actually the figure is much more. What is worse that majority of the affected persons are males.

Since 2013, over 900 kidney patients have been traced out in Narsinghpur alone. However, administration is yet to do any survey to find out the exact number of patients suffering from kidney disease in the region.

Locals have alleged that despite alarming situation, the state government is doing little to provide relief to them. "Situation is so grim that almost every week a kidney related death is reported in Narsinghpur. It's heart wrenching to see young males, who are bread earners of their families dying untimely due to kidney failure," said a social worker Bijay Panda. "As administration is not able to unravel the truth behind the disease, it is not able to deal with it efficiently," added Panda. He alleged that after years of agitations, government has announced to set up a dialysis unit at Narsinghpur two years ago. But it is yet to become functional. The poor patients have to travel to Cuttack and Bhubaneswar at their own cost to undergo dialysis.

However, experts have claimed that there is an urgent need to focus on educating people about the ways to prevent kidney diseases. "It seems environmental factors are contributing for rising incidences of kidney problems in the area. On a priority basis, we have to focus on sensitizing people in the region about renal failure and ways to prevent it by avoiding high-protein diet, consumption of liquor, pain killers and polluted water," said Dr Nisith Mohanty, whose organization Utkal Kidney Foundation has been working in the Narsinghpur area for last six years.

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