

## **Voices from periphery to core**

*By Dr. Priyanka Bhat (APM Axshya Project)*

There are field realities that we come across during our field visits and they reflect truly on how aim of END TB can be achieved. Our unsung heroes are trying their best to tune up their efforts at the field level to achieve the goal of eliminating TB.

*We have set the aim to eradicate TB from India by 2025, says Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi*

### **Pain of stigma:**

Gulab Verma, M-55years of Jamuiyaan purwa village, Kannauj, U.P was suffering from TB and was taking treatment prescribed by quack but no relief in symptoms, he was deserted by his family due to his disease, he was depressed. Pain of isolation cannot be expressed in words and reading the rejection in the eyes of close ones is much more painful. CV with the help of Gram pradhan addressed his family and convinced them to support him. Now he is taking his medicines regularly and family is taking care of his dietary needs and providing him emotional, physical and moral support that he deserves.

### **From TB patient to community volunteer: transformed to transform**

Meenu Saket, an 18 year old young girl of Rewa, M.P contracted TB. She was living in a family of five members and all five affected with life threatening disease is a worst scenario to see for anyone. Her grandmother died of TB. But Meenu was motivated to take complete treatment and was taken as community volunteer for the project. Now her parents are cured and her two siblings are under treatment. As a volunteer she saved life of Twenty TB patients in her village by ensuring their treatment. She is motivated and committed to make her village TB free.

### **Miking and announcement on Health camp for community engagement :**

In District Siwan, Bihar- Health camp was conducted in Bhagaura village and an innovative approach of using mike for announcing date, time, venue health camp, to increase community awareness and engagement. As a result of which 90 people participated in that health camp and 70 PTBP were identified and were tested, among them 9 patients were diagnosed as positive TB cases and these nine patients were put on treatment. Similar approach was replicated in other districts as well.

### **Freedom from cage of disease:**

A year back, in the month of September 2017 health camp intervention was conducted by Axshya team in District jail Kaushambi. During health camp Mr. Anil Kumar, Male, Age 24 years was found to be MDR positive, Anil's condition was very critical and he was not able to eat anything that lead to poor nutritional status, he was not able to walk even. His treatment was initiated. Our volunteer ensure his adherence to treatment. His weight is increased from 35 kgs to 50 Kgs, since his health is improved due to care and treatment, he motivates other inmates to prevent from tuberculosis.

There are many untold stories that we come across during field interventions. We came to know, through every individual effort we all collectively stand to gain and one day these efforts will spark a big change in attitude towards TB patients within the community and then End TB will be a reality.