



SAARC Tuberculosis Centre Annual Report



Year 2000



SAARC

SAARC Tuberculosis Centre

Annual Report

Year 2000



FOREWORD

This Annual Report provides a summary of the activities carried out by the SAARC Tuberculosis Centre (STC) during the period of January to December 2000. It gives me great satisfaction that the Centre could complete all the programmes and activities assigned by the Governing Board to be carried out during the year 2000. Some of the landmark events i.e. signing of SAARC-WHO MoU, beginning of SAARC-Canada project for TB & HIV/AIDS control and visit of Health Ministers of South East Asian Countries have taken place during the year. The activities carried out by the Centre could be able to provide a strong support to National TB Control Programmes of Member Countries in terms of the development of trained manpower, expansion of DOTS, strengthening research, dissemination of the information and identifying new partners of TB and HIV/AIDS control in the region.

I take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to His Excellency Mr. Nihal Rodrigo, Secretary General and Mr. Thinley Dorji, Director, SAARC Secretariat for their invaluable support and continuous cooperation in implementing the programme effectively. I would also like to thank His Majesty's Government of Nepal for strong support to SAARC TB Centre and WHO for recognizing this Centre for joint programmes.

Finally, I would like to extend my appreciation to Dr. P. Kumar, Deputy Director and all General Services Staff of this Centre for their hard work to implement the assigned duties and to produce this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. S. Bam' with a stylized flourish above the name.

Dr. D. S. Bam
Director
SAARC TB Centre

CONTENTS

1. Background	1
2. Activities planned for the year 2000	2
3. Activities carried out	2
- Trainer's training	2
- Seminar for compilation and updating of advocacy and IEC material relating to TB and HIV/AIDS	4
- Expert meeting for standardizing training curriculum and workshop on operational research for TB control in SAARC Countries	6
- Briefing programme for journalist on SAARC Charter Day	11
- Public awareness and advocacy in relation to TB and HIV	12
4. World TB Day 2000	18
5. SAARC-CIDA/Health Canada meeting	20
6. SAARC-WHO MoU	21
7. Other Activities	21
8. Technical support to other agencies	22
9. Distribution of STC Newsletter	23
10. Strengthening of Resource Centre	23
11. STC Visit	23
12. Net-working of institute working for TB and HIV/AIDS control	24
13. New publications of SAARC TB Centre	25

SAARC Tuberculosis Centre

Report on Activities carried out for the period of January to December 2000

1. Background:

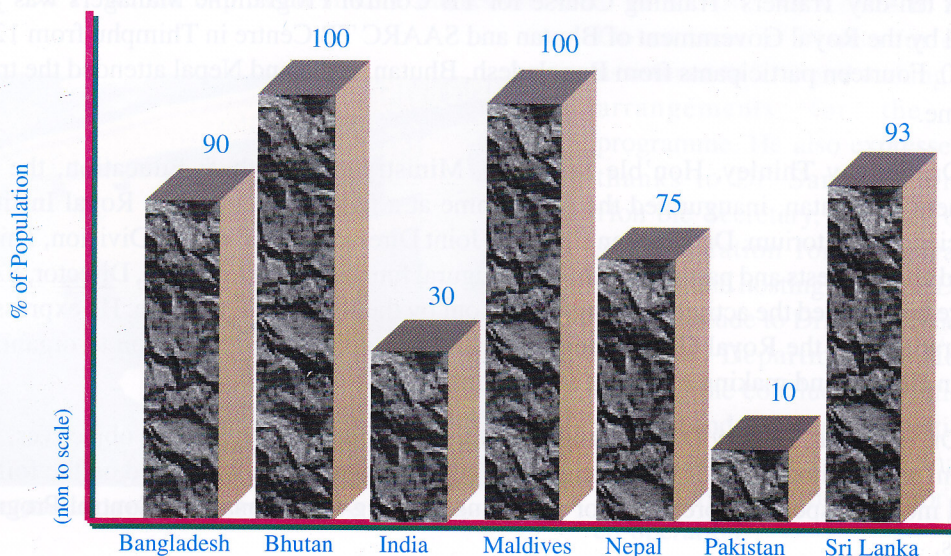
SAARC Tuberculosis Centre (STC) is a regional centre of eminence working for prevention and control of TB disease in the Region by coordinating the efforts of the National TB Control Programmes of Member Countries. This Centre is functioning since 1992.

It is estimated that at least one-third of the world's population is infected with TB. Among the infected, every year eight million people develop TB disease. The 95% of the TB patients live in the developing countries and TB kills more than 2 million people each year in the developing world. This is a leading cause of death of the adults (15-60 years).

Nearly 38% of the global TB cases live in SAARC Member Countries. Each year about 2.6 million new TB cases appear and about 0.6 million deaths occur in these countries. India, Bangladesh and Pakistan are listed in the high burden countries.

TB has close association with HIV/AIDS. HIV/AIDS is the biggest treat to TB control in our Region, as TB cases would increase with rise of HIV/AIDS in Member Countries. Directly Observed Treatment Shortcourse (DOTS) is the most cost-effective intervention available with us. All SAARC Member Countries have adopted DOTS and implementing this strategy under National TB Control Programme. Success of DOTS in our Region has been appreciated all over the world. The coverage of DOTS in SAARC Member Countries is as under:

Population covered by DOTS Programme



2. Activities planned for the year 2000:

The Ninth Meeting of the Governing Board of SAARC TB Centre, held in Kathmandu on 27th and 28th October 1999 decided the following activities for the year 2000:

- 1. Trainer's Training in TB Programme Management.**
- 2. Public Awareness and Advocacy in Relation to TB and HIV.**
- 3. Workshop on Operational Research Related to TB Control in Member Countries.**
- 4. Expert Meeting for Standardizing Training Curriculum at the Level of Directors of National TB Institute.**
- 5. Strengthening the existing networking with Training and Research Institutions in an Effective Manner.**

In addition of the above mentioned planned activities the Centre has to carry out its ongoing and regular activities such as collection, compilation and distribution of the information, co-ordination with National TB Programmes of the Member Countries, publication of STC Newsletters & documents, strengthening of the resource centre, multi-centric study on primary drug resistance etc.

3. Activities carried out:

SAARC TB Centre has carried out the following activities during the period of January to December 2000:

3.1 Trainer's Training Course for TB Control Programme Managers:

Training is the major activity of the SAARC TB Centre. STC organizes training programme for Trainers of different levels of TB control programme managers and workers. STC has organized so far the nine training programmes for TB programme managers, laboratory technicians and information experts. In the same series one training was organized in Bhutan this year as per following details:

A ten-day Trainers' Training Course for TB Control Programme Managers was jointly organized by the Royal Government of Bhutan and SAARC TB Centre in Thimphu from 12 to 22 June 2000. Fourteen participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal attended the training programme.

Dr. Sangay Thinley, Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of Health & Education, the Royal Government of Bhutan, inaugurated the programme at a function held in the Royal Institute of Health Science Auditorium. Dr. Rinchen Chopel, Joint Director, Public Health Division, Thimphu, welcomed all the guests and participants in the inaugural function. Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, SAARC TB Centre highlighted the activities being carried out by the SAARC TB Centre. He expressed his sincere gratitude to the Royal Government of Bhutan for giving the permission to organize this training in Bhutan and making excellent arrangements for the training.

Dr. P. Kumar, Deputy Director and course co-ordinator highlighted the objectives, course curriculum and methodology of the training. The training curriculum was based on the following approved modules specially prepared for providing training to National TB Control Programme Managers.

1. Establish Revised National Tuberculosis Programme strategy,
2. Plan supplies,

3. Ensure Training,
4. Revised Recording and Reporting.

In addition to above four modules epidemiology of TB, principles of TB control, laboratory aspects of TB control and management of the NTP (including planning, training, supervision, logistics, monitoring, and evaluation). Additional sessions on presentation skills, practical management skills, advocacy skills, proposal writing, report writing have also been included. Interaction on burning issues like management of TB and HIV/AIDS cases, emergence of MDR TB, problems and challenges encountered during expansion of DOTS have also been incorporated in the programme.

The objectives of the training Programme were to:

- i) impart the trainers with managerial skills to manage the Tuberculosis Control Programme at national level.
- ii) sensitize the participants to implement revised strategy of TB control to achieve 85% cure rate & 70% case detection rate.
- iii) impart skills of planning, implementation and evaluation of effective TB control Programme, based on the strategy of DOTS.

The training programme was facilitated by Dr. Nani Nair, WHO/SEARO; Dr. P. Jagota, NTI, Bangalore, India; Ms Rose Walley, WHO, Nepal along with Dr. P. Kumar from STC.

The training concluded by awarding certificates to the participants in the concluding ceremony chaired by Dr. Gado Tshering, Director, Department of Health, Royal Government of Bhutan. Dr. Tapas Gurung, TB Programme Manager of Bhutan, accorded a warm welcome in the concluding function of the training. Dr. P. Kumar presented a report of the training and informed that on conclusion of the Training, the participants are able to device to plan, to implement the revised NTP strategy DOTS in their countries. Ms Rose Walley on behalf of facilitators and Dr. Mehra on behalf of participants informed that this training has been helpful to the TB Control Programme managers.

Dr. P. Kumar expressed sincere thanks on behalf of SAARC TB Centre to the Royal



(Inaugural function of the SAARC TB Managers' Training Programme)

Government of Bhutan for extending assistance to STC and making excellent arrangements for the training programme. He also expressed sincere thanks to Dr. Sangey Thinley, the Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of Health and Education for inaugurating the training and hosting a dinner. Dr. Kumar paid gratitude to Dr. Gado Tshering, the Director, Department of Health for chairing the concluding function of the training and awarding the certificates to the participants. He also thanked to facilitators and participants for excellent co-operation.

3.2 Seminar for compilation and updating of advocacy and IEC material relating to TB and HIV/AIDS:

SAARC Seminar for compilation and updating advocacy and IEC material relating to TB and HIV/AIDS was held in Kathmandu on 21st-22nd September 2000. Delegates from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka participated in the seminar.

The objective of the seminar was to compile and update the existing advocacy and IEC materials in the region in order to strengthen our efforts to control these diseases.

The seminar was inaugurated by Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, SAARC TB Centre on 21st September 2000. Inaugurating the seminar, Dr. Bam welcomed the participants and highlighted the need of the compilation and updating of the IEC materials existing in the SAARC Member Countries.

Dr. P. Kumar, Deputy Director, SAARC TB Centre made a presentation on objective, methods of Advocacy and IEC, materials collected from Member Countries and initiatives taken by STC for Advocacy & IEC for TB and HIV/AIDS control in the region.

The programme of the seminar began under the chair of Dr. J. P. Narain, Regional Advisor, WHO/SEARO.

The detailed presentation and discussions on the subject were held. It was also discussed on the burden of tuberculosis in the Region. It is a matter of great concern that TB is a leading killer of adult population of 15-50 years of age group, among them more deaths are reported in women. It also kills more than 100,000 children every year in the SAARC countries and adversely affecting the economic development of the Region.

By the end of 1999, according to new estimates from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the World Health Organization (WHO), the number of people living with HIV/AIDS will have grown to 33.4 million, 10% more than just one year ago. The epidemic has not been overcome anywhere. Virtually every country in the world has seen new infections in 1999 and the epidemic is frankly out of control in many places.

More than 95% of all HIV infected people now live in the developing world, which had like wise experienced 95% of all deaths to date from AIDS, largely among young adults who would normally be in their peak productive and reproductive years. The multiple repercussions of these deaths are reaching crisis level in some parts of the world.

The epidemiology of TB and HIV/AIDS varies widely around the world and the capacity of health systems is also different. Globally TB is increasing in both prevalence as well as incidence. AIDS cases are also increasing. TB and HIV are on a collision course. The combination is deadly. TB is the biggest killer of people who are HIV positive, accounting for one third of AIDS deaths worldwide and 40 percent of AIDS deaths in Asia.

During the last decade the interaction of TB and HIV/AIDS has become increasingly recognized. At present, approximately 10 million people are co-infected with both TB and HIV. However, fewer than half that number is ever treated at all and fewer than a quarter receives successful treatment. In addition, like TB itself, the problem is growing. New TB cases attributable to HIV co-infection were estimated at 300,000 in 1990 (4% of total new TB cases) and are expected



(Dr. J. P. Narain, Regional Advisor, WHO/SEARO presenting burden of TB in the Region)

to increase to around 1.4 million cases per year by 2000, equivalent to about 14% of expected TB cases.

As the TB and HIV/AIDS are serious Socio-Economic public health problems in the region, we have to strengthen our Advocacy and IEC against these diseases in order to generate sufficient resources and support from all the sectors to control these diseases in our Region. The following recommendations were made during Seminar.

Recommendations:

1. SAARC TB Centre should facilitate/develop advocacy and IEC materials on TB and HIV/AIDS to seek commitment from Policy Makers and Decision-Makers in order to generate sufficient priority and resources to run programmes effectively.
2. SAARC TB Centre should take initiatives to organize training workshops in IEC methodologies for the managers of TB and HIV/AIDS programmes from the Member Countries.
3. SAARC Member Countries should accord high priority to create awareness among the masses regarding the magnitude of TB and HIV/AIDS problems and facilities available to manage. SAARC TB Centre should facilitate/develop IEC materials in this regard.
4. There is an urgent need to document the situation and trend of TB and HIV/AIDS in the region and SAARC TB Centre should prepare a documentary depicting this.
5. There should be periodic collection and dissemination of IEC materials from Member Countries and SAARC TB Centre should work as the nodal agency in this direction.
6. Key messages in order to bring down the stigma of HIV/AIDS should incorporate on how these spread and how these do not.
7. The IEC on HIV/AIDS should emphasize on high-risk behaviour rather than on high-risk groups.
8. The IEC on TB and HIV/AIDS should find a place in the curriculum of the medical colleges/training institutes.
9. In all the SAARC regional/national level managerial meetings, IEC on TB and HIV/AIDS should be included in the agenda. Exhibition/displays of IEC materials should be organized at the venue.

10. The IEC experience gained from the partnership projects with school children, media, private practitioners and industries by the SAARC TB Centre in Nepal can be replicated in Member Countries.

At the end of the programme, delegates expressed satisfaction on the outcome of the seminar. On behalf of participants from Member Countries Dr. Hassan Sadiq from Pakistan thanked the Director, STC for extending excellent hospitality to the participants and express appreciation to Dr. P. Kumar, Deputy Director, STC for excellent management and hard work put in by him for successful organization of the seminar.

The programme was concluded jointly with the regional training programme organized by WHO/SEARO.



Scientific session of the Seminar

3.3 Expert Meeting for Standardizing Training Curriculum and Workshop on Operational Research for TB Control in SAARC Countries:

1. Introduction:

In compliance to the decision of the Ninth Meeting of the Governing Board of SAARC Tuberculosis Centre (STC), the expert meeting for standardizing training curriculum and workshop on operational research for TB control in SAARC countries was organized by SAARC Tuberculosis Centre on the occasion of SAARC Charter Day from 8 to 10 December 2000 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The experts from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka participated in the programme.

2. Objectives:

The objectives of this Meeting and Workshop were:

- To review the training curriculum available for health workers involved in Tuberculosis control in the SAARC Region.
- To make recommendations for standardized training curriculum for various levels of health workers in order to manage National TB Control Programmes effectively.
- To develop a networking arrangement between training institutes working for TB control in the region.
- To identify the areas of Operational Research required for Strengthening the TB Control in the region.

3. Inauguration:

Mr. Padma Prasad Pokhrel, Secretary for Health His Majesty's Government of Nepal, inaugurated the programme at a function held in Kathmandu. Delivering the inaugural address in the function, Mr. Pokhrel highlighted the burden of TB in the Region and he expressed the hope that the meeting and workshop of experts of the region would provide effective and valuable recommendations for controlling the TB in the entire region.

On the occasion of the SAARC Charter Day, he released a book "*General Information on Tuberculosis and its Control*" in Nepali language prepared and published by SAARC TB Centre.

Speaking at the function, H. E. Mr. Nihal Rodrigo, Secretary General, SAARC expressed that the training is an important component of National TB Control Programme, to control the disease the trained manpower is vital to fight the disease. He also added that the training curriculum for the TB control programme and operational research should be sound. He also emphasized the need of the united efforts for TB & HIV control. His Excellency informed that SAARC Secretariat and World Health Organization (WHO) have signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to control of Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS in the Region and some activities will be organized jointly in coming time.

The function was chaired by the Dr. B. D. Chataut, Director General, Department of Health Services, Ministry of Health, His Majesty's Government of Nepal. He highlighted the importance of training and research to control the disease in the Region.

On behalf of the participants, Dr. A. K. M. Fazlul Haque from Bangladesh informed that the meeting and workshop would play a pivotal role to review and formulate the training curriculum for health workers. He also emphasized to cover every TB patient under DOTS as early as possible.

Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, SAARC TB Centre delivering the welcome speech, he explained the current situation of TB and its control in the Region. He also highlighted the activities organized by the Centre to support the Member Countries. Explaining the importance of the training and research he said that the training ensures availability of trained manpower at every level and the research provides opportunity to identify weak areas and remedial measures in order to strengthen the efforts made for the National TB Control Programmes.

Dr. Bam expressed his sincere thanks to H. E. the Secretary General of SAARC and Regional Director, WHO/SEARO for signing of MoU which is a mile stone for prevention and control of TB and HIV/AIDS in the Region.

Dr. P. Kumar, Deputy Director, SAARC TB Centre extended the Vote of Thanks and paid his gratitude to the Member Countries for sending the experts in this meeting and workshop. He also thanked Mr. Padma Prasad Pokhrel, Secretary for Health, His Majesty's Government of Nepal for gracing the occasion by inaugurating the function, H. E. Mr. Nihal Rodrigo, the Secretary General, SAARC for gracing the occasion by addressing the programme and Dr. B. D. Chataut, Director General, Department of Health Services for chairing the function. He also expressed thanks to the distinguished delegates from the Member Countries for their presence in this meeting and workshop, SAARC Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their excellent cooperation and all National and international dignitaries for their presence in the function.

4. Programme:

The scientific session began after the inauguration of the programme. The participants were registered and provided the status papers and other material related to the training curriculum and operational research in TB control. The participants presented their country papers and had interaction of various points and formulated recommendations for standardize training and prioritization of operational research to be conducted in Member Countries.

5. Recommendations:

5.1. Training

1. Human resource planning is a vital element for successful TB control. Central TB units should develop comprehensive plans that identify training needs at different levels. i.e. duration, content, place, facilitators, target groups.
2. National medical councils should undertake the incorporation of technical and operational guidelines of NTP into the basic undergraduate curriculum of medical colleges. As part of this, medical students should be exposed to DOTS facilities.
3. Countries should assess the capacity of national institutes to deliver nation-wide training. Regional and local training capacity may need to be strengthened to enable rapid DOTS expansion.
4. NTPs should ensure that in addition to their basic training, higher level TB staff have received a comprehensive training in TB control.
5. Regular review and updating of existing training materials is necessary:
 - At national and regional level, material focusing on DOTS expansion and sustainability should be available.
 - In view of the changing epidemiology scenario, countries may need to include information on MDR TB and TB & HIV in their training material.
 - Training in advocacy, communication and management skills should also be included in the curriculum.
6. NTPs should use recognized methodology for developing, piloting and evaluating training materials.

7. Where the training is being decentralized Member Countries may consider developing more structured materials for use by less experienced facilitators as one method of maintaining the quality and uniformity of the training.
8. Training programmes should also consider the community as a target audience. Materials for both literate and illiterate audiences may need to be developed.
9. The need for refresher training should be explicitly recognized and participation criteria clearly defined. For example, the maximum length of time between training and refresher training.
10. Training, supervision and monitoring are linked. Supervision activities should include training needs assessment and provide on-the-job training. Supervision should be planned to allow for these activities to be carried out.

5. 2. Operational Research Priorities:

Operational research is understood to be research for better programme implementation. This is also a core activity of NTPs. The following have been identified as priority areas for research to be under taken by Member Countries.

Private Sector Participation:

- How to ensure participation of private sector as active partner in NTP.
- How to ensure private sector patients have quality diagnosis and treatment under DOTS.

TB-HIV Co-infection:

- How best to diagnose and manage HIV positive TB cases.
- Develop mechanism for referral of HIV positive TB cases for further counseling and treatment of HIV related problems.
- Screening protocol for TB in HIV positive cases.
- Where prevention using chemoprophylaxis is appropriate and how is it best applied.

DOTS in hard-to-access populations:

- Cross-border populations
- Inner city slums
- Remote areas
- Prisoners
- Migrant workers

Gender and TB:

- How to ensure health workers can identify women TB patients early.
- How to ensure women can easily attend for DOTS.

Poverty:

- How community and social support mechanisms can help in minimizing costs to patients and improving patient compliance.

TB in elderly:

- How to ensure elderly patients get prompt access to diagnostic facilities.
- How to ensure elderly patients can receive and complete DOT.

Recommendations on Operational Research:

Experts felt that SAARC TB Centre to take a strong role in strengthening research capacity in Member Countries and made following recommendations:

1. SAARC TB Centre should take the initiative for sharing of information of research activities between the Member Countries.
2. STC should promote multi-centre research studies carried out jointly between Member Countries.

The participants note that some research on these areas is already under way in Member Countries. The urgency of some of these areas have also been recognized by WHO global TB research initiative.

6. Adoption of Report:

This report was adopted unanimously by the representative of attending Member Countries.

7. Conclusion:

At the conclusion of meeting and workshop Dr. S. P. W. Jayatillaka, participant from Sri Lanka on behalf of all delegates expressed appreciation to the SAARC TB Centre for making excellent arrangements for the meeting and workshop extended to the participants during their stay in Kathmandu. Dr. D. S. Bam Director and Dr. P. Kumar Deputy Director, STC expressed thanks to the participants for their cooperation and excellent recommendations.



(Inauguration of the Expert Meeting & Workshop)

3.4 Briefing Programme for Journalists on SAARC Charter Day:

On the occasion of SAARC Charter Day, (08 December), SAARC Tuberculosis Centre organized a briefing programme for International and National Journalists on Role of SAARC Tuberculosis Centre in TB Control in the SAARC Region at SAARC Tuberculosis Centre, Thimi, Bhaktapur on 5th December 2000.

The representative journalists from international news agencies based in Kathmandu, such as Nava Bharat Times, AIR/Doordarshan, United News of India, Hindustan Times, AFP (France), AP (UR), BBC, Xinhua, Asian Age, India abroad News Service, Z Television, Reuters TV, Japan TV, Kodo and Internet Sanskaran and National news agencies from National News agency (RSS), Kantipur Publication, Himalayan Times, Space Time, The Gorkhapatra, The Rising Nepal, Radio Nepal, Nepal Samachar Patra, Radio Sagarmatha, Nepali Times, Nepal Television (NTV), Prabhat Kalin Janasatta and Naya Sadak participated in the programme.

Dr. Dirgh Singh Bam, Director, SAARC Tuberculosis Centre welcomed the Journalists and briefed about the role of SAARC TB Centre, its function and objectives. He also informed the current situation of TB and implementation of Directly Observed Treatment Short course (DOTS) in the region.

Dr. Prahlad Kumar, Deputy Director of the Centre briefed about the current situation of Tuberculosis in the Region along with the activities carried out by the Centre since 1994.

The STC publications and press release were provided to inform about the TB situation in the Region along with the objectives, functions, achievements and future plan of the Centre to the participants.

An exhibition of various information related to TB and HIV/AIDS, health education material collected from the Member Countries, report of important events, STC publications, information about the involvement of new partners in TB control, progress on SAARC-CIDA cooperation and achievements of STC were displayed. This exhibition was also organized on the occasion of the Charter Day. The journalists observed the exhibition and expressed their views.



Journalists and officials of STC after completing the briefing programme

3.5. Public Awareness and Advocacy in Relation to TB and HIV:

Public awareness and advocacy are very important component of TB and HIV/AIDS control programme. Considering this fact STC has identified three partners to strength advocacy and public awareness. The new partners are:

- **School students**
- **Media people and**
- **Industry workers.**

i) Partnerships with School Students:

The awareness programme with partnership of school students started with the Kendriya Vidyalaya Kathmandu as a Pilot Site. This programme is being implemented in two phases and the details of the programme is as under:

A Joint Project of SAARC TB Centre (STC) and Kendriya Vidyalaya Kathmandu, (KVK)



(Students during the STC Visit)

A joint project to involve school children has been designed by STC and KVK to develop students to deliver messages on TB and its control. The students have been identified as new partners considering the facts that:

- Students are most potential force of the community
- Students have provided their capability by bringing revolution in many fields.
- Students are in the process of learning and have skills of communication.
- Students have strength of educating friends, family and community at large.
- Students can be most potential partners in our fight against TB.

Viewing this potential of school children appropriate materials for key messages has been developed and provided to students. Students have been trained to become the partner in TB control.

Objectives of the project:

1. Educate school children about TB disease, its control programme and seek their co-operation in TB control.
2. Built a cadre of child ambassadors committed to spreading messages of awareness about TB and its control.
3. Forge an active partnership with children in fight against TB.

Duration:

The duration of the project on an experimental basis would be for the year 2000, after which it would be reviewed.

Executive Committee:

Chairman, **Dr. D. S. Bam**, Director, SAARC TB Centre
Co-Chairman, **Mr. Thinley Dorji**, Director, SAARC Secretariat
Coordinators, **Dr. P Kumar**, Deputy Director, SAARC TB Centre
Mr. V. Venkataraman, Principal, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Kathmandu.
Members, **Mr. C. K. Ojha** and
Mrs. Sangita Sapan, Teachers, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Kathmandu.
Mr. P. Bhandari and **Mrs. Jyoti Gautam**, SAARC TB Centre

Project details:

A substantial period has been spent since the discovery of tuberculosis bacillus in 1882, invention of first anti-TB drug in 1994, implementation of National Tuberculosis Programme in 1960s, declaring TB as a global emergency in 1993 and introduction of DOTS. However, TB still remains a serious problem in South Asia. We can not afford to be complacent as if we continue with poorly functioning TB control programmes; we will be facing a serious problem of MDR-TB. To over come with this problem we have to implement successful DOTS programme. Our experience shows that it may not be possible to achieve desired success without new partners.

Therefore a project partnership with students in fight against TB has been designed by STC with the Kendriya Vidyalaya, Kathmandu.

Phase I:

- Kendriya Vidyalaya, Kathmandu has been selected for the pilot project.
- Students of the KVK have been trained jointly by principal, teachers and STC,
- Selected students are delivering the key messages on TB and its control,
- Students first exchanged their views in the school and family and now they are doing the same in the community,
- Additional schools will be involved in second phase
- Different competitions will be arranged
- Best students would be rewarded and chances would be provided to communicate in other schools and in community in Nepal and other SAARC countries.

- In second phase more school will be involved and competition developed in order to have a wider awareness Campaign in the forms of debates, essay writing and dramatics (skits). Private sector would be encouraged to support such activities through their sponsorship. This would help generate enthusiasm, interest and widen the participation.

Calendar of Activities

Date	Activities Planned	Activities held
1 Jan 2000	An advocacy project has been planned as per decision of the Governing Board	Project Planning
31 Jan. 2000	Discussions with Mr. Amit Das Gupta and Mr. T. Dorji, Directors, SAARC Secretariat for finalization of the project	Project has been finalized and Kendriya Vidyalaya, Kathmandu has been selected as Project site
12 Feb. 2000	Meeting with Mr. V. Venkataraman, Principal, KVK	Visit of the Project site and team has been selected
14 Feb. 2000	Discussions with the principal, teachers and students of KVK	Modalities of the Project discussed with identified students of the class VII, VIII, IX, XI
Phase I		
17 Feb. 2000	Providing Information relevant to the project to the teachers and students	A set of 25 sheets of presentation and 12 copies of handouts submitted by Dr. P. Kumar to Principal, teachers and students
3 Mar. 2000	Visit of KVK to assist students for their deliberations	Five students delivered key messages on TB and its control in an assembly organized in school premises
30 Mar. 2000	Distribution of Booklet	Handed over 400 copies of booklet to Principal of KVK
9 Mar. 2000	Presentation on details of the project and information about TB and its control	Students delivered individual speeches on TB control on the basis of presentation prepared by STC at KVK. Library.
20 Apr. 2000	Meeting at KVK	Meeting with Principal and teachers for students' visit to STC.
25 Apr. 2000	Visit of STC by students of KVK	14 students and Mr. CK Ojha visited STC
28 Apr. 2000	Planned for rehearsal at KVK	Seven students delivered speeches at rehearsal.
29 Apr. 2000	Individual meeting with students for preparation of presentations.	Preparation of individual presentations
22 May 2000	Contact of other schools for expansion of the school project	Contacted other 4 schools by telephone for preliminary talking.
8 Jun. 2000	Meeting with Principal, KVK for the next programme of school project	Meeting has been held
10-25 Jun 00	Rehearsal at school by school team	Rehearsal has been held
30 Jun. 2000	Grand rehearsal	Grand rehearsal has been held
6 July 2000	Final rehearsal of presentation	Final rehearsal has been held
8 July 2000	Final Presentation	The final presentation was held in Embassy Hall where the 7 students of KVK presented their views on TB and its control
Phase II		
15 Oct. 2000	Meeting with President, NATA Branch Kathmandu	A meeting with Ms. Bhuwaneshori Statyal, Chairperson, NATA Branch, Kathmandu has been held.
23 Oct. 2000	Meeting with schools representatives	A meeting of Director and Deputy Director, STC has been held in Kanya Mandir Higher Secondary School.
8 Dec. 2000	Publication of book	Published a book on general information on TB and its control in Nepali language.
After this other schools are being sensitized to join the project		

Phase II

After getting an excellent experience from the pilot project at KVK, it was thought to expand the activity in other schools.

A meeting with Mrs. Bhuwaneshwari Satyal, Chairperson NATA Branch, Kathmandu held on 15th Oct. 2000. It was decided to select five more schools in the project.

On 23rd October a meeting of Director and Deputy Director, STC was held in Kanya Mandir Higher Secondary School. The officials of NATA, STC and representatives of following identified schools to be involved in the project were briefed about the project:

1. Nandi Madyamik Vidyalaya, Naxal

Ms. Karuna Thapa – Teacher,
Kamal Dip Singh – Student IX
Sunita Thapa – Student X

2. Kanya Madir Higher Secondary School, Chhetrapati

Ms. Sushila Joshi – Teacher
Saphala Kharel – Student IX
Sugina Shakya – Student IX

3. Nava Jeewan High School, Samakhusi

Mr. Hari Bhakta Neupane – Teacher
Elina Adhikari – Student IX
Roshan Khadka – Student VIII

4. Shree Shanit Vidya Griha, Lainchour

Mr. Ramesh Kumar Gurung – Teacher
Dhruba Khatiwoda – Student VIII
Anju Timilshina – Student VIII

5. The Budhanilkantha School will also join later on.

All teachers expressed their appreciation about the programme planned by STC in order to prepare school children to create awareness in order to control tuberculosis in the community.

We are planning to have an another activity in the presence of parents, teachers of KVK, honorable guest from HMG Nepal, SAARC Directors, STC staff, Principals and Students of some of the other schools.



Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, STC briefing about the awareness programme and role of school students in TB control

Future Plan:

A inter school competition on “Human fight against TB”, would be organized. The students would be divided in three groups.

- | | |
|---------|---------------|
| Group 1 | Class IV - VI |
| Group 2 | Class VII -IX |
| Group 3 | Class X -XII |

Two students from each group will be identified from each school those would participate in this competition and that would be followed by quiz competition.

Inter School Drawing competition:

In this competition the students would draw pictures, showing favorable conditions causing TB and another group would draw methods of prevention and control of TB. The best performing children would be rewarded in the function.

Inter school submit group on TB control:

A best performing children from different schools would be identified and trained to deliver lectures in schools out of the valley, industries and media offices.

This Programme would be expanded in other schools of the valley, other parts of Nepal as well as in other Member Countries.

ii) Project with Media:

SAARC Secretariat had organized a programme on 31st August 1999 to inform the journalists about TB and HIV/AIDS because media is a potential vehicle to spread messages and mobilizing community support to achieve desired objectives. This programme was attended by journalists from SAARC Member Countries, representative from UN agencies, Diplomats from missions in Kathmandu along with Doctors and official of SAARC Secretariat and Centre. A presentation was made in the programme by Director and Deputy Director of SAARC TB Centre on Status and Trend of HIV/AIDS and TB in SAARC Member Countries and Role of SAARC TB Centre in control of these diseases. On this occasion, an appeal was made to media to render their help in generating awareness about TB and HIV/AIDS in general public to seek community's active cooperation to control these diseases. Considering this fact, SAARC TB Centre has taken a decision to involve media as an active partner in the fight against TB. The news of the programme was widely covered by various media.

This was followed by publication of various articles in different National and International Newspapers written by TB control programme managers, journalists and renowned writers. In the international conference the tb.net 2000, on Power, Poverty and TB the PANOS South Asia organized a four-day workshop for South Asian Journalists from 21 to 24 Feb. 2000. During the conference, Dr. P. Kumar, Deputy Director made a presentation on TB & HIV/AIDS and their control in South Asia. Answering the questions raised by Journalist of South Asia Dr. Kumar urged them to support TB control programme by creating awareness in the general public.

Journalists from South Asia visited SAARC TB Centre on 24th Feb. 2000, and agreed to become the partners in TB control programme. They ensured their solidarity and started their contribution in the fight against TB by using their strong weapon (*the Pen*).

Mr. Afsan Chowdhury, BBC, Bangladesh and India visited SAARC TB Centre on 29th May 2000.

The journalists from the Kathmandu based international news agencies and National news agencies visited SAARC TB Centre on 5th December 2000. These journalists also attended the briefing programme and exhibition organized by STC on the occasion of SAARC Charter Day (see page 16 for more detail).

These partnership projects may be proved very crucial to generate awareness in the community. The better awareness may lead to better TB control and therefore would help in achieving our objective of TB control.

iii) Project with Industries:

SAARC TB Centre has planned a partnership with the personnel working in industries. The objective of this partnership is to mobilize the corporate sector into social activities. Since employees are the backbone of industries, their and their families' wellbeing therefore is of the prime concern. In this concern, SAARC TB Centre and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have agreed to work together. Similarly, SAARC TB Centre has established links between some the leading group of industries in Nepal to initiate the programme.

4. World TB Day 2000:

SAARC TB Centre commemorated World TB Day 2000 on 24th March in the memory of the day in 1882, when Dr. Robert Koch, announced his landmark discovery of TB bacilli. It was proclaimed officially in 1982 on the occasion of 100th anniversary of Dr. Koch's announcement. World TB day, 24th March, marks a key date for mobilizing political will and encourage the involvement of civil society in the global efforts to Stop TB. The theme of this year was, '**Forging new Partnerships to Stop TB**', which is a call to reach beyond the TB community and to mobilize new TB constituencies such as international agencies and organizations, women's groups, human rights groups, HIV/AIDS groups, and others to join the global development to Stop TB.

SAARC TB Centre is helping to strengthen awareness and advocacy programmes of the Member Countries for TB control. On the occasion of World TB Day 2000, STC organized different events in a joint function organized in Kathmandu in association with His Majesty's Government of Nepal/NTC, WHO, NATA and JICA. The highlights of the day's activities were:

1. *Participation in Elephant procession.*
2. *Organizing a Joint function in City Hall.*
3. *Organizing an Exhibition.*
4. *Public awareness campaign using audiovisual media and news papers.*
5. *Displaying banners with different slogans relating to TB disease and DOTS.*



(Procession of the students, scouts and general people during the World TB Day)

4.1 Participation in public procession:

Director, Deputy Director and General Services Staff participated in elephant procession, which was begun early in the morning on 24th March in Kathmandu. Nearly two hours procession was passing through the main market in the city. In the procession students, health workers, social volunteers, INGOs members, journalists, artists and general public were also participated actively. The elephant was decorated by the banners with slogan, STOP TB play-cards and DOTS messages.

4.2 Presentation of activities in City Hall:

In the afternoon a joint function was organized in City Hall, Kathmandu, which was attended by officials of His Majesty's Government of Nepal, Health Workers working in governmental and non-governmental organizations, Journalists, Artists, Representative of UN organizations and Diplomatic Missions, Students, Social Workers, Community Leaders and TB Control Workers. The Hon'ble Health Minister Dr. R. B. Yadav addressed the function as a Chief Guest and emphasized the need of a united efforts to control the menace of TB and HIV/AIDS. The function was also addressed by the representative from SAARC Secretariat, Mr. Abdul Ghafoor and Mr. Thinly Dorji, Directors.

On the occasion of World TB Day 2000, Hon'ble Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, Minister of Health, and Chief Guest of the joint function, released a book "***General Information on TB and its Control in SAARC***" prepared by the SAARC TB Centre for the general people. This booklet is appreciated widely. Specially, this booklet would help for the forging of new partnerships to stop TB.

In the joint function, the Director and Deputy Director of the STC made presentations on activities of SAARCTB Centre.

4.3 Organizing an Exhibition:

At the open place in the hall, STC had arranged an exhibition on tuberculosis. The information on activities performed by the STC along with developments occurred in the field of TB control in the Member Countries were displayed. A large number of visitors of the function observed the exhibition.

4.4 Media Coverage:

Radio Messages of the Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. G. P. Koirala, Health Minister, Dr. R. B. Yadav and State Minister of Health Mr. T. R. Dongol were telecast early in the morning by Radio Nepal. A message of Director, STC and NTC was also telecast.

A message from His Excellency, Secretary General of SAARC along with Director, STC were covered in National Newspaper. The newspaper also covered information on TB disease and its control along with efforts being made by Governmental and Non-governmental organizations in order to contain TB disease. An special article on Partnership with Students in TB control jointly written by Principal, KVK and Dy. Director, STC was among the important articles covered by various newspapers.

4.5 Displaying of Banners:

Banners with different slogans about TB disease its extent and DOTS were displayed all over the Kathmandu valley.



4.6 Observance of World TB Day 2000 in Member Countries:

SAARC TB Centre had requested Member Countries to commemorate world TB day 2000 by organizing different functions. The Member Countries commemorated the day by organizing various functions in order to spread the messages related to control tuberculosis in the community. SAARCTB Centre has collected reports on world TB day 2000 from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka with the objective to publish a special issue of the STC Newsletter on the world TB day 2000. This issue will include the activities carried out in SAARC Member Countries on World TB Day 2000.



5. SAARC- CIDA/Health Canada meeting:

The officials from CIDA/Health Canada visited SAARC TB Centre on 21st – 26th May 2000. The objectives of visit were to review the progress of approval of the PAD, to plan activities to be carried out during 1st year ending 31st March 2001. The mission had detailed discussion from

22-26 May 2000 in SAARC TB Centre and SAARC Secretariat. At the end the meeting of the mission was held with H. E. the Secretary General, SAARC on 26th May 2000. Dr. Sutherland presented the report of the mission during the meeting.

Dr. Klaus Jochem has been started his work from the Canada side to implement the SAARC-CIDA TB HIV Project from December 2000.

6. SAARC – WHO Memorandum of Understanding (MoU):

During the visit of the Hon'ble Health Ministers of South East Asian countries, a MoU has been signed between South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and World Health Organization. This event has open a new chapter in the field of TB control in the Region.

7. Other Activities:

Participation in International Conferences:

7.1. Conference on reemerging diseases:

The Director and Deputy Director, STC attended a conference on reemerging diseases held at Tuberculosis Research Centre (TRC), Chennai, India at in January 2000. During their visit they discussed with the authority of TRC about how to develop the linkage between TRC and STC in the field of research on TB and HIV/AIDS. They also supervised the multi-centric study in primary drug resistance in TRC and visited some of the DOTS centres in south India.

7.2. tb.net 2000:

The Director and Deputy Director presented the audiovisual presentation on Role of Media in TB Control in tb.net 2000, "A Conference on Power, Poverty and TB" held on 23-25 February 2000 organized by tb.net-the global TB network in Kathmandu. After the presentation the Deputy Director replied different queries raised by the participant journalists. The journalists later on visited the SAARC TB Centre and shown their solidarity for TB control as an active partner.

7.3. Meeting on TB Drug Development:

The Director and Deputy Director, STC attended the meeting on TB drug development held in February 2000 in Cape Town, South Africa hosted by The South African Medical Research Council and invited by the Rockefeller Foundation. The objective of the meeting was to review the state of the art in new science and technology in TB R&D and discussion on the importance, mechanisms and partnerships to develop new drugs to shorten TB treatment and simplify its management. The organizers provided the travel arrangements and hotel accommodation for participation in this meeting.

7.4. NTP review:

Dr. P. Kumar, Deputy Director, STC led a team of National and International experts to the eastern region of Nepal for reviewing the National TB Control Programme. The experts from WHO, IUATLD, and different INGOs had carried out 5th annual review of NTP programme of Nepal from 28th March to 8 April 2000. Dr. Kumar submitted the report to the authorities of His Majesty's Government of Nepal in the function chaired by the Hon'ble Health Minister of Nepal.

7.5. First National Conference:

The Director and Deputy Director participated in the First National Conference of Nepal association of TB and Chest Physicians held on 7th – 8th April 2000 in Kathmandu. The Deputy Director presented three papers in the conference.

7.6. IUATLD conference:

The Director and Deputy Director, STC visited Italy to attend the 31st World Congress on Lung Health of IUATLD held in Florence from 30 Aug. to 3 Sept. 2000. In the meeting TB control activities of SAARC Member Countries along with the activities and objective of the SAARC TB Centre were highlighted. The report of the visit has been submitted with the previous report.

8. Technical Support to other agencies:

8.1. WHO Training Course:

SAARC TB Centre is supporting WHO to organize the training courses in Nepal. In every training programme the Deputy Director facilitate the participants. Recently fourth South East Asia Regional Training Course on TB Control 2000 was jointly organized by HMG, STC and WHO in Kathmandu from 11 to 22 September 2000. The training was facilitated by the Director and Deputy Director.



8.2. Training Programmes of NTP Nepal:

SAARC TB Centre has facilitated training programmes of NTP Nepal organized on different dates. STC provides information on Role of SAARC TB Centre, DOTS in Member Countries, global situation of TB control and information on TB and HIV/AIDS in the programmes.

8.3. Review of NTP in Western Nepal:

On the request of the HMG Nepal the Deputy Director, STC participated in a review team to western region of Nepal. The team observed the DOTS programme during the review conducted by National TB Centre, Nepal, the Norwegian Lung and Heart Association (LHL) and the SAARC TB Centre from 31 Oct. to 4 Nov. 2000.

8.4. Participation in TB managers' meeting:

The Director and Deputy Director, STC participated in the Sixth Meeting of National TB Programme Managers held on 19-22 Oct. 2000 in Kathmandu organized by WHO/SEARO. During the meeting Dr. P. Kumar, Deputy Director, made a presentation on role of regional associations in TB/HIV Control. The role being played by the STC in TB and HIV/AIDS control has been appreciated by all TB/HIV programmes managers and WHO officials.

9. Distribution of STC Newsletters:

Both the January and July issues of STC Newsletters have been distributed in the Member Countries of SAARC and abroad as per the approved mailing list available in STC.

10. Strengthening of Resource Centre (Library):

STC library has collected some scientific books and reports related to TB and HIV/AIDS from WHO. The library also has collected the books and journals on different information related to SAARC activities from SAARC Secretariat and Member Countries. Some scientific papers and documents have been kept in the library collected from the meeting of the world congress during the visit of the Director and Deputy Director.

11. STC Visited:

11.1. Health Ministers of South East Asian Countries:

Hon'ble Health Ministers of South East Asian Countries along with the Secretaries of Health, Director Generals of Health Services, Directors of Health Planning and WHO Secretariat staff visited SAARC TB Centre on 24th August 2000. Dr. D. S. Bam, Director, presented the role of SAARC TB Centre and its activities. The visitors observed the exhibition on current situation of TB and HIV/AIDS and DOTS programme of the SAARC Member Countries displayed by SAARC TB Centre.



11.2. Director, Stop TB Initiative, WHO, Geneva:

Dr. A. Kochi, Director, Stop TB Initiative, WHO, Geneva visited SAARCTB Centre and observed the activities carried out by this centre on 20th Oct. 2000. He also visited SAARC Secretariat.

11.3. Journalists from South Asia and BBC representative:

The journalist from South Asia and Norway visited STC on 24th Feb. 2000 and agreed to become the partners in TB control programme. They ensure their solidarity and started their contribution in the fight against TB in the community.

Mr. Afsan Chowdhury, representative of BBC in Bangladesh and India visited SAARC TB Centre on 29th May 2000. The purpose of his visit was to interview Dr. D. S. Bam and Dr. P. Kumar in order to make a series on TB and methods of its control. This series was broadcast in Bengali language on prime time from BBC to create awareness in the community about TB disease.

11.4. Journalists from International and National news agencies:

The 17 journalists from Kathmandu based International news agencies and 17 journalist from National news agencies visited STC on 5th Dec. 2000. (see more in page 16)

12. Net working of Institutes working for TB and HIV/AIDS control:

The SAARCTB Centre is developing a net work of institutions working for TB and HIV/AIDS Control in the Region. The valuable information is being collected and a document would be prepared at the conclusion of the activity.

13. New Publications of SAARC TB Centre:

STC has published the following publications in 2000

1. General Information on TB and its Control in Member Countries – This book was prepared and published to initiate the school project.
2. General Information on TB and its Control (in Nepali version) – This book was prepared and published for the Nepali medium schools.
3. Proceeding Report of seminar for compilation and updating of advocacy and IEC material relating to TB and HIV/AIDS control – This report was published to provide the information about TB and HIV/AIDS co-infection to the people of the Region.
4. Role of School Students in TB Control – This book was prepared for the students involved in TB control as a new partner.
5. Special Issue of STC Newsletter on the occasion of World TB Day 2000 – This issue was published to spread the messages about TB control activities in the Region.

New Publications of SAARC TB Centre in 2000



Special Issue of STC Newsletter on the Occasion of World TB Day 2000 released by Dr. J. P. Narain, Regional Advisor, WHO/SEARO, New Delhi.



Proceeding Report of Seminar on IEC Material

Role of School Students in TB Control released by Dr. Sangey Thinley, Hon'ble Secretary Royal Government of Bhutan.

General Information on TB and its Control in Member Countries (in Nepali Version) This book was released by Secretary for Health Mr. Padma Prasad Pokhrel on the occasion of SAARC Charter Day.

General Information on TB and its Control in Member Countries. This book was released by Hon'ble Minister of Health Dr. Ram Baran Yadav on the occasion of World TB Day 2000.

