



BEST PRACTICES OF NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS ELIMINATION PROGRAM (NTEP) DURING COVID 19 TIMES

Karnataka diagnoses approximately 90,000 TB patients every year out of which approximately 20,000 patients are notified from private sector. COVID-19 pandemic has affected all the key strategic interventions of TB program resulting in almost 52% decline in TB case notification in April 2020 as compared to previous year.

I The state took up innovative case finding strategies to address this issue with a four-pronged approach

The four-pronged approaches were as follows.

1. Presumptive TB patients to be identified by house to house visits by Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) and shall enrol in Presumptive TB register. These patients were further screened on chest X-ray and cartridge based nucleic acid test (CBNAAT).
2. Influenza like illness(ILI) and severe acute respiratory illness patients admitted in various hospitals of the state must be screened and tested for TB by offering upfront CBNAAT.
3. COVID-19 negative patient details to be collected from RT PCR labs, patients were traced back and screened and tested for TB by offering upfront CBNAAT.
4. All persons who contacted APHAMITRA care line (14410) in Karnataka to be contacted, traced back and screened and tested for TB by offering upfront CBNAAT.

The new strategies got implemented in the state from 14th May 2020 and daily data was collected. Results of the same is as follows:

- Overall, from this innovative Case Finding Strategy, 42,950 presumptive TB patients were identified, out of which 16,206 were subjected to X-ray examination.

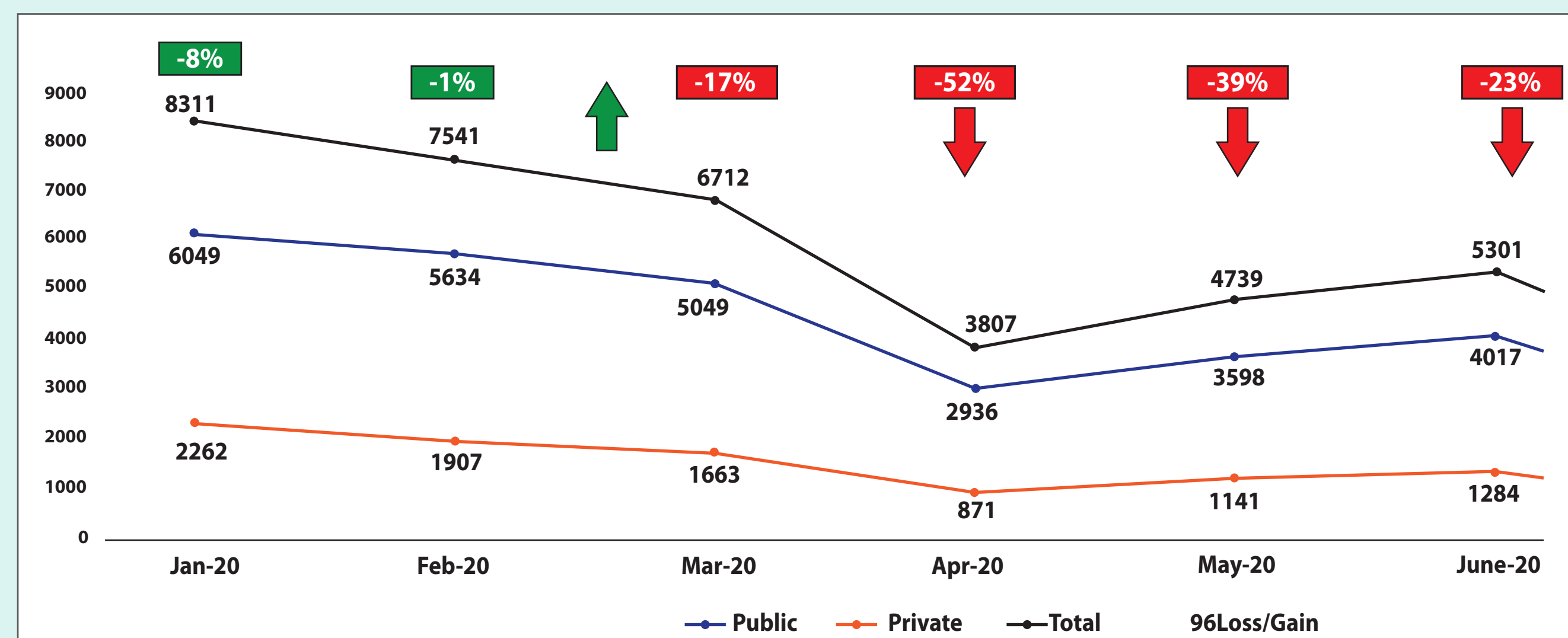
- Out of the 16,206 X-rays examined, 2,636 (16%) showed X-ray abnormalities and 673 (26%) of the abnormal X-ray patients were diagnosed as TB.

- 37,750 COVID-19 negative patients were screened for TB, among them 3,942 (10%) were presumptive TB patients, In the tested 403 (12%) of them were diagnosed as TB.

- 14,461 ILI/SARI patients were screened for TB symptoms and among them 5,032 (34%) patients were presumptive TB out of which 442 (9%) diagnosed to have TB.

II State has supplied door step delivery of 2 months anti-TB drugs to all the TB patients in order to prevent drug stock out at the patient's end.

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic in TB case Notification



III

In the month of August from 10th August to 17th August a contact tracing drive was initiated, and the findings were as follows:

Contact tracing drive in Bengaluru



During the contact tracing drive 12,254 households with TB patients were visited. 49,509 contacts were screened for TB and among them 3,760 (8%) of them were identified as presumptive TB. Around 100 TB patients were diagnosed across the state through this initiative.

IV

TB Mitra campaign to identify COVID-19 suspects and disruption in TB services through Apathamitra 14,410.

TB patient's details were shared with Apathamitra which includes name, age, gender, address, Taluka and PHI details. A state-wide campaign of 4 rounds were conducted and 40,000 TB patients were contacted through IVRS for screening of COVID-19 and to identify any disruption in TB services (drug supply, direct benefit transfer and adverse drug reaction). 122 TB patients were identified as COVID-19 suspect by Apathamitra, through field visit by TB staff it was found that 32 were having COVID-19 like symptoms and all patients were tested for COVID-19 and all found to be negative.

V

State has now initiated Bi-directional TB-COVID screening and Screening of TB among ILI/SARI cases from October 2020.