

Editorial

Continued efforts towards involvement of Medical Colleges in the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) have strengthened our resolve to fight the current challenges jointly. With their partnership, important issues like impact of delayed diagnosis on treatment outcome and disease transmission in the community under different settings can be addressed appropriately. Participation of medical colleges and other stake holders in identifying the challenges faced under RNTCP is vital for effective TB control measures. In an era of emerging MDR-TB and HIV-TB, infection control measures and involvement of other sectors in RNTCP has been meticulously highlighted in this bulletin by the Professors from JIPMER and Medical College in Pondicherry. Further inputs on the performance appraisal and activity reports under RNTCP, especially suggested criteria for evaluating STS activities and experience from implementation of the formats in six districts of Orissa also provides opportunity to identify deficiencies besides elaborating on the importance of supportive supervision.

Tuberculosis is an important cause of morbidity and mortality in children. Infected children represent a potential pool from which large cases of adult TB could arise, as has been well described in another article from Bangalore Medical College Professors that reveal interesting findings about profile of paediatric TB patients in Bangalore Mahanagar Palike. Such efforts can add to our understanding of TB in children and opening up specific areas for further research aimed at effective control measures.

In an article by the staff of NTI's Epidemiology section 'prevalence and annual risk of TB infection in an orphanage of Bangalore indicated higher prevalence and risk of developing TB in 0-17 years than other children in general community. The authors have attributed it to the lower levels of nutrition and emotional stress in a particular kind of closed institution that has been studied perhaps for the first time. Findings from such closed settings also indicate need for active screening for TB besides proper ventilation to reduce the transmission. In another article by the staff of Bacteriology section, readers of this bulletin may find application of the HPLC system and its role in identification mycobacteria quite interesting. We wish our readers useful reading and hope their feedback will further enhance dissemination of knowledge besides building and strengthening our partnership in the fight against tuberculosis further.

Editor