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ABSTRACT

Heart, cancer & AIDS are very serious diseases rising in the world. These diseases not only create distress in the patient's life but also influence negatively care givers' life. Factors, such as physical & psychological health, financial burden, limitation on freedom and social interactions (that accompany the care recipient's need for supervision), and the additional roles assumed by the most caregivers including those of wife, parent, spouse and employee, all contribute to caregivers distress. This distress thus, affects the quality of life of caregivers, their hope and coping. Many researchers have been carried on the various aspects of heart, cancer and AIDS patients. However, few comparative researches have been done on QOL, hope and coping of caregivers of these diseased groups.

In the light of above stated context, the purpose of present research was planned and carried out with the objectives of measuring and comparing the quality of life, hope & ways of coping of caregivers of heart, cancer and AIDS patients. Total sample of the study comprised 120 subjects, 40 in each group that is caregivers of heart, cancer and AIDS patients. Data was collected from Escorts Heart Hospital, Okhla, Apollo Hospital, Sarita Vihar &, RAM Manohar Lal Loya Hospital, Connaught Place, New Delhi. For measuring quality of life, the WHOQOL-BREF (1996) questionnaire was used. For measuring Hope, Trait Hope scale (developed by Snyder et al., 1991) was used. And finally for measuring coping, Ways of Coping questionnaire (developed by Lazarus and Folkman, 1988) was used. ANOVA, Homogeneity of variance & Post-Hoc test were used to analyze the data.

Results showed a significant difference between caregivers of heart and AIDS patients & between caregivers of cancer and AIDS patients on overall QOL and four domains of QOL (i.e., physical, psychological, social relationship & environmental), agency & pathway dimensions of hope, confrontive, distancing & escape avoidance coping. Moreover, cancer and AIDS caregivers also showed significant difference on seeking social support. Non-significant difference was found between caregivers of heart & cancer and between cancer & AIDS on other variables (i.e., total hope & following ways of coping, that is, self controlling, accepting responsibility, planeful problem solving, and positive reappraisal). Findings also showed non-significant difference between caregivers of heart and AIDS on total hope & following ways of coping, that is, confrontive coping, self controlling, seeking social support, accepting responsibility, planeful problem solving, positive reappraisal.