

ILEP MEETING ON MULTIDRUG THERAPY (MDT), DELHI, 1984

Sir,

I would like to make some comments on the report of the ILEP Meeting on Multidrug Therapy in *Lepr Rev* (1984) **55**: 215–220, as regards the brief report about Ethiopia.

In my written and oral report to the Meeting I indicated that a number of problems were encountered during the first months of implementation of the MDT programme in a pilot area. The problems were especially due to the fact that the MDT programme was initiated without sufficient preparation and detailed written instructions.

I mentioned these problems with the intention of underlining that it is absolutely imperative that a MDT programme is properly planned and organized before its implementation. This important conclusion is not included in your published account.

I also mentioned that the problems we faced could be corrected some months after the introduction of the programme. Furthermore, I showed that the implementation of MDT programme had been quite satisfactory, which is, e.g. expressed in a cumulative attendance of 92·3% during the first 6 months for the 3140 patients who were put on MDT. The percentage of paucibacillary patients who had successfully completed their 6 months course of MDT was high; 85% ten months after the start of the programme.

In the report referred to, I miss any mention of the latter points, which were given by me during the Meeting.

The report therefore gives an incomplete picture of what I submitted in writing to ILEP and reported during the Meeting in New Delhi about the implementation of MDT in an area which is under the responsibility of the ALERT Leprosy Control Programme.

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