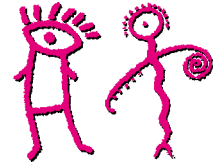


Prevalence of Leprosy among Gonds



As compared to non-tribal population, leprosy is less prevalent among the Gonds. While the exact number of Gond LAPs could not be immediately ascertained, Table 4 gives the population of Scheduled Tribes (STs) and leprosy prevalence rates in the blocks of the study districts. The higher the tribal population the lower the prevalence rates. Tamia and Harrai in Chhindwara, Bhimpur and Shahpur in Betul and Kesla in Hoshangabad are cases in point.

This was also noticed when samples were being selected from the running list. The villages near markets and stations, where non-tribal populations exist had greater numbers of patients. The team tried mapping the same, but certain problems made it difficult. The NMAs frequently tended to use the name of villages, which are actually hamlets of revenue villages. As a result, these cases could not be mapped on the *mazmuli naksha* (revenue map).

This exercise however would be very useful before interventions are initiated.

The villagers and the NLEP workers also supported this view. Some of the NMAs claimed that leprosy came to the area with the railways. Other said that the annual migration to the *muglai* (Hoshangabad plains) is the culprit. In the PRA exercises, the disease is seen to have increased after the 1950s, the time around which the railways expanded and migration to the *muglai* increased.

Table 4 : ST population and Leprosy Prevalence Rates in various blocks of the study districts

District	Blocks	Percent ST	Prevalence rate (per 10,000)
Chhindwara	Chhindwara	27.8	0.8
	Mohkhed	29.4	1.1
	Tamia	77.6	0.2
	Amarwada	38.6	0.6
	Chourai	19.6	0.4
	Harrai	80.4	0.6
	Saunsar	20.1	5.4
	Pandhurna	40.3	3.5
	Bichhua	55.5	0.1
	Parasia	39.4	0.4
	Junnardev	58.1	0.7
Betul	Betul	26.31	2.1
	Chicholi	61.71	2.7
	Ghora Dongri	35.31	2.8
	Bhainsdehi	52.17	2.3
	Atner	43.27	2.9
	Bhimpur	84.12	2.1
	Shahpur	63.0	2.3
	Multai	9.71	3.4
	Prabhatpatnam	23.96	2.5
	Amla	23.0	3
	Hoshangabad	Seoni Malwa	19.7
Kesla		39.1	3.2
Hoshangabad		5.7	4.9
Babai		9.7	3.7
Sohagpur		12.0	5.6
Piparia		18.1	2.3
Bankhedhi		17.5	3.3

(Source: Census of India, 1991)