

## Cross- border migration and TB control programme in Nepal- 2012

**Objectives:** To identify the issues on management of TB among migrant population and also explore the health seeking behavior of this group in the district bordering with India.

**Methods and materials:** Cross sectional exploratory study design was used by applying mixed method (both qualitative and quantitative). TB patients taking TB treatment from treatment center in bordering districts and in and out migrants crossing India border were the unit of study.

**Key findings:** The TB case finding is quite low in bordering districts compared to national. TB related death and defaulter is quite high in district like Banke, Kapilvastu, Rupandehi and Kailali. Majority (99%) of the patients seeking care are the residence of Nepal, however only 2 patients are Indian. Qualitative finding suggests that 30% of patients taking care in the border areas were Indian citizens, and they feared to call them as Indian due to the fear of not getting free medicine. Nepali patients also have the trend of visiting India for treatment (17%). Majority of patients had not faced any problem due to Indo-Nepal border; however health workers were facing problems of identifying those patients who go for defaulter. The satisfaction with the behavior of health workers is significantly associated with religion, smoking and alcohol taking behavior of patients ( $p < 0.05$ ). About 71% of migrants knew about TB, however only 36.6 % knew that TB is caused by germs and 19% didn't know about any cause of TB. Educational status and ethnicity was significantly associated with Knowledge of TB ( $p < 0.05$ ) in migrants.

**Conclusion:** In conclusion, cross border to India and Nepal is a major issue that needs considerable attention in TB control programme. In addition, it requires proper documentation of Indian patients seeking TB care from Nepal.

