

GENETIC COUNSELLING

INTRODUCTION

- Human Genome Project amplified the genetic-based knowledge of scientists towards diabetes, different types of cancer, cardiovascular, neuro-degenerative psychiatric and several other genetic disorders.
- Therefore, it is imperative that genetic counseling be included as an integral component of health care.
- Genetic counseling has become an indispensable part of clinical genetics in most of the developed countries.
- Therefore, Genetic counselling is a communication process dealing with the problems associated with the occurrence, or the risk of an occurrence, of a genetic disorder in the family.
- Critical components of the role are to educate and inform clients about their genetic condition in a non-directive manner; provide support and help with coping and to facilitate informed decision-making.
- Genetic counsellor's serve at all the stages of human life cycle, from preconception counseling to prenatal diagnosis, the diagnosis of newborns or paediatric genetic disorders, and the diagnosis of elderly individuals with inherited predisposition to diseases such as cancer, presenile dementia, psychiatric disorders, and heart disease.

