

MP CENTRAL JAIL SATNA – COMMITTED TO TAKE FULLEST CARE OF TB PATIENTS

- A case study



Interactions with the TB Patients

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Background: The prisons are the sensitive areas in view of the vulnerability to the TB patients for affecting others, if not take care appropriately. One has a feeling on how these TB patients are motivated to take their complete treatment and they should not affect the other prison inmates during their treatment. Many issues to the security and the welfare of these TB patients comes to the mind of the public health professional in dealing with the prison authorities and getting the permission to have dialogue with this group. Axshya has always made a mission to reach to these groups with the adequate advocacy with the RNTCP and have provided with the facilities for the external check-up and need based sputum collection and transport as per the local needs in collaboration with the health authorities.

Status: With the request of the prison authorities Axshya have deputed Kalpvriksh NGO for collection of the Sputum of the chest symptomatic from the prisons on regular basis. We have identified 6 TB patients from the prison during April-October 2017 and they are taken special care by the prison authorities for completion of their treatment. The Community Volunteer deputed to the Central Jail Satna visits for collection of samples on regular basis (as per the requisition of the prison) and provide the report to the prison along with the medicine kit.

On 21st November 2017, we were advised to visit these TB patients by Dr.M.S. Tomar, District TB Offier, Satna and to share the feelings of these TB patients on how they feel about the completion of their treatment. The Jail Superintendent, Mr;G.P. Tamrakar, was on leave on the day and we were advised to visit the Health Centre and to interact with those TB patients.

The Central Jail has a capacity of 386 prisoners. On the day there were 1254 prisoners as under:

- a) Male Prisoners -1203
- b) Women Prisoners – 41
- c) Children – 10

We were informed that there is turnover of 250-300 prisoners in a month.

Dr. N.K. Nema is a part time doctor to visit the Central Jail on daily basis. One Ayurvedic doctor visits to the Jail on weekly basis.

We were advised to meet Mr.Akhilendra Pandey, Pharmacist for getting the personal interaction with the TB patients from the jail.

Facilities for the TB Patients: Mr.Pandey informed us that special care is being taken for the TB patients ensure that they complete their treatment. They have been given special Cell for their living with the special food (nutritive and rich diet). They are not given any prison work like other prisoners. When some prisoner is discharged from the prison, the information is given to the respective health authorities for the follow up of his/her treatment.

The prison authorities have given separate place for interaction with the TB patients (with the security arrangements) so that they can talk with us freely and we were requested to give our feedback in case of any genuine expectations from them.

1. There are four TB patients on DOTS at present and they were taken care regularly.
2. One TB patient Kishan/Moti Lal has been released on 11.11.2017 and his status was informed to the concerned health authorities.
3. One TB patient Mr.Baijnath/Gulabi was not available to meet us during our visit.
4. There was one HIV-TB patient (he was having HIV positive status when he was imprisoned).

One to one interactions with the TB patients: We have been able to interact with three TB patients in detail. It has emerged during the discussion that all three were tobacco/Ganja users prior to the imprisonment. During the jail premises, there is strict monitoring not to consume tobacco/tobacco products and how they confessed that they would not use the tobacco/alcohol even after they release from the jail as this was for their own benefit. On our question how you feel your care during your TB Treatment one of them told us emotionally

It is very difficult to earn the livelihood when we are with the families. During the sickness no cares for us. In contrast we are taken utmost care and not given any work in the prison and are always motivated to take our complete treatment. Our crime has given us the imprisonment, but the care that has been given to us is heart-touching and we cannot forget this throughout our life.

1. **Mr. Prem Das S/O Bhagwan Das – Male 44 years:** He has taken medicine for the last five months and he was on continuation phase (CP). He was a chain smoker, but now he is not taking. Even he cannot think of tobacco use till he is fully cured, he confessed. There was no TB patient in his house.
2. **Mr.Bharat Chourasia S/O Chingo – Male 57 years:** He was taking medicine from Chhatarpur for the last one-two months. He tried not to disclose his sickness. After his regular check up he was found TB positive and was taking medicine w.e.f. 5.11.2017. He was taking alcohol prior to his sickness. Now he promised not to use alcohol. He informed that his uncle died due to Tuberculosis. He had also taken Category I medicines in 2016 and was cured. This was second time for his treatment. He was having chest pain and was advised for checkup.
3. **Mr. Vinod S/O Mr.Ram Pratap, Male 22 Years:** He was Category III TB patient (currently at MDR treatment). He informed that he has taken private treatment for 20-25 days prior to the imprisonment. He informed about his TB status at the prison and he was continuing his treatment.

These TB patients were confident in getting their complete cure during their imprisonment and were appreciative of the prison authorities for taking their care.

We have also been requested by the health staff persuade for the permanent Lab Technician at the prison itself so that these prisoners do not suffer. The prison authorities appreciated the NGO/CV initiative visiting on their demand.
