Double discrimination: sickle cell anaemia prevention programs in India

Sickle cell disease, an inherited blood disorder, is a public health problem for many tribal and rural caste communities in India. Many community members with the condition feel doubly disadvantaged—by nature and by the State. Why is this disease more prevalent among such communities? Is the disease inherent to such tribal communities, or is this a myth? As Prasanna Kumar Patra reveals, ongoing sickle cell prevention programs in India seem to be better at creating social and ethical issues than they are at controlling the disease.

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