

## **Delay in Reporting Of Untreated Leprosy Patients at PHC and Other Integrated Settings**

**Introduction:** Despite integration of leprosy services into the general health system and free supply of multidrug therapy, a significant number of untreated leprosy patients still delay reporting at the proper centre for treatment. In order to identify the major factors in delay and intervene more effectively, a multicentric study was in three endemic states , of them endemic for leprosy. Prior to embarking on suitable intervention programmes, it was decided to analyse the secondary data available at the Referral hospitals in these states and the Government Primary Health Centres in the adjoining geographic areas during 2007-2010 . In this paper, the findings from the baseline survey are presented, and the main insights gained are discussed to facilitate appropriate interventions.

**Methodology:** From the registers maintained at , the centres, the demographic and disease details were collected for the four years, 2007 to 2010: The leprosy patient's grade of disability was remained as our main parameter to measure the delay. For statistical analysis, frequency distributions and the % with WHO grade 2 disability was calculated and compared by centre, age-group and sex of patients.

**Results:** 21.5% of the patients coming to the referral hospitals were grade 2 as compared to only 4.1% reporting to government hospitals. About 26.5% of the MB patients reporting to referral hospitals are grade 2 and only 7.3% of MB patients are reporting to government hospitals, who are grade 2. Adults patients with WHO grade 2 coming to referral hospitals (23%) are more than those reporting to government hospital (8%) , Only 7 and 3% of children reporting to referral and government hospital are with grade 2.

**Discussion:** This will enable ascertaining the causes of delay and thus formulate intervention methods.

**Address for correspondence** : The Leprosy mission Hospital  
Post Box No: 9,  
Post and District-Purulia. West Bengal  
Email ID: [jddarlong@gmail.com](mailto:jddarlong@gmail.com)