

4th Annual Congress on **INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

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5th International Conference on

NEGLECTED TROPICAL & INFECTIOUS DISEASES

August 29-30, 2018 | Boston, USA

Community based active case finding of tuberculosis by involving lady health workers in muzaffargarh and faisalabad districts punjab province

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Background: In Pakistan, the case detection rate of TB is 63% in 2016, which means that the country is on track to achieve the global targets of “Reach at least 90% of people with TB” by 2020 although very slowly because still, 37% cases fail to be detected without introducing different strategies. In line with the WHO ‘End TB Strategy,’ the national TB control programme has developed a national strategic plan 2017–2020 with innovative methodologies, expanding partnerships, and multisectoral approaches by engaging all stakeholders.

Setting: To achieve these targets of 2020 and to enhance the case detection rate, Punjab TB Program started an innovative community-based strategy in two districts; Faisalabad and Muzaffargarh through the involvement of Lady Health Workers (LHWs). The verbal screening was done for TB and those with presumptive TB were investigated using smear microscopy and the Xpert MTB/RIF test was performed on smear-positive patients. All the diagnosed TB patients were linked to TB treatment and care.

Objective: The main objective was to increase the case detection rate of TB by enhanced active case finding through LED microscopy and Expert at the community-based screening by engaging the LHWs in Punjab province.

Results: From 20th November 2017 to 3rd March 2018, the total of 44, 479 sputa collected in Muzaffargarh and Faisalabad. Among them 18, 818 were processed for examination, out of total processed, 689 were positive and registered. Of total positive, 479 in Muzaffargarh and 210 were in Faisalabad as shown in below graphs.

Conclusion: From 20th November 2017 to 3rd March 2018, the total of 44, 479 sputum collected in Muzaffargarh and Faisalabad. Among them 18, 818 (44%) were processed for examination, out of total processed, 689 (4%) were positive and registered. Of total positive, 479 (69%) in Muzaffargarh and 210 (31%) were in Faisalabad as shown in below graphs.

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