
**THE CAUSE OF TUBERCULOSIS
AS PERCEIVED BY THE
PATIENTS AFFECTED BY THE
DISEASE**

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Problem Statement:

- Tuberculosis is still a major health concern in a developing country like India.
- Tuberculosis like leprosy is still not considered a disease caused by bacteria. It is a social stigma.
- This cross sectional study is a cultural epidemiological study which aims in revealing the etiology of the disease as perceived by the patients.

Methods:

- 110 patients diagnosed to have tuberculosis either by sputum test or radiological findings or both in a tertiary care centre, Government Hospital of Thoracic Medicine, Otteri, between 24/12/2006 and 6/01/2007 were selected.
- ***Inclusion criteria-*** all patients diagnosed to have Tuberculosis.
- ***Exclusion criteria-*** patients waiting for results and those admitted for respiratory problems other than Tuberculosis.

Proceedings:

- Established rapport
- First asked him/her the perceived cause
- If he/she was not able to answer a list of causes was offered
- The order of the options in the list were changed every time to avoid bias

Male:

Ingestion of food	12.2%
Alcohol	21.4%
Smoking	19.8%
Physical exertion	1.5%
Work	7.6 %
Prior illness	0.8 %
Psychological stress	3.1 %
Environmental contamination	7.6 %
Contact	5.3 %
Airborne exposure	12.2 %
Traditional/ cultural	0
Sexual	1.5 %
Others	4.6 %
Cant say	2.3 %

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Female:

Ingestion of food	6.4%
Alcohol	0
Smoking	0
Physical exertion	8.5 %
Work	19.1 %
Prior illness	4.3 %
Psychological stress	19.1 %
Environmental contamination	2.1 %
Contact	6.4 %
Airborne exposure	8.5 %
Traditional/ cultural	2.1 %
Sexual	4.3 %
Others	10.6 %
Cant say	8.5 %

Female:

Ingestion of food	6.4%
Alcohol	0
Smoking	0
Physical exertion	8.5 %
Work	19.1 %
Prior illness	4.3 %
Psychological stress	19.1 %
Environmental contamination	2.1 %
Contact	6.4 %
Airborne exposure	8.5 %
Traditional/ cultural	2.1 %
Sexual	4.3 %
Others	10.6 %
Cant say	8.5 %

Gender-wise Presumption of cause of TB

	MALE (%)	FEMALE (%)	TOTAL (%)
Ingestion of food	12.2	6.4	10.7
Alcohol	21.4	0	15.7
Smoking	19.8	0	14.6
Physical exertion	1.5	8.5	3.4
Work	7.6	19.1	10.7
Prior illness	0.8	4.3	1.7
Psychological stress	3.1	19.1	7.3
Environmental contamination	7.6	2.1	6.2
Contact	5.3	6.4	5.6
Airborne exposure	12.2	8.5	11.2
Traditional/ cultural	0	2.1	0.6
Sexual	1.5	4.3	2.3
Others	4.6	10.6	6.2
Cant say	2.3	8.5	3.9

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Environmental contamination	7.6	2.1	6.2
Contact	5.3	6.4	5.6
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Cant say	2.3	8.5	3.9

Conclusion:

- The ignorance and the lack of awareness about this disease are well portrayed through this study.
- Irrespective of the various national programmes, people still don't know that tuberculosis spreads by droplet nuclei.
- Only when people are informative and know the mode of spread of disease will they be able to take proper precautions to avoid the disease.
- So, there should be widespread awareness of Tuberculosis to prevent the spread of the disease.

Thank you
