

Forgotten Enemies in the Shadow of COVID-19**Parimal Patel¹, Khushbu Makadia²**¹Tutor, Community Medicine Department, B. J. Medical College, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India²Tutor, Community Medicine Department, GMERS Medical College, Himmatnagar, Gujarat, India**Correspondence:** Dr. Parimal Patel, **Email:** drparimalpsm3787@gmail.com

The fight against the corona pandemic is important from the point of its direct impact in terms of high morbidity and moderate mortality but it also could indirectly result in many more victims by disrupting the architecture of our existing health system. So far, it has been seen that due to unprecedented nature of covid19 pandemic and high transmissibility forced the health authorities to give their almost 100% attention toward covid19 pandemic management and we have either reduced or stopped to pay attention to our known enemies like TB, HIV etc. These are very dangerous infectious diseases that have been known to affect us badly since years with high morbidity and

mortality. If we tend to continue forget these known enemies while fighting against the corona, there is a risk of having even greater impact of existing disaster in the coming days.

Official statistics suggest that there were 1.7 million cases of TB in 2017, and it killed 56,277 people, these numbers suggest that TB had a case fatality rate of 3.2% in 2017, meaning it was relatively more fatal than covid-19. Where the difference is in the number of cases (multiple times more than covid-19 cases detected so far in the country) and in its treatment (TB has a known cure and treatment regimen unlike covid-19).

Table 1: WHO Health Statistics Report Data (INDIA)

Cause		Total Deaths (Estimated)
Communicable, maternal, perinatal and nutritional conditions		2490052
A.	Infectious and parasitic diseases	1199348
1.	Tuberculosis	421437
2.	STDs excluding HIV	3914
3.	HIV/AIDS	62104
4.	Diarrhoeal diseases	409652
5.	Childhood-cluster diseases	38066
6.	Meningitis	34324
7.	Encephalitis	33546
8.	Hepatitis	77304
	Acute hepatitis A	2420
	Acute hepatitis B	52971
	Acute hepatitis C	1081
	Acute hepatitis E	20832
9.	Parasitic and vector diseases	63244
10.	Intestinal nematode infections	529
11.	Leprosy	7274
12.	Other infectious diseases	47954

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B.	Respiratory Infectious	617245
C.	Maternal conditions	40799
D.	Neonatal conditions	549737
	1. Preterm birth complications	302277
	2. Birth asphyxia and birth trauma	126372
	3. Neonatal sepsis and infections	87045
	4. Other neonatal conditions	34042
E.	Nutritional deficiencies	82923
	Non-communicable diseases	5995333
A.Malignant neoplasms		815148
	1.Mouth and oropharynx cancers	101108
	a. Lip and oral cavity	58983
	b. Nasopharynx	3277
	c. Other pharynx	38848
	2. Oesophagus cancer	44432
	3. Stomach cancer	62626
	4. Colon and rectum cancers	56168
	5.Liver cancer	31273
	6.Pancreas cancer	16818
	7.Trachea, bronchus, lung cancers	89288
	8.Melanoma and other skin cancers	4498
	9.Breast cancer	80724
	10.Cervix uteri cancer	72661
	11.Corpus uteri cancer	5308
	12.Ovary cancer	22651
	13.Prostate cancer	14371
	14.Testicular cancer	1472
	15.Kidney cancer	7014
	16.Bladder cancer	11004
	17.Brain and nervous system cancers	17216
	18.Gallbladder and biliary tract cancer	38136
	19. Larynx cancer	19904
	20.Thyroid cancer	3673
	21.Mesothelioma	500
	22.Lymphomas, multiple myeloma	30397
	23.Leukaemia	27864
	24.Other malignant neoplasms	56043
B.	Other neoplasms	14344
C.	Diabetes mellitus	308985
D.	Endocrine, blood, immune disorders	21130
E.	Mental and substance use disorders	31099
F.	Neurological conditions	208999
G.	Cardiovascular diseases	2590089
H.	Respiratory diseases	1017179
I.	Digestive diseases	509871
J.	Genitourinary diseases	304702

K.	Skin diseases		13236
L.	Musculoskeletal diseases		49210
M.	Congenital anomalies		105119
N.	Oral conditions		479
O.	Sudden infant death syndrome		5743
A.	Injuries		1083234
	Unintentional injuries		811815
	1.	Road injury	299091
	2.	Poisonings	31310
	3.	Falls	206345
	4.	Fire, heat and hot substances	45197
	5.	Drowning	63969
	6.	Exposure to mechanical forces	18983
B.	Intentional injuries		271420
	1.	Self-harm	215872
	2.	Interpersonal violence	54858
	3.	Collective violence and legal intervention	689

Table 2: Comparison of contribution of covid19 with other diseases in terms of deaths due to different group of diseases

Sr. No.	Cause	Total deaths in year	Midyear Estimated Total deaths	Contribution of disease in midyear total estimated death		
				Covid19 (%)	Tuberculosis (%)	Mouth and Oropharynx cancers (%)
1.	Infectious and parasitic diseases	1199348	599674	28084 (4.68)	210719# (35.14)	—
2.	Respiratory Infectious	617245	308623	9.10	68.28	—
3.	Total deaths	9568619	4784310	0.59	4.40	1.06

Increase in morbidity and mortality due to preventable and treatable diseases may occur if the focus shifts injudiciously from combating these diseases to COVID-19.

In line of above discussion more detailed statistics and inference is explained in the tables given below:

- As on 21st July, 1155191 cases and 28084 deaths due to covid19 have been reported across the country.
- As per the latest available report we can analyze the situation as mentioned in table 2

As we can interpret from these both tables that covid19 as disease is much less lethal than tuberculosis or common cancer like Mouth and oropharynx cancers as overall contribution of covid19 is much less than these two health issues as only 0.6%

of estimated midyear deaths are due to covid19 while due to TB and oral cancer are 4.4% and 1.1% respectively.

It doesn't mean that we should relax our all the preventive and curative efforts against covid19 but at the same time other very important and much dangerous and more lethal diseases shouldn't be ignored during this unusual pandemic scenario.

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