

Project Title: The control program of tuberculosis: focused on the populations of foreign labors, teachers and students

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Abstract:

**Objectives:** To investigate the current conditions and problems in dealing with tuberculosis (TB) cases in the private employment services institutions (PESI) and schools in Taiwan.

**Methods:** There were two study populations. One was the PESI registered in the Council of Labor Affairs; the other was the schools registered in the Ministry of Education in 2007 in Taiwan. Five hundred and thirteen PESI and 399 schools were selected by stratified random sampling. Those in charge of health examination of foreign labors in the PESI and health affairs in the schools were interviewed by telephone during June 1, 2007 and September 30, 2007. Two structured questionnaires were developed with questions about TB screening program and process in management of TB cases.

**Results:** A total of 405 PESI and 343 schools completed the telephone interview (response rate: 78.9% and 86.0%, respectively). Operation procedures of TB cases were available in 151(37.3%) PESI, and 33(8.1%) PESI had provided TB education in past two years. Eighty-four percent of the PESI indicated that shortage of the suitable quarantine spaces was the main problem in the management of foreign labors with TB. Over ninety percent of schools had the operation procedures of infectious disease control and 232(67.6%) schools had provided TB education in past three years. Stigma of TB was the principal problem in management of TB cases in schools.

**Conclusions:** Many PESI do not have operation procedure of TB cases and education activity whereas most schools have the operation procedures of infectious disease and provide regular education activity of TB. Standard operation procedures education activity, and setting up the quarantine spaces are important for PESI in the management of foreign labors with TB. In addition to the protection of privacy and confidentiality of TB patients, education of correct concept of TB for teachers, staffs and students is the major concern in the management of TB cases in schools.

Keyword: Tuberculosis, Foreign labors, Schools, Taiwan