

## Stigma and Discrimination associated with Tuberculosis in Asia

Stigma and discrimination associated with TB greatly affects patients' and former patients' lives. Although there have been several studies assessing the extent of such discrimination, there is virtually nothing known about the causes of the stigma and discrimination associated with TB, and no effective strategies exist to address the high levels of stigma and discrimination associated with TB.

This study therefore aimed to gather new empirical evidence and further theoretical understanding of the causes of stigma and discrimination associated with TB in Asian countries (Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan). This study was led by NCIHD, University of Leeds, UK and funded by ESRC/DFID. The study was conducted in urban and rural sites of Lalitpur district in Nepal, coordinated by the HERD.

It is a totally qualitative study and information was collected through mixed approaches including Rapid Appraisal techniques, In Depth Interviews, and Focus Group Discussions with current/past TB patients and their family members, general community people, health workers etc. Being a qualitative study; data was simultaneously being collected and analyzed.

