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Impact of project Axshya on tuberculosis indicators in Punjab state, India

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Background: Project Axshya is a flagship program of The Union South-East Asia Office using the strategy of advocacy communication and social mobilization and active case finding to enhance the visibility and reach of India NTP services among vulnerable and marginalized populations across 300 districts (21 states) of India. We wanted to assess the impact of the project over 2013-15 on the TB indicators under the NTP in the state of Punjab, India.

Methods: Punjab, a state in north India, had 15 districts in 2013 which were further divided into 50 sub-district administrative units called as Tuberculosis unit (TU). Of these 50, project Axshya was implemented in 35 TUs. We collected TU level TB indicators (per lac population), quarter-wise during 2013-15. The indicators were presumptive TB smear examination rate (PTSER), new smear positive TB case notification rate (NSPTCNR) and all forms TB CNR (AFTCNR).

Results: The trends of TU level TB indicators during 2013-15 are provided in figure. With an average TU level PTSER of 137 per lac population in the absence of project Axshya, implementation of project Axshya resulted in a significant increase of PTSER by 44 (0.95 CI: 9, 78) per lac population every quarter. With an average TU level NSPTCNR of 14 per lac population in the absence of project Axshya, implementation of project Axshya resulted in an increase of NSPTCNR by 1.5 (0.95 CI: - 0.5, 3) per lac population every quarter, however this increase was not statistically significant. With an average TU level AFTCNR of 27 per lac population in the absence of project Axshya, implementation of project Axshya resulted in a significant increase of AFTCNR by 9 (0.95 CI: 3, 15) per lac population every quarter.

Conclusion: Project Axshya had an impact on TB indicators in the state of Punjab, India.

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