

Local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Participation in National Tuberculosis Programme (NTP)

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Abstract

Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the priority health problems in Myanmar. The objectives of this study were to identify the types of local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), to determine the areas of participation in National Tuberculosis Program (NTP) and to determine the association between involvement of NGOs and achievement of NTP. A descriptive cross-sectional community-based study was conducted. Pyigyitagon, Nyaung U, Wundwin and Myingyan Townships were selected. Study period was from Nov 2006 to July 2007. For quantitative survey, 325 new sputum smear positive TB patients and 60 NGO members were studied. Focus group discussions with NGOs were done. Types of NGOs were Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (60%), Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation (31%) and Red Cross (9%). Areas of participation were diagnosis (18.8%), referral of TB suspect (44.0%), provision of DOTS (12.6%), financial support (8.1%) and others (defaulter tracing, health education) (16.5%). About 33% of NGOs were good DOTS providers. The better the case detection ($R^2 = 0.9623$) was observed in the townships with more NGOs participation. Strongly positive association between NGOs involvement and achievement of NTP was found. NGOs can make an important contribution by facilitating links between health services and local community.

