

Eli Lilly Intervention -3

*Training the traditional
healers for involving them
in TB prevention and
control in Theni district*



*By
Vasandham
Society
Dharmarajapuram,
Theni District*

BACKGROUND OF THE PROGRAMME

In previous report we have mentioned about the trainings given to Traditional healers in four blocks (Kadamalai, Aundipatty, Theni and Periyakulam) of Theni district. Nearly 116 traditional healers were got under by us and through other NGOs like Arogya Agam, SRED, and Maitri. Follow up review 4 meetings were conducted for their motivation and to increase the case referral to nearby DMC. During these follow-up meeting many trained traditional healers brought new traditional healers to the meeting. By these meetings the contacts were established with new traditional healers.

Follow up Review meeting for traditional healers

Date : 03.02.2012

Venue : Vasandham training hall, Vasandham society

No of participants : 14 members

This meeting was facilitated by Mr. David Jones, Programme Executive (Health) from DAC TRUST. The main objective of the meeting is to review training impacts after the training were.

The major feedbacks given by the traditional healers during the meeting are the patients are frustrated and not willing to undergone follow-up due to the delay process carried out in the DMC. Basic information about TB, types of TB, TB screening, Categorization.

Multi Drug resistance

Patients have resistance towards INH and RIF are considered as multi drug patients. For MDR suspects can undergo MDRTB screening at Chennai currently. For that patients TB line 1 drugs will not work. This MDR TB patient's treatment duration is for 1.5 to 2 years. For first 6 months is IP and rest of the months are CP. A new DOTS Plus centre is going to be established near Kappalur.

Traditional healers can be involved as DOT provider in RNTCP TB programme, if a sputum positive is cured then he/she is eligible for Rs.250. if any TB patients are having to children under age 5. Then the children are eligible to get INH.

If, TB is affected with HIV then they should undergone CD4 test, ART.

If patients found difficult is accessing nearby DMC we can refer them to Theni medical college.

Follow up Review meeting for traditional healers

Date : 17.03.2012

Venue : Maitri training hall, Maitri society

No of participants : 32 members

Mr.Kunasekaran, Project Manager, Vasandham society facilitated, Mr.Deenadayalan welcomed all the traditional healers and explained about the importance of the follow up meeting. Ms. Saraswathi recalled the TB symptoms, Types of TB, DOTS and spreading ways in TB.

Opinions of traditional healers

- Traditional healers are referring the TB suspects to Government health sector and Maitri NGO DMC. Identified TB patients are undergoing DOT treatment. More TB patients have to spend.
- Traditional healer's referral slips were not accepted in Periyakulam government hospital and in Theni medical college at Kanavilaku.

WHO have announced that in India the polio was eradicated like that we should work hard to control TB in our district.

Follow up Review meeting for traditional healers

Date : 22.03.2012

Venue : SRED, Periyakulam

No of participants : 24 members

Mr.Kunasekaran, Project Manager, Vasandham society facilitated, Mr.Alagarswamy welcomed all the traditional healers and explained about the importance of the follow up meeting. Mr.Selvandran, explained about the basic symptoms of TB, Treatment producers, Types of TB and DOTS. He insisted that diabetic patients are risky people for getting TB easier

SHARING'S FROM TRADITIONAL HEALERS

- A TB patients wife committed suicide due to their family problem at Devethanapatti, and they narrated that this happened because of lack of understanding about TB
- In Devethanapatti PHC the sputum testing is going on very well.
- In Genguvarpatti, the sputum testing was not conducted they are referring the cases to Theni medical college
- They suggested NGOs to conduct sputum collection camps in the villages. For this activity traditional healers said that they will support for this.
- There is no cooperation from Periyakulam government hospital to traditional healers and patients referred for the sputum examination
- Traditional healers expressed that they are willing to work as DOT volunteers

At the end traditional healers submitted their referral details to the project staff.

Follow up Review meeting for traditional healers

- Date : 18.06.2012
- Venue : Arogya Agam Training centre, Aundipatty
- No of participants : 20 members
- Type of participants : Traditional healers

Mr. Kunasekaran, Programme manager, Vasandham society, welcomed all the participants, Mr. Selvandran, Project coordinator of Vasandham explained about symptoms of TB, treatment methods, duration of the treatment, types of TB. Mr. Vijiyakumar, explained about the MDR-TB, treatment producers, about the treatment centre and facilities, finally he said that whatever the support made to the TB patients will be extended from their side.

Sharing from the Traditional healers

- All the traditional healers requested to STS and STLS to hand over the medicine to DOTS to them, because to reduce the default rate and to show the solidarity with Vasandham society.
- Cases were referred at to the DMC by the traditional healers but back end of referral was not made to them as well as not the implementing organisation it included the cases referral, know about the status.

- *All the traditional healers requested the STS and STLS, to come for the field to their respective villages for weekly three times as per their schedule because they said to bring confidence among the free services rendered by them.*

PROGRESS REPORT

We have organised Traditional healer's follow-up meeting all the four blocks of our district through our NGOS. Nearly 75% of them were attended the meeting. They shared their view and experience to us for bringing this project as successful. The staff made continuous visit to traditional healer's clinic and meet RTNCP officials. IEC materials have been displayed in the traditional healer's clinics.

During the following meeting traditional healers expressed their difficulties such as

- *Non availability of the lab technician in the DMC*
- *In adequate drug supplies for the patients*
- *Patients were referred to the out patients department and then only they were screened for TB.*
- *Due to lack of transportation, people living in the hilly region were not much access towards DMC.*
- *Still more traditional healers have to be involved in this programme*
- *Some of the patients shared to that traditional healers the myths during counselling session*
- *Delay diagnosis of the TB screening from the public sector*

NO OF FOLLOW-UP MEETING CONDUCTED SO FAR

<i>Block name</i>	<i>No of meetings</i>	<i>No of members participated</i>
<i>Kadamalai</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Aundipatty</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Periyakulam</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Theni</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>90</i>

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

#1

Mr. Pandiyan is married and living with his wife and four children and running a small petty shop, he had symptoms of chest pain, cough with sputum more than 2 weeks, because of that he was not able manage the situation, so all of them migrated to Kerala for his treatment, there they have undergone treatment in the private hospital and spend more than Rs. 40,000 after that there is no improvement in his condition. The medical officer from the private hospital asked them to return him to native place. Then they heard about the traditional healers in the Thangamalpuram near Varusanadu at Kadamalai block. THS asked him to undergo X-Ray Test and suspected as TB. After that he was referred for getting DOTS from nearby PHC. They have undergone medicine follow up with THS after a long struggle in their life with support of THS, they found there is development in the physical body.

#2

Mr. Suriyakala, 19 years, Thangamalpuram, She was studying in the teachers training institute, the main source of income is based on the agriculture. Totally 5 members in the family, he was completing his course by staying in the hostel, she had symptoms like fever, cough, loss of appetite and weight loss the he took level and came to his native place. They have undergone self medicine, still now the fever was not controllable, then they went to the traditional healer, who have undergone training by our project, he referred him to Theni Medical college for sputum and x ray test, there he found as sputum positive and started treatment, then he was referred to nearby DMC, for continuing medicine. Then Mr. Murugan, Traditional healer was taking in charge of the dot provider and given medicine to him, he has got completed cured and traditional healer was eligible for getting his incentive.

VOICES FORM THS

#1

Mr. Malaiswamy, married, one sibling, living in the Kumantholzhru, Kadamalai Block, he has undergone the medical supervisor training long back after 13 years in the private medical hospital at Theni, After the training period he started practising medicine and started treating patients in surrounding villages, after our introduction to Elli Lilly project & RNTCP, he got trained about the RNTCP schemes and facilities, the he started referring cases to nearby DMC, through that referral he found

out 2 two cases both have identified as sputum positive and undergone treatment at nearby PHC and follow-up were done by him. They were completed their treatment.

#2

Mr.Murugan, traditional healers practicing for last 18 years in Thangamalpuram village, he has attended the training supported by Elli Lilly, after that he has referred 15 cases to nearby DMC and medical college. In that 2 cases were found as TB cases, he was acted as dot provider and followed the patients still end of treatment and the result was curable.

STATUS OF THE TRADITIONAL HEALERS

Block n.ame	No of traditional healers undergone training	No of suspects identified and referred for sputum testing	No of cases identified as TB	No of cases registered for DOTS	No of cases getting DOTS from THS	No of cases under the follow-up of THS
Kadamalai	21	57	4	4	2	4
Aundipatty	22	72	13	13	10	13
Periyakulam	40	45	8	8	6	8
Theni	33	75	8	8	6	8
Total	116	249	33	33	24	33

Observations

No of cases referred by THS and undergone testing in DMC is: 13.25%

100% of the tested cases have undergone DOTS registration

72% of the cases are getting DOTS from the traditional healers in their respective villages

Even though 72% of the cases were getting DOTS from the THS, but the follow up from the field level is 100%

Theni District – RNTCP

Period	No. of New OPD	No. of Sputum Done	No. of Positive Detection	No. of Positive Case Registered	Total TB Cases Registered
July to Dec 2010	334704	7111	512	328	890
Jan to Dec 2011	649208	12591	1036	658	1715
Jan to June 2012	305606	5108	454	281	816

