Additional studies: Pros and Cons

I Onozaki & N Yamada
Objectives

Primary objective of the TB disease prevalence survey is:
To determine the prevalence of pulmonary TB at a defined point in time in a specified country:

- **smear positive pulmonary TB**
- **bacteriologically positive pulmonary TB**
- symptoms suggestive of TB
- radiological abnormalities suggestive of pulmonary TB

And that of a series of surveys is:
To assess trends in TB prevalence
However, a carefully designed survey can tell you lots more

- Health seeking behaviour of TB patients and individuals reporting chest symptoms
- Utility of private sector such as proportion TB patients under treatment in private sector
- Where missing cases are, and who they are
- TB Risk factors
- Drug resistance in prevalent cases in community
- Relation between ARI and Disease Prevalence
And more

• TB risk factors and relations between those factors and detected TB patients
  – TB history
  – Nutrition
  – Smoking
  – HIV status
  – Knowledge and Attitudes
  – Socio economic factors
    • Income, Housing condition, properties, education --
Some studies seem to be essential

- Additional Interviews: TB on treatment case
- Some risk factors

- Post survey interviews on detected TB cases
- HIV status of detected TB patients in some countries
  - Do under routine service
  - Special offer and follow up
However

• TB survey needs time and labour intensive works
• It needs numbers of clinical staff such as a physician to screen X ray, radiographers and a lab technician
• Most decisive factor to limit number of survey participants per day is often a clinical examination capacity including interviews and X ray
• Adding other components may require not only additional staff but also additional days to stay in a cluster village, and it may affect a whole survey schedule.

Pros and Cons should be discussed carefully
After the survey, NTP staff are busy and recruited staff will leave

- Proper study design is essential to get fair results
  - Can medical staff afford to develop appropriate questions on SE factors?
- Additional study components were often abandoned without analysis, even they seemed to be useful
- Participation of academic institutes, sociologists, etc, should be considered from early stage of preparation till the analysis of the studies.
Don’t be ambitious

Unless you can get
  both Human and Monetary Resources to carry out additional studies