



## COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN THE PRESENT SCENARIO IN INDIA

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### ABSTRACT

The thirteen common communicable diseases found in India are as follows: 1. Malaria 2. Typhoid 3. Hepatitis 4. Jaundice 5. Leptospirosis 6. Diarrhoeal Diseases 7. Amoebiasis 8. Cholera 9. Brucellosis 10. Hookworm Infection 11. Influenza 12. Filariasis 13. Tuberculosis. Worldwide, the lack of clean water for drinking, cooking and washing, and the lack of sanitary waste disposal are to blame for over 12 million deaths a year, say researchers. About 1.2 billion people are at risk because they lack access to safe fresh water. India too has its share of infectious epidemics; and though mortality owing to these is decreasing, it is a significant part of the disease burden our society carries.

The disease burden is high in India, for obvious reasons like poor sanitation, lack of access to fresh water, poor hygiene, etc., which are common in the most developing countries. Though exact dependable statistics are not available, a good percentage of cases go unreported. Secondly, 'infection is not recognized till it becomes symptomatic.

### INTRODUCTION

India faces the challenge of a range of infectious diseases. While deaths from noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) are becoming increasingly prevalent, huge numbers of Indians continue to die annually due to infectious disease.

This dual burden of disease has the potential to put a substantial amount of stress on an already underfunded and under resourced health system. This could allow for infectious disease to go unchecked and begin to show a resurgence, diminishing any progress India has made towards elimination targets.(1,2)

### DISCUSSION

The disease burden is high in India, for obvious reasons like poor sanitation, lack of access to fresh water, poor hygiene, etc., which are common in the most developing countries. Though exact dependable statistics are not available, a good percentage of cases go unreported. Secondly, 'infection is not recognized till it becomes symptomatic. National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) (previously known as National Institute of Communicable Diseases) is an institute under the Indian Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It was established in July 1963 for research in epidemiology and control of communicable and to reorganize the activities of the Malaria Institute of India (MII). Currently it has eight branches at Alwar, Bengaluru, Trivandrum, Calicut, Coonoor, Jagdalpur, Patna, Rajahmundry and Varanasi to advise the respective state governments on public health. The headquarters are in *Sham Nath Marg* in New Delhi.(3,4)

Diseases such as dengue fever, hepatitis, tuberculosis, malaria and pneumonia continue to plague India due to increased resistance to drugs.<sup>[13]</sup>

In 2011, India developed a 'totally drug-resistant' form of tuberculosis.<sup>[14]</sup> HIV/AIDS in India is ranked third highest among countries with HIV-infected patients. National AIDS Control Organisation, a government apex body is making efforts for managing the HIV/AIDS epidemic in India.<sup>[15]</sup> Diarrheal diseases are the primary causes of early childhood mortality.<sup>[16]</sup> These diseases can be attributed to poor sanitation and inadequate safe drinking water.<sup>[17]</sup> India has the world's highest incidence of rabies. Malaria has been a seasonal health problem in India from a very long time. The maximum number of malaria cases and deaths have been reported mostly from the rural parts of Orissa. The overall prevalence of the disease has diminished in 2012 and 2013 however there is a slight increase in 2014 and again started decreasing from 2015. Kala-azar is the second largest parasitic killer in the world. Most of the cases (76%) were found in Bihar in 2016. Dengue and chikungunya transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes, is another problem of concern in India. Dengue outbreaks have continued since the 1950s but severity of disease has increased in the last two decades. In 2016, India reported a total of 58,264 cases of chikungunya. Chicken pox cases were reported to be 61,118 & deaths to be 60 in 2016, (5,6,7).

In 2012, India was polio-free for the first time in its history. This was achieved because of the Pulse Polio programme started in 1995–96 by the government (8,9).

## RESULT

Some steps taken to prevent communicable diseases

### Programmes for Communicable Diseases

- National Viral Hepatitis Control Program (NVHCP)
- Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)
- Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP)
- National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP)
- National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme
- National AIDS Control Programme (NACP)
- Pulse Polio Programme

A formal sanitation programme was first launched in 1954, followed by Central Rural Sanitation Programme in 1986, Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) in 1999 and Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan in 2012.<sup>[21][22][23][24]</sup> A limited randomized study of eighty villages in rural (Madhya Pradesh) showed that the TSC programme did modestly increase the number of households with latrines, and had a small effect in reducing open defecation. However, there was no improvement in the health of children.<sup>[25][26]</sup> The earlier "Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan" rural sanitation program was hampered by the unrealistic approach.<sup>[27][28][29]</sup> Consequently, Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan was restructured by Cabinet approval on 24 September 2014 as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.<sup>[19]</sup> The rural household toilet coverage in India increased from 1% in 1981 to 11% in 1991, to 22% in 2001, to 32.7% in 2011. (10,11)

Toilet: Ek Prem Katha (transl. Toilet: A Love Story) is a 2017 Indian Hindi-language comedy-drama film<sup>[4]</sup> directed by Shree Narayan Singh.<sup>[5][6]</sup> Co-produced by Akshay Kumar and Neeraj Pandey,<sup>[7]</sup> the film stars Kumar and Bhumi Pednekar in the lead roles,<sup>[8]</sup> with Anupam Kher, Sudhir Pandey and Divyendu Sharma in supporting roles. The film was released on 11 August 2017.<sup>[9]</sup> The film is a satirical comedy in support of governmental campaigns to improve sanitation conditions in India, with an emphasis on the eradication of open defecation, especially in rural areas.<sup>[6]</sup>

The film was a commercial success, becoming Akshay Kumar's highest-grossing film all time and highest grosser worldwide too, and his first film to ₹300 crore.<sup>[3]</sup> The film highlights India's toilet problem, which is caused by their cultural and religious sentiments. In Indian rural areas, people still do not have this basic need which leads to a lot of frustration among women which further leads to sexual harassment. The film received three nominations at the 63rd Filmfare Awards, including Best Film, Best Director for Narayan Singh and Best Actor for Akshay Kumar.

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