

# TUBERCULOSIS AND LUNG DISEASE

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## Gender perspective demographic study of MDR-TB affected population in Thane suburbs

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**Background:** Tuberculosis (TB) is the leading cause of death from an infectious disease in women worldwide. WHO estimates that in 2015, 3.5 million women fell ill with TB and Tuberculosis is one of the five killers of women among highly reproductive age group. Social stigma and discrimination in some settings can be the reason for delay in seeking treatment for this fatal disease. Pregnant women living with TB are twice as likely to have premature babies, and their babies are six times more likely to die within a few weeks of birth.

**Objective:** The objective is to conduct demographic analysis to study the effect of multiple-drug resistant pulmonary tuberculosis on women in Thane suburbs.

**Methods:** Retrospective cohort study of 100 positive cases of pulmonary and extra pulmonary tuberculosis by using BACTEC-MGIT 960. Drug sensitivity was studied for first line drugs to look for MDR cases. Female vignette was studied in detail for mono-resistance, Poly-resistance and MDR.

**Results:** The ratio of Pulmonary tuberculosis: Extra Pulmonary Tuberculosis is 63:37. The Male : Female ratio of tuberculosis positive is 51:49. There is an alarming sign of equal number of male and female patients indicating status of women health and 80% tuberculosis positive cases of females are in young and


reproductive age group of 15-29. 60% of tuberculosis positive cases of females have MDR-TB.

**Conclusion:** Increasing percentage of women patients may be due to social stigma, gender discrimination, and poor access to resources making them more vulnerable to ill health resulting in loss of reproductive lives. Findings of this study may be used to develop new strategies for policy makers, it also underlines that even today women have less community support, limited access to treatment. The study also emphasizes efforts to enhance gender sensitivity, more in-depth studies on demography and socio-economy to promote awareness of this fatal disease in society.

### Speaker Biography

Kishore D is currently pursuing his PhD from University of Mumbai, India. He is a full time Teacher in the Department of Medical Lab Technology, School of Para-Medical Sciences in Birla College, Kalyan since last 25 years. He has presented 2 posters in national and international conferences. He is an active member of various NGOs in India. He loves to work for underprivileged and puts efforts to bring them into mainstream. Along with his team of doctors he conducts free health check up and health awareness camps for underprivileged people. He has been awarded prestigious "Giants Ratna" for his service to society by Giants International and has also been awarded with Life Time Achievement Award by Today foundation. Tuberculosis is rampant worldwide. His efforts are to create awareness among society and policymakers for combating TB.

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