

BOOK-REVIEWS

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a) Chakraborty, A.K. **Expansion of the Tuberculosis Programme in India: The Policy Evolution Towards Decentralization and Integration. Pune:** The Centre for Health Research And Development (CHRD)- A Unit of The Maharashtra Association of Anthropological Sciences (MASS), 2003.

Dr A. K. Chakraborty, an eminent epidemiologist formerly associated with the National Tuberculosis Institute, Bangalore and Vice President of ISHA and consultant to various NGOs and National and International agencies responsible for control of tuberculosis, has authored this important contribution which is a must-read for anyone interested in understanding the dynamics of the number one killer of India viz. Tuberculosis which kills five lakh people every year in spite of effective treatment being available for more than 40 years.

Dr Chakraborty presents initially the philosophy of the earlier National Tuberculosis Control Programme (NTP) and discusses candidly the reasons for its failure and then presents the strategy of the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP). He cautions sagely about the complacency that seems to have set in those responsible for its implementation. Dr Chakraborty suggests proactive, well-researched, and measurable integration of the RNTCP at the State and District level in the country with decentralization of the supervisory and problem-solving mechanism throughout the country as the necessary mid-course correction.

The book presents information not routinely available through the usually opaque Government and WHO channels and suggests remedial measures and research priorities to make the programme more wholesome and productive.

If the RNTCP is to fail, the way the NTP failed, it will be a major management failure of the health care delivery system of the GOI and the integration of MIS based on intelligence. The data as a key component has been rather underemphasized barring a few figures and some remarks, Perhaps that could be subject of another work from the learned epidemiologist, hopefully before the programme becomes uncorrectable.

What is more heartening though, is the fact that this important and thought-provoking publication shall be distributed widely throughout the country amongst all stake-holders of the Tuberculosis problem by the

Maharashtra Association of Anthropological Sciences and specially through its CHRD wing (Centre for Health Research and Development). The publishers of the book acknowledge grant by The London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

-Dr Arvind Bhome.M.D.

Professor of Respiratory Medicine, Bharati Medical College, Pune. HOD, Respiratory Medicine, Niramaya Hospitals Pvt. Ltd., Senior Consultant- Pulmonary and Critical Care, Poona Hospitals and Research Centre, Pune .

b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. **Involvement of Private Practitioners in the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme, New Delhi.** Central TB Division on Directorate General of Health Services, 2002.

Private Practitioners (PPs) are the first point of contact for diagnosis and referral of patients for health problems, including Tuberculosis. Their competencies in diagnosis is the critical factor. Since sputum smear is more reliable compared to x-ray, the PPs, if well trained, can play an important role in the community.

c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. **Involvement of Non-Governmental Organizations in the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme. New Delhi.** Central TB Division, 2002, Directorate General of Health Services.

Towards successful implementation of the RNTCP, it is critical that the private sector the NGOs, must be involved to apply the scientific principles of DOTS in communities across India. This publication outline five schemes for collaboration. These are (1) Health Education and Community outreach; (2) Provision of Directly Observed Therapy; (3) In-Hospital Care for Tuberculosis Disease; (4) Microscopy and Treatment Centre; and (5) Tuberculosis Unit Model. The publication also presents sample letters of Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding for the Schemes.

d) Sharma, S K and A Mohan, **TUBERCULOSIS.** New Delhi. Jaypee Brothers, Medical Publishers, 2001.

Our congratulations to Dr S K Sharma, Professor, Dept. of Medicine, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, and Dr A Mohan, Asst

Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine, Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences, Tirupati for editing an excellent work on Tuberculosis.

This 745 pages multi-authored book presents a comprehensive account of Tuberculosis. It has contributions from experts with a vast experience in this disease. This book fulfills a much needed attempt by presenting a picture of tuberculosis as seen in India and other developing countries. Beginning with insights into the History and Epidemiology of tuberculosis, the book deals extensively with the current understanding, the pathogenetic mechanisms of this disease. The biology of Mycobacteria, susceptibility factors of tuberculosis with special emphasis on HLA and molecular mechanisms underlying the clinical manifestation of tuberculosis provide an excellent account of the current

understanding of these topics. The clinical presentation, clinical and laboratory diagnosis, the treatment of tuberculosis of various organ systems, prevention and control of tuberculosis are exhaustively covered. Special emphasis has been laid on the rationale and importance of directly observed treatment, short-course (DOTS). Chapters have been devoted to ethical and legal issues in tuberculosis control and tuberculosis in curricula of medical schools. The appendices are extremely useful and contain guidelines issued by various authorities on the nomenclature, classification and treatment of tuberculosis. This book will be an asset to both undergraduate and postgraduate medical students, a source of reference to the researchers and will help practising doctors to update their knowledge and aid in rationale, scientific and efficient management of patients with tuberculosis. I

- Editor
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