Objective of study
3. Objective of the study

Though the entire population of a TB endemic region (such as India) is considered exposed to *M. tuberculosis*, only about 10% of the exposed people are likely to develop TB in their life time. The remaining population could be considered as harboring of a clinically ‘latent’ TB infection. Are there some factors discernable at the level of macrophage- *M. tuberculosis* interaction, which determine the course of infection leading to either clinically overt or latent disease in an endemic population? The proposed study aims to address this question. This knowledge is likely to help in understanding the predisposing factors for disease susceptibility in an endemic situation and also in designing novel therapeutic or prophylactic interventions.