Ending TB: Future Predictions

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Science Direct in the Indian Journal of Tuberculosis published India has won half of the battle in the elimination of Tuberculosis. India can still eliminate Tuberculosis as per its target by 2025.

One of the key strategies to eliminate TB is health system strengthening – by improving the diagnosis, developing treatment facilities, treatment monitoring, providing health education and mainstreaming private sectors. TB case notifications in 2021 India show 1.8 million as compared to 1.4 million in 2019. This increase can be attributed to increased screening when compared to 2019 [1,2].

What is India's TB elimination target? Although the elimination of Tuberculosis is one of the sustainable development targets to be achieved by 2030 by the world, India has set a target of 20250 [1,2].

It is still debatable since Pulmonary TB patients may develop respiratory infections even after cure which may lead to greater morbidity and mortality. Further, TB survivors have a higher risk of disease recurrence. Moreover, no study has yet been conducted to understand the post-treatment economic conditions of tuberculosis patients in India. Some studies have shown TB patients experienced limited recovery in income and employment with ongoing dissaving and schooling interruptions in the post-treatment period. This study found that financial hardship that started from the pre-treatment phase continued in the post-treatment period.

The unemployment rate among the patients was higher in the post-treatment phase as compared to the pre-treatment phase, indicating that they were unable to return to the pre-TB condition even after one-year post-treatment. It is therefore obvious that there will be additional treatment costs even during the post-treatment period. One such programme was initiated by the government of Haryana called CLAMP-TB, developed under the USAID-supported TRACE-TB Project [3,4]. The AI solution will help to predict the risk of 'loss to follow-up (LFU) and mortality among TB patients when they start TB treatment at government-run health facilities. Predict and initiate targeted TB treatments for almost 12,000 high-risk patients in the next 15 to 18 months. If this is initiated in every state, perhaps elimination can be possible by 2025.

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