

Chapter-23
Reading with understanding



Section I

Summary

This part is about Rajamani, who had an eye infection and was treated with intramuscular injections. He developed an abscess at the injection site and a pimple on his nose throughout the therapy. His legs began to develop skin problems. He contracted tuberculosis and was subsequently diagnosed with HIV. The illness has spread due to the use of contaminated needles and syringes.

Important points from the text:

- This section discusses the case of a boy named Rajamani. He was a young child of 12 years old, from a village in Tamil Nadu. Because of his father's death, he dropped out of school and began working in his mother's tea shop.
- He had numerous intramuscular treatments for his eye infection six months later. During the therapy, he developed an infection at the injection site, and after a few months, he acquired a pimple on his nose that lasted for many weeks before developing into septicemia. He also had skin sores on his legs and contracted tuberculosis.
- He was diagnosed with HIV when he went to Chennai for skin treatment. He might have gotten HIV through syringes and needles that were contaminated.
- This explains the sorry state of affairs and the usage of unsterilized needles and syringes, both of which induce infection and are life-threatening.

Important words from the text:

- Intramuscular: when medication is given by needle into the muscle
- Skin lesions: marks caused on skin due to some skin disease
- Progress: forward movement
- Contaminated: exposure to a poisonous or polluting substance
- Unsterilised: not sterilized/ full of germs or pathological microorganisms

Evaluate yourself:

1. What was Rajamani diagnosed with?

2. Why did he discontinue his education so early?
3. How did Rajamani get HIV? What could have been the reason?

Section II

Summary

A theatrical company in the Seshego township, near Petersburg, utilises the medium of theatre to teach people about HIV/AIDS. UNESCO has attempted to educate people in order to combat the AIDS threat. The two key themes of the UNESCO AIDS education plan are fighting complacency and promoting commitments. Schools are crucial in UNESCO's battle against AIDS since they cater to children aged 10 to 25, and so by teaching children, the future effect may be reduced. Controlling aids is important for protecting human capital.

Important points from the text:

- The second section is about a theatre group in Seshego township near Petersburg, South Africa, who used theatre to educate people about HIV/AIDS. They travel throughout the township creating awareness among local population to stop the spread of this disease.
- Others methods have also been sought like creating a vaccine and providing treatment but this disease is constantly mutating and controlling it with drugs may take many years. The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization has sought the help of education and awareness to fight against AIDS.
- Preventive education states , that the impact of the disease on society can be reduced by battling complacency, advancing commitment and improving care. To achieve this, people world wide should use culturally appropriate ways and preventive education must be interconnected with the local way of life.
- Uneven distribution of knowledge results in the uneven distribution of infection rates worldwide. Understanding and appreciation of prevention depends on many social factors like age, gender, education, economic conditions and religious beliefs.
- UNESCO believes that circulating information will help people to understand what AIDS does to the body and thus it can reduce misconceptions, vulnerability which often leads to stigmatization and discrimination.
- Schools can help in creating awareness about AIDS and thus can lessen the psychological impact of AIDS on society.
- UNESCO states that the critical task is to protect the society, economy and political institutions from the onslaught of HIV/AIDS.

Important words from the text:

- Diversified: to have a variety
- Resistant : unaffected by/ unwilling to accept
- Complacency: self-satisfaction
- Comprehension: ability to understand something
- Disseminating: spread or circulate widely
- Stigmatization: describing something as worthy of disgrace or disapproval

Evaluate yourself:

1. Mention two main points of UNESCO education strategy on AIDS.
2. State the importance of schools in UNESCO's fight against AIDS?

3. Why do you think it is important to control AIDS?

Do you know?

The basic knowledge of HIV/AIDS over various issues is deficient among many students. Information, Education and Communication is the effective means to be disseminated as campaign at school level for preventing and protecting adolescents from the HIV/AIDS and spread awareness to induce behavioural changes among the adolescents. World AIDS Day was first observed on December 1, 1988 to bring greater awareness to HIV, as well as to commemorate those affected by the disease.

Extend your horizon.

World AIDS Day is celebrated throughout the world. Create a poster to commemorate and celebrate the importance of world AIDS day and create awareness about the disease in your neighbourhood.