

No one will disagree with the viewpoint that education is the backbone of a nation. But too much education is harmful and sometimes it is better not to study after 10th grade. It is enough that you can read and write and can communicate. The readers might be getting enraged of my opinion. In this 21st century, when everything is advancing with a great flow, why am I talking about backward lifestyle? I am specifically talking about women, the highly educated women with great knowledge, creativity and dream.

Let me ask you. You are a girl? You are



TOO MUCH LEARNING IS A DANGEROUS THING

born in Bangladesh or may be in our neighboring countries? You are from a traditional family? You are educated, career oriented? You have great passion for knowledge and you are eager to pursue higher studies?

What is so great about that you are a dedicated mother, dedicated wife and a dedicated professional worker? You constantly feel a pressure to satisfy everyone in every aspect. If you are married and you want to go abroad, then your in-laws will pressurise you in various ways. You cannot leave your husband and go. If you have kids then it is impossible to leave them even for a year and go for pursuing higher degree. Why should you go? How can you take such a decision? You are a cruel mother as well as cruel human being. If you are single, still there are problems because when are you going to return and get married? Your age is

rising higher and higher even more than price hike. No one will marry you then.

Now if you are a married woman and also a full time working woman, then everything does not get sorted out. You have to manage everything at home and at office single handed and no one should help you because you are getting due punishment for being ambitious and self-dependent. I must say that not all cases are same but in most cases these are the scenarios.

It would be injustice not talking about this issue in a woman's life that can burn down her happiness, desire of being good



MEHNAAZ PERVIN TULI
PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

and efficient in her professional life. The situation is that you are a working woman, married and expecting a child. We all know by now that how hard it is to get maternity leave in some private job sectors. With great surprise, some private organisations, schools, universities allow only one month paid leave and may be four months unpaid leave. Are you happy now to get your proper punishment of taking decision to work even after marriage? The truth is that it becomes a dilemma for the woman to continue the job or leave the job. Now among all these stressful hurdles, the situation becomes unbearable when the working wife/mother doesn't get any help from the husband or in-laws. It becomes so hard for her to carry on these relationships and

can manage everything in and out perfectly. After this benevolent attributing, the woman would feel emotional pressure to keep up with this superhuman quality. It makes sense when you are not only exalted to this level but also helped by your spouse and in-laws for whom you left your family and started living in a different and new setting. In that situation, you feel energised and inspired to play your part efficiently.

Another problem arises when you are in a fix with whom to keep your child when you are away at work. It is very important for a child to have someone to take care of them intensively till the age of 10. You cannot rely on house maid and most of the cases the in-laws won't help you. The most convenient and only option

GENDER

workloads that lead to depression and sometimes withdrawal from the family bondage or even leads to hysteria.

As a working mother, you have to manage both kids and professional life smoothly. Your kids are the most important part of your life and you must also show dedication and professionalism in your job sector. Life becomes little easy when the husbands and in-laws and surrounding people reach out to you for assisting and guiding you.

Sometimes, the male members of the family will attribute you with the qualities of being a super woman, super mom who



that our mothers take up is keeping the child to his/her maternal grandmother. So, it becomes more difficult to think of a way out when your mother does not live with you or near you. At that position definitely the headache is yours because it is your sole responsibility to think about the child's nurture and care. When you are at office and your child is with someone other than your husband and mother, you feel restless every moment by thinking about your child. If the child is below five, there are lots of danger and harm that can occur because the child cannot express properly.

But it is a matter of great gallantry to even think of this mutual help and guidance from the men and the women of in-laws family because the fault is yours. You are incapable of managing your child smoothly while it is only your prior duty. So, I must say that you will feel intimidated, victimised, insulted, and helpless to take decision about doing job or not. You would not have felt so bad if you had not passed graduation and higher degrees with dedication and industry. Why take this pressure, girls? It is enough that you can read and write, can understand news in the TV, and can decorate yourself with good standard so that your husband can take you to posh parties. Why take so pressure and venture of being finely educated and ambitious and take all these pressure. Don't you know that too much learning is a dangerous thing for you! ■

QUIRKY SCIENCE

NEUTRALISING ZIKA

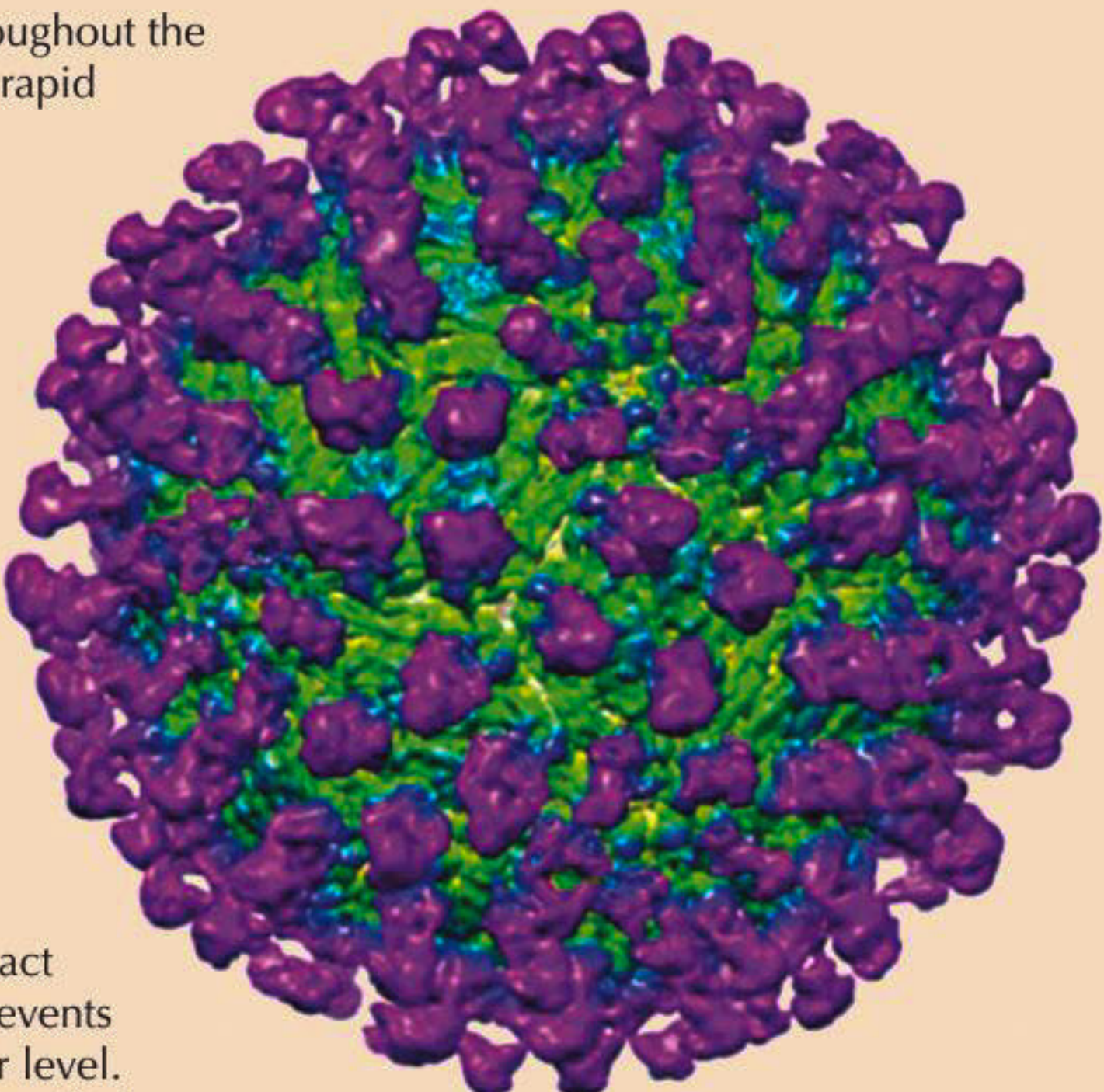
As Zika spreads throughout the world, the call for rapid development of therapeutics to treat Zika rings loud and clear. Taking a step further in identifying a possible therapeutic candidate, a team of researchers at Duke-NUS Medical School (Duke-NUS), in collaboration with scientists from the University of North Carolina, have discovered the mechanism by which C10, a human antibody previously identified to react with the Dengue virus, prevents Zika infection at a cellular level.

Previously, C10 was identified as one of the most potent antibodies able to neutralise Zika infection. Now, Associate Prof Lok Shee-Mei and her team at the Emerging Infectious Disease Programme of Duke-NUS have taken it one step further by determining how C10 is able to prevent Zika infection.

To infect a cell, virus particles usually undergo two main steps, docking and fusion, which are also common targets for disruption when developing viral therapeutics. During docking, the virus particle identifies specific sites on the cell and binds to them. With Zika infection, docking then initiates the cell to take the virus in via an endosome -- a separate compartment within the cell body. Proteins within the virus coat undergo structural changes to fuse with the membrane of the endosome, thereby releasing the virus genome into

the cell, and completing the fusion step of infection.

Using a method called cryoelectron microscopy, which allows for the visualisation of extremely small particles and their interactions, the team visualised C10 interacting with the Zika virus under different pHs, so as to mimic the different environments both the antibody and virus will find themselves in throughout infection. They showed that C10 binds to the main protein that makes up the Zika virus coat, regardless of pH, and locks these proteins into place, preventing the structural changes required for the fusion step of infection. Without fusion of the virus to the endosome, viral DNA is prevented from entering the cell, and infection is thwarted.



IMMUNITY IN MONKEYS

The richest and poorest Americans differ in life expectancy by more than a decade. Glaring health inequalities across the socioeconomic spectrum are often attributed to access to medical care and differences in habits such as smoking, exercise and diet.

But a new study in rhesus monkeys shows that the chronic stress of life at the bottom can alter the immune system even in the absence of other risk factors.

The research confirms previous animal studies suggesting that social

status affects the way genes turn on and off within immune cells. The new study, appearing in the journal Science, goes further by showing that the effects are reversible.

The team studied adult female rhesus monkeys housed at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center of Emory University. They found that infection sends immune cells of low-ranking monkeys into overdrive, leading to unwanted inflammation, but improvements in social status or social support can turn things back around.

In the first part of the study, Yerkes scientists put 45 unrelated females that had never met each other one by one into new social groups. Then they watched how the monkeys treated each other to see, for every interaction, who did the bullying and who cowered.

Source: Sciencedaily.com

STRANGE PROFESSIONS

PROFESSIONAL LINE-STANDERS

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN



During the release of the new iPhone 7 and sales offers on the occasions like Black Friday and Christmas, people are seen standing in long queues, days before the opening hour of the sales. Many of them often pitch tents in nearby public parks to secure their positions in the long line. This annual shopping frenzy brings opportunities for people who are confident about their patience and temperament. These people with patience are professional line-standers. During occasions and sales, these professionals are particularly busy and a report of Business Insiders says that during Black Friday sales line-standers can earn more than 1000 bucks per day for standing in the queue. In many countries, students, employees and businessmen, who remain engaged elsewhere during the sales hours, rely on these professional line-standers to grab their desired gadgets at a discounted price. In the UK, there are also service centres where one can hire these men and women to stand in the queue on behalf of others. In Bangladesh, we often do this job for our friends and families to buy bus and train tickets during the Eid rush. However, in this country, this job will take some more time to gain a foothold as most of us are yet to realise the usefulness of a queue when we can get what we want just by fighting with the entire crowd or by bribing the salesman. ■