

RNTCP FIELD VISIT REPORT AT Khoupum, Noney District

INTRODUCTION



Khoupum Valley is a small town located in the newly created Noney district of Manipur. The valley caters about 25, 000 population including the adjoining/nearby villages. It is about 90 km from Imphal city. The majority of the inhabitants are tribal mostly belonging to the Kabui tribe. Due to poor road connectivity and public transport facilities, the administrative and infrastructures are generally lacking. Health facilities are also generally lacking. Manpower, especially Medical Officers are lacking. As far as tuberculosis control program is concerned, there is no facility for diagnosis and treatment. The nearest diagnostic facilities are at Nungba (Noney district) and Bishnupur which are far away and people find it very difficult to avail the facilities due to the long distance and lack of proper public transport facilities.

Since there is lack of health facilities for diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis and presuming that a number of TB patients are devoid of the facilities under RNTCP, a team comprising of the following RNTCP officials visited Khoupum PHC on the 8th February 2018.

1. State TB Officer
2. Sr. Medical Officer, STC
3. State PPM Coordinator
4. Sr. Laboratory Technician, IRL
5. Statistical Assistant, DR-TB Centre, JNIMS

The team was also accompanied by the following officials.

1. District TB Officer, Noney
2. District TB Officer, Imphal East
3. Volunteers from the valley who were closely working in Akshya Project in coordination with RNTCP

AIMS:

1. To establish a diagnostic facilities of TB (Sputum Microscopic Centre).
2. To provide awareness/sensitization of the staff of the PHC on tuberculosis under RNTCP
3. To establish a DOT Centre

ACTIVITIES & OBSERVATIONS: -

I. DESIGNATED MICROSCOPIC CENTRE/LABORATORY: The laboratory technician is willing to do sputum microscopy for tuberculosis. The available microscope in the PHC Khoupum is a monocular microscope and it is not fit for sputum microscopy. Spot training was not possible. As per verbal communication with the State Malaria Officer, Manipur a new binocular microscope will be supplied to the PHC for activities of malaria which can be also used for sputum microscopy. MO i/c is submitting the indent for the microscope from the Malaria Department.



RECOMMENDATIONS: -

- i. The laboratory technician should be sent to District TB Centre (DTC), Imphal East for in-house training on sputum microscopy. This should be in coordination with the MO i/c, DTO Noney & DTO Imphal East.
- ii. Issue of receiving binocular microscope from State Malaria should be followed up by the MO i/c and DTO, Noney.
- iii. The lab reagent should be supplied by the DTO, Noney.
- iv. All the diagnosed TB patients should undergo UDST (CBNAAT) under RNTCP



IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHEDULE H1:

II. Only 4 (four) pharmacies are running in the valley. One on one interaction with each pharmacists was done explaining about the Gazette notification on schedule H1 drugs with main emphasis on selling of anti-TB drugs, incentives about the TB notification to RNTCP, advantages of being DOT provider for the patients, nutritional supports to the patients, general awareness of tuberculosis with the emphasis to refer patients all presumptive TB in and around their locality. The danger of not reporting TB cases were also explained in details.

Explanations on how to fill up the Schedule H1 registers and how & whom to report was done. The team also looked for the private practitioners and private institutes in the area. But there was no private practitioners in the valley.



RECOMMENDATION: -

- i. DTO and MO i/c should follow up any new pharmacies coming up in the town. Sale of any anti-TB drugs should be reported in the prescribed format.

III. PROPOSAL FOR DOT Centre: -

- i. Adequate space is available for opening of a DOT Centre. The medical officers posted in the PHC were sensitized on TOG focussing on the algorithm of diagnosis and treatment. During the interaction session of the doctors and other staff of the PHC awareness and sensitization was given on the basic information about RNTCP viz. (1) availability of free diagnostic facilities in RNTCP including CBNAAT, (2) free anti TB drugs available in RNTCP even for the private patients prescribed by the private practitioners, (3) opportunity to be a DOT provider/treatment supporter, (4) incentive of Rs. 1000/- for notifying TB by private practitioners, (5) awareness about the nutritional support offered by RNTCP @ Rs. 500/- per TB patient per month till treatment is completed, (6) commitment of Indian Government to end TB by 2025, (7) important role of private practitioners/institutes in the National TB Control Program (8) Universal Drug sensitivity test (UDST) for all the TB patients diagnosed, & (9) danger of not notifying TB patients



During the visit, 7 (seven) sputum samples were also collected and since there was no diagnostic facilities, it was taken to DTC, Imphal East, showing that there is an urgent need to establish RNTCP facilities in the PHC. After the completion of field visit, the team opined that Khoupum should be revisited so that the DMC and DOTS Centre are materialized within a very short period time.

It was also decided that the MO i/c / DTO, Noney should submit an action taken report of the recommendations within two weeks' time.

The team left Khoupum valley at 4 pm on the same day.

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State TB Officer
Manipur

Dated the 12th February 2018