

The Role of Social and Behavioral Research on Tropical Diseases Control:  
A Case Study of Tuberculosis.

NGAMVITHAYAPONG-YANAI JINTANA

TB/HIV Research Foundation

In the traditional model of epidemiological triad (agent, host and environment), which is a causation model for all infectious diseases, the social and human behaviors are involved a great deal with host and environment components and they are determinants of disease occurrence. Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the tropical diseases which is the global health emergency. TB has been well recognized as a disease which is closely associated with social and behavioral factors. The paper describes the role of social and behavioral research in TB transmission, prevention and care. Some key concepts of sociology and anthropology in health and social science research methods are discussed. These include attitude and perceptions about TB; gender; stigma; adherence to TB treatment and qualitative research. By giving the examples from the field research in Chiang Rai, Thailand, the conference audiences will recognize how social science research help the health care workers understand patient s attitude and behavior which are associated with TB transmission and prevention. Furthermore, the social science research, which led to intervention and policy for TB control will be discussed.

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TB/HIV Research Foundation, Chiang Rai, Thailand