

Review of: "Rates and Reasons for Relapse of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Adults — “Case of the MU YA Urban Health Zone”"

Nandini Sharma¹

¹ Maulana Azad Medical College

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper deals with an important issue: the reinfection of TB patients. However, the paper needs to be revised. The following points need clarification:

Methodology: Needs more detail. The introduction mentions the study area as being part of a larger area with the highest number of MDR cases. The rate of treatment failure and primary MDR is not mentioned. The time duration during which the cases were selected for inclusion is not clear. This being a cross-sectional study, there is a need to mention the time between treatment completion/default and reinfection. The type of TB in treated/default cases and in the reinfected cases is not mentioned. The prevalence of TB and gender distribution in the area is also not mentioned.

The writing style needs improvement, and authors could refer to other articles.

Results:

Table 2: The meaning of the line “A large number of participants did not reach the level of humanities” is not clear.

Table 4: Mentions that 93% were informed and 7% were not informed. A brief explanation about the program is required, specifically regarding the information given to patients. This aspect would have an impact on compliance and hence reinfection.

Table 7: In a cross-sectional record-based study, it is not clear how the staff attitude was assessed.

Is the stock shortage mentioned also from records?

Table 8: The other diseases mentioned as a group need to be more specific. For example, there is a stronger association of diabetes, HIV, etc., with TB.

These points have to be considered while revising the paper.