

Cross Referral Mechanism between NTP and Non- NTP Providers in Tuberculosis Control Programme, Kaski, Nepal

Background: Public-Private Mix is a strategy, which aims to link the resources of public and private health sectors to achieve national TB Control targets. Since late 1990s, NTP Nepal has initiated PPP. A model was implemented in 1998 to link public-private sectors to improve treatment outcome. An evaluation in 2001 showed that the case-finding rate in project area was almost doubled and achieved high treatment success rate.

Objectives: To establish cross referral mechanism between National TB Programme and Non-NTP providers for effective implementation of Public Private Mix (PPM).

Methods: In close coordination with Municipality and District Public Health Office, formation of PPM working group, series of meetings and sensitization /re-activation of PPM members, mobilization and training of NTP and Non-NTP providers during implementation were done. Record analysis and KIs were the methods for monitoring and assessment.

Findings: Case finding rate was increased by 10 percent from 73 percent and cure rate increased by 4 percent from 83 percent than before. Out of 116 referred cases to TB service centres, 30 cases (nearly 26%) were referred by private sectors.

Conclusion: Public-Private Mix (PPM) is a feasible way to improve TB case detection, treatment success and develop referral system. This study also contribute to policy makers to scale up the program to other urban areas in the country along with exploration, orientation/ training and streamlining private institution under NTP umbrella.

