

Patients' Perspectives on Public-Private Mix Initiatives in Tuberculosis Control

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Abstract

A considerable number of public-private mix (PPM) initiatives have been launched since the 1990s in Myanmar. This study was conducted to explore the patients' perspectives on PPM initiatives in tuberculosis control. A total of 300 patients, 150 each taking treatment at the National Tuberculosis Program (NTP) clinics and at general practice (GP) clinics, were interviewed from June 2006 to September 2007. A community based cross-sectional analytic study was conducted using quantitative and qualitative approaches at five townships in Mandalay Division where PPM initiatives were running concurrently. Relatively older patients were taking treatment at NTP clinics while younger patients at GP clinics, 42 ± 16.2 year and 38 ± 15.8 year respectively ($p=0.020$). Mobile populations were taking treatment at GP clinics while more stable people preferred to take treatment at NTP clinics. Poorer patients were taking treatment at NTP clinics while relatively well-to-do patients at GP clinics ($p=0.018$). Only one-third of studied patients had good knowledge of TB and Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS) strategy. Patients taking treatment at GP clinics knew better about PPM compared to those at NTP clinics ($p=0.012$). A good program implementation, with PPM initiatives and good patients' compliance will ensure effective tuberculosis control.