

Burden of treatment on patients opting for private TB treatment



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Introduction

- *Tuberculosis is a multi-systemic infectious disease caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis. It is the most common cause of infectious disease related mortality worldwide.
- *Loss of income and cost of treatment put people with TB at financial risk requiring mitigation with social protection intervention..
- *An estimated 100 million people fall below poverty line each year because of the financial burden of disease. TB mostly affects poorest of the poor and can substantially contribute to the disease poverty trap.

Rationale

This study will give an understanding of the burden of out of pocket expenditure on economically challenged TB patients.

The study will also help to understand the underlined reason behind people opting for private TB treatment.

Objectives

- To develop an understanding of burden of out of pocket expenditure on TB patients who opt for private treatment.
- To understand the reasons which leads TB patients to go to private healthcare providers.

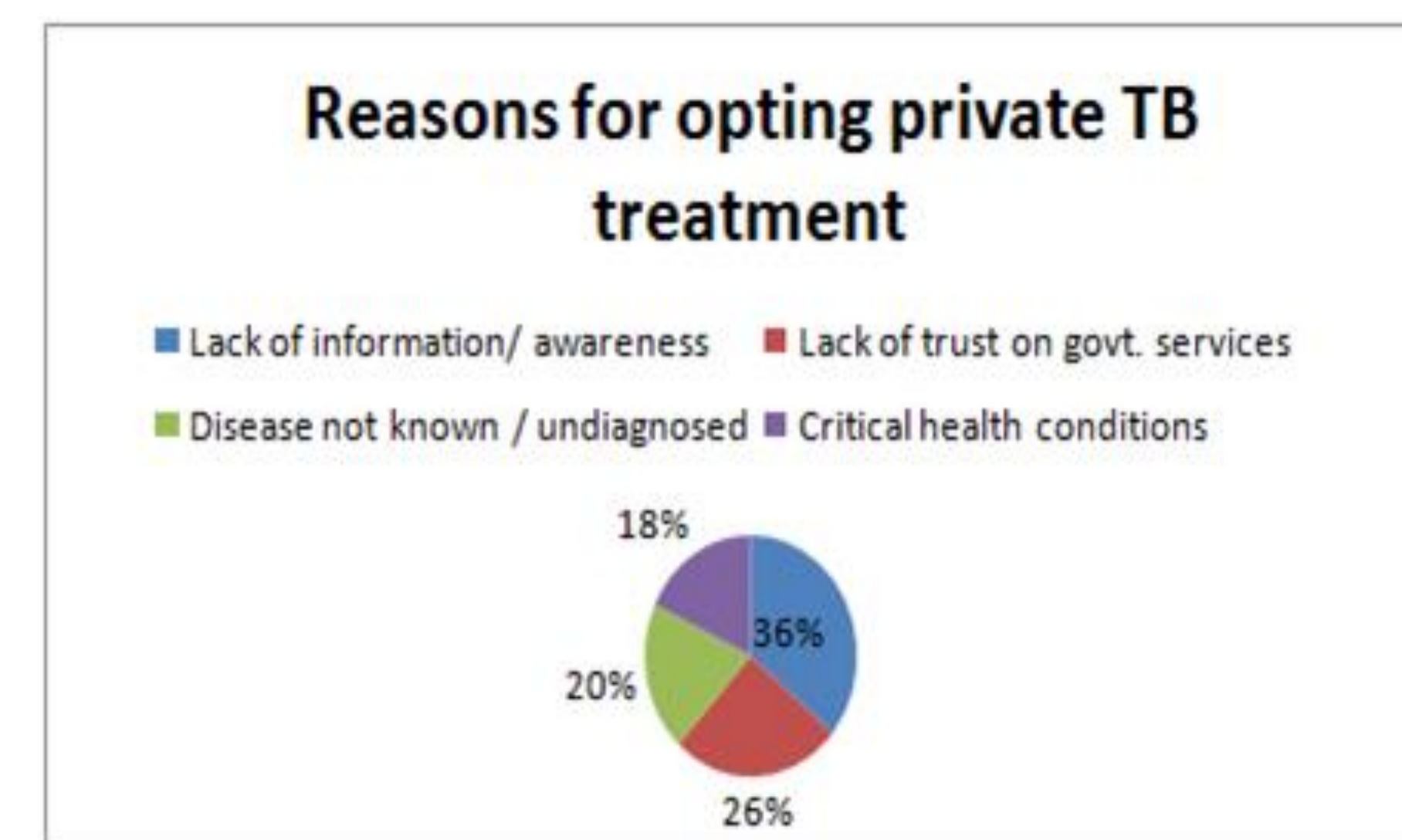
Methodology

- Ten panchayats from two blocks of Samastipur district of Bihar namely Dalsingh Sarai and Vidyapati Nagar were selected for study.
- Persons who have been completely cured for TB within one year of time were chosen for study.
- 50 patients from all ten panchayats were selected randomly from the patients' database available at IIH.
- Patients who took treatment from Public Health facility were excluded.
- **TOOL** – A well structured schedule with both open ended and closed ended questions was prepared.
- Data were collected through personal interview of cured patients.
- Data entry was done on excel sheet.
- Data analysis was done on excel.



Findings

- According to the study , average cost incurred in TB treatment at Private healthcare facility ranges from 5000 to 70000.
- 44% of the respondents' annual income lies between 50,000 to 70,000.



Expenditure on private treatment	
No. of people	Amount spent on treatment
11	5000 - 10000
15	11000 - 15000
19	16000 - 20000
5	Above 20000

Annual Income of Respondent	
% of People	Income
44%	50000 - 70000
24%	30000 - 50000
18%	70000 - 90000
14%	Above 90000

Conclusions

Findings of the study clearly indicate that only 64% of the respondents had knowledge of free DOTS Therapy at PHS for TB.

A large proportion of sample had trust issues regarding Public Health facilities especially for availability of Health professionals, availability of medicines and proper care during critical health conditions.

A larger proportion of the respondents in the region were economically too backward to afford proper TB treatment at private healthcare centre as well as receive proper nutrition which is very essential part of TB treatment.

Suggestions

- There need to be more focus on spreading awareness in villages regarding various Public Health facilities by community level workers like ASHAs and AWWs.
- Efforts must be made to ensure availability of required essential infrastructure and services at Public Health facilities.
- There should be provisions for supporting patients with supplementary nutrition (this provision has already been announced by central govt. providing 500 a month as nutritional support)