

## Cross Referral Mechanism between NTP and Non- NTP Providers in Tuberculosis Control Programme, Bhaktapur, Nepal

**Background:** Public-Private Mix is a strategy, which aims to link the resources of public and private health sectors to achieve national TB Control targets. Since late 1990s, NTP Nepal has initiated PPP. A model was implemented in 1998 to link public-private sectors to improve treatment outcome. An evaluation in 2001 showed that the case-finding rate in project area was almost doubled and achieved high treatment success rate.

**Objective:** To establish cross referral mechanism between National TB Programme and Non-NTP providers for effective implementation of Public Private Mix (PPM).

**Methods:** In close coordination with Municipality and District Public Health Office, formation of PPM working group, series of meetings and sensitization /re-activation of PPM members, mobilization and training of NTP and Non-NTP providers during implementation were done. Record analysis and KIs were the methods for monitoring and assessment.

**Findings:** More than 80 percent of all form of TB cases were identified, registered and treated with in the urban DOTS centers. The number of cases registered after implementation program was reached to 422 from 389 in urban area in the district. A total of 42 cases were suspected and only 30 cases were referred to NTP by private health institutions (private pharmacies and lab).

**Conclusion:** Public-private mix is a feasible way to improve TB case detection, increasing case finding and treatment success Therefore, scaling up of the program and streamlining private institution under NTP umbrella is essential for TB control programme.

**Key Words:** Public-Private Mix, Cross referral, Urban, NTP, Tuberculosis

