

Measures to combat tuberculosis in colonial Mysore

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Abstract- The research article has made an attempt to focus on the challenges pertaining to the TB one of the prominent epidemic disease which bothered Princely Mysore. There was a serious shortage of medical personnel and facilities in the state, to provide more medical aid certain efforts were made for minimizing the spread of TB. The rulers of Mysore had modern views in redressing public grievances and determined to protect their subjects.

I. INTRODUCTION

The epidemic disease became frequent and widespread during the 19th century in India as well in the Princely Mysore. Tuberculosis has killed more people than any disease in the history of the world and this became one of the greatest scourges of the early 20th century. TB is a chronic bacterial infectious disease caused by mycobacterium tuberculosis, spread from person to person through airborne droplets. Both humans and cattle can transmit it and it can affect almost any tissue or organ of the human body. In 1993 the world health organization declared that TB a global emergency.

There was widespread distress as well as loss of life throughout the State due to the disease of tuberculosis. A special hospital was constructed in the year 1907 & 08 as Tuberculosis Sanatorium. His Highness Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar III considered it necessary to organize an efficient Tuberculosis service in the State as it was causing considerable loss of life.

II. ANTI TUBERCULOSIS MEASURES

A. Special hospitals and clinics

Princess Krishnammanni Sanatorium, which was called after His Highness late sister at Mysore, who fell a victim of the disease along with her 3 daughters. A special building was constructed in 94 acres to combat tuberculosis in the state at Mysore in this regard Princely State invited **Mr. E. W. Frichley**, Architect from Bombay visited Mysore for 5 days and prepared hospital design with approximate estimation of Rs.92, 599/ on 2nd June 1917.¹ In the year 1919, Rs.25, 370/ was sanctioned to build a big ward in the PKTB hospital at Mysore.² It was opened in the year 1921. The accommodation available in 1921 was for eight paying patients and 20 poor patients. As a memorial to the Golden Jubilee of his rule Nalwadi, a new 22 bedded emergency ward was constructed.

In the year 1930 a **Tuberculosis Sanatorium** was established at Bangalore, similar to those at Mysore. To provide facilities for treatment of Bangalore patients those who were admitted to Epidemic diseases hospital for treatment so, the government

decided to provide separate Tuberculosis sanatorium, a new building was constructed costing Rs. 3, 35000 at Bangalore. It also established dispensaries and clinics for the treatment of Tuberculosis for early detection of cases.³ Tuberculosis dispensary was constructed in Bangalore city with generous contribution of Rs. 25000/ from Indian Red Cross society.⁴

The lady Willingdon anti Tuberculosis clinic was established in Bangalore in 1938 was an out-patient clinic where provision also made for six beds. A specialist was placed in-charge of this clinic and arrangements were made for home visits of patient for diagnosis and both in-door and out-door patient were treated in the Tuberculosis Dispensary.⁵ **A tuberculosis Hospital was established at Davanagere**, on 2nd April 1939 with generous contribution by Mr. Hanagavadi Murigappaiya. A specially trained Sub-Assistant Surgeon was in-charge of the Dispensary. **E.T.C.M. Hospital Kolar and St. Theresa's Sanatorium**, Yeswanthpur also received grants. His Highness, generously donated Rs.10.-000 from his privy purse to the "Anti-Tuberculosis Fund" which was started by Her Excellency Lady Linlithgow.⁶ Steps were taken to establish **Tuberculosis Clinics at the head Quarters of all districts.**⁷

B. Investigation committee

Princely State appointed **Dr. P.S.Chandra Shekar., M.D. Madras**, to conduct investigation of the conditions prevalent in the state regarding to Tuberculosis and survey of the state. Dr. P.S.Chandra Shekar, who toured all over the State and visited all districts, Municipal and epidemic hospitals to examine the conditions of the people and he considered that disease was not frequently occurring in the State, and the disease was fairly prevalent in towns and cities more frequently than rural parts. He collected 146 reports from medical officers of the state, most of them considered that the disease in towns and cities are more frequent than rural parts.⁸

C. Special Campaign

A committee was constituted with 16 members for the campaign, they took steps in different methods of propaganda in bringing knowledge and creating awareness about the disease and its proper treatment to the notice of the public. **Special Lectures** were delivered on T B, Practical demonstration of case being conducted every year, popular instructions were given by means of colour posters, lantern slides and issued pamphlets.⁹

¹ Palace Maramath file no B-60 of 1917, p.242 Divisional Archives Mysore.

² Palace Maramath file no B-24 of 1920 p.349 Divisional Archives Mysore.

³ Letter no G C 158, Public Work Department files no 123 of 1945.

⁴ Administration Report of Mysore, 1932, p. 51. Divisional Archives Mysore.

⁵ Administration Report of Mysore, 1938, p. 151, Divisional Archives Mysore.

⁶ August, 1939, Mysore Information Bulletin.

⁷ Administration Report of Mysore, 1945, p. 151.

⁸ Mysore Health department Bulletin, no.2.1927. Karnataka State Archives

Bangalore.

⁹ Palace Maramath file no B-138 of 1920 p.1-14, Divisional Archives Mysore

D. Special Course

Medical Department started a post graduation training course for medical officers in the treatment of T B for selected four assistant surgeons every year for a period of 3 months at Princess **Krishnajammanni Tuberculosis Sanatorium** Mysore with special allowance of **Rs.20**.¹⁰ **Special Lectures** were also conducted at Bangalore for a week in every year to the MBBS students.¹¹

E. Special Training

A medical officer from the Gunamba maternity and child welfare trust Mysore was sent as the recipient of the Carlo Forlanini Institute scholarship of **Rome** for a course of study in the treatment and care of Tuberculosis. Princely mysore adopted Methods for organizing the Tuberculosis Services in the State, and Constituted an **Anti – Tuberculosis Association at Mysore** in the year 1927.¹²

F. Bureau of Health Education

The bureau educates the public on health matters through propaganda, publicity and exhibitions. The Government Policy towards expansion of medical relief in the State, particularly in rural areas had led to a steady increase in the number of medical institutions in the State. In the year 1936, a **Health training-cum-Demonstration Centre** was established in Ramanagaram near Bangalore with the financial and technical assistance of the **Rockefeller Foundation**.¹³ **The arrangement was made to the Public health department to have a motor vehicle Van working to create awareness among public and it covered 714 miles in the year 1940, by screening special cinema shows on health education.**¹⁴

III. CONCLUSION

The mortality rate was considerably reduced with the rapid implementation of welfare services in the state.

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¹⁰ Mysore Health Department Bulletin, no.2.1927.

¹¹ Government order no G- 9151-68, 1929.

¹² Medical Department files no 43 of 1927 p. I-5, Karnataka State Archives, Bangalore.

¹³ Kamath U Suryanatha Karnataka State Gazetteer Vol-II p.675

¹⁴ Mysore Information Bulletin July 1940

