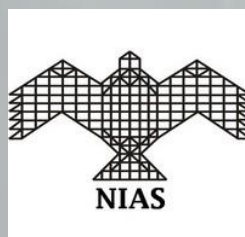


The Power of Patients Stories

TB Info Editorial

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Storytelling is the best way to grab people's attention, and people who can tell the most compelling stories, stories about their lives, can command the most influence within their communities.

Stories are a powerful tool in engaging people that help in knowledge and experience sharing, and they possess the potential to influence quality improvement in healthcare. Sharing a survivor's experience during the journey of the recovery process can reflect upon improvements or problems in a clinical pathway. A good story has the power to motivate, encourage and engage minds in the right direction.

Sharing the stories of patients/ patient communities with different stakeholders and general audiences can effectively impact quality improvements and patient experience. In addition, it will help flow information among different sectors, raising awareness and connecting hearts and minds for a better outcome.

Tuberculosis, which continues to be a life-threatening problem globally, knows no borders. It is a global health problem, and each year more than 5000 people die of TB globally. The stigma associated with TB is immense, which lead to delays in seeking treatment. Sometimes patients seek help after a prolonged period of self medications. The social and economic impacts are disastrous, including poverty, stigma and prejudice.

The stories of TB survivors from across the globe would throw light on their experience during their treatment and recovery phases, the difficulties they encountered during the treatment period, the social and psychological impact, including the importance of early diagnosis and compliance to the treatment duration. Their voice is a powerful tool to accelerate TB response and to achieve quality TB care.

The article by REACH India talks about how TB survivors and affected communities play a vital role in India's response to TB. In this issue, we are featuring a few TB survivors and TB Champions who are leading from the front to eradicate TB from the root. For [Chinmoyee](#), discovering that TB was a serious but treatable disease was only the beginning of her challenges. [Tupeshwari](#) prefers to keep to herself, but she is hard to miss. She has strong convictions and stands by them. [Upendra Kumar](#) is a tuberculosis survivor and Champion from Garhwa District in Jharkhand. He has faced a lot of stigma and discrimination from his family and neighbours and tried to keep his TB diagnosis a secret. "I want to tell people that they should not ostracize people affected with a disease. It's important to meet sick people and give them confidence"- This is what [Poonam](#), an MDR-TB champion, says. "We have only one goal that we help people with TB in accessing the best treatment options available and help them to get cured", says TB survivor and TB Champion [Abhishek Kumar](#).

There is a greater need for advances in TB research and innovations. The current pandemic will change the future of drug discovery and development. There seems to be a paradigm shift in vaccine technology. The accelerated speed at which multiple vaccines have come up to address the current pandemic is overwhelming. [Dr G Sitta Sittampalam](#) talks about why enough has not been done for TB and other rare, neglected, and infectious diseases that kill millions worldwide. Article by [Dr Rudrodip Majumdar](#) talks about Covid induced pulmonary fibrosis and the possible linkage with tuberculosis infection.