

**Dissemination Meeting on the study
'Investigating Pre-treatment Loss to Follow-up (PTLFU) of smear positive
Tuberculosis patients in the RNTCP in Chennai and Tiruvallur districts,
Tamilnadu'**

June 23, 2017

National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis, ICMR, Chennai

A dissemination meeting was held by the Department of Social and Behavioral Research (DSBR) on **23rd June 2017** to share the findings of the study titled "Investigating pre-treatment loss to follow-up of smear positive TB patients in RNTCP in Chennai and Tiruvallur districts, Tamil Nadu." The objective of the meeting was not only to communicate the major findings from the study but also to express our gratitude to all the stakeholders and health care providers for their support in carrying out this important study.



Around 130 members attended the workshop that included DTOs, HVs, LTs, STS from the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) from Chennai, Tiruvallur, Villupuram and Tiruvanamalai districts as well as representatives from the institute.

The findings of the study were presented by Dr.Beena Thomas and Mr.Senthil Sellapan. The findings highlighted the prevalence of PTLFU rates among smear-positive TB patients in 22 DMCs in Chennai and Tiruvallur districts, which is 22.1% and 3.4% respectively. The presentations also pointed out the factors associated with PTLFU such as older age, history of prior TB, absence of legible patient contact information (phone and address) and having residence outside Chennai. The qualitative findings



determined the reasons for PTLFU such as multiple referrals, alcohol and substance use, not patient-choice based referral, poor record keeping, improper direction and guidance for treatment, etc. Case studies were discussed in which the healthcare workers shared their experiences about the reasons for 'missing cases' and 'default'. Dr.J.Lavanya, DTO, RNTCP Chennai gave a presentation on the ongoing study, which



is a multi-component intervention study to reduce PTLFU among smear positive TB patients in Chennai. She explained about the intervention tools that would help to track the loss to follow-up patients and result to reductions in PTLFU rates among TB patients.

The meeting concluded with the need to reduce PTLFU among TB patients and improve linkage to care and the call for health system-strengthening interventions with a goal of preventing PTLFU and providing a patients centered referral services in all RNTCP centres

