

COMMUNITY AWARENESS STUDY OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

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In a rural population of about 11,000 in North Arcot District of Tamil Nadu, above the age of 15 years, 1015 (about 9%) were symptomatics. 61% were illiterates. 88%, including 83% of the illiterates, had heard of tuberculosis. Person-to-person communication was the main source of their information. 52% of the symptomatics mentioned that x-ray and/or sputum was the method of diagnosis. Even among the illiterates, 33% were aware of the diagnostic value of sputum examination. 75% including 72% of the illiterates had taken some action to get medical advice.