

Mapping Diverse Health Service Providers (PPM) In TB Control A Case of Janakpur Municipality, Nepal

Background: Studies have shown that private providers have important and strategic roles in delivering TB services. However, TB management practices in private sector are not standardized and precise number of TB cases detected and treated is unknown which is due to lack of sufficient interaction and formal linkages between public and private sector providers.

Objective: To explore current situation of Janakpur Municipality for the identification and mapping of diverse health service providers (PPM) in TB control.

Methods: An exploratory study was conducted by applying both qualitative and quantitative methods. A simple random sampling technique was applied to select 70 pharmacies and 22 laboratories for the study.

Findings: The case detection trends were increasing while cure rate is decreasing. Nearly half of the private pharmacies do not provide any TB related services, however only 36 pharmacies were providing TB services such as selling medicine, suspect identification, referral as well as treatment. Only 8% of the private pharmacies were logistically supported by NTP (DPHO). Majority of Pharmacies did not like to disclose about selling TB drugs. In average a pharmacy suspect 7 cases and refer 2 cases per month. In last month 15% of private lab tested > 25 cases in their lab. More than 90% of private service providers mentioned that they didn't have any linkage with NTP/DPHO yet. Majority wants to build collaboration with NTP/DPHO in TB programme.

Conclusion: Private pharmacies are holding a number of TB cases and delivering TB related services irrationally without any well- functioning equipments and collaboration with NTP. Hence, bringing those pharmacies into NTP umbrella will increase in TB case finding. Further, it is also essential to establish a linkage between private pharmacies and NTP.

