Aims
&
Objectives
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The present study is focused mainly on the following objectives:

- **To determine the validity and reliability of sputum smear examination as diagnostic and screening test for Tuberculosis.**
  
a) To evaluate the comparison of direct smear and concentrated smear of sputum for AFB microscopy.
  
b) To determine the sensitivity, specificity and predictive values of direct smear and concentrated smear by comparing with culture as gold standard.

- **To determine the prevalence of Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) in this region.**
  
a) To determine the prevalence of Primary drug resistance among the newly diagnosed cases of pulmonary tuberculosis.
  
b) To determine the prevalence of Acquired drug resistance among the ‘Treatment Failure,’ ‘Relapse’ and ‘Defaulter’ cases of pulmonary tuberculosis.

- **To evaluate the molecular technique-A multiplex PCR DNA Strip assay (Genotype MTB DR) designed to detect Rifampicin and Isoniazid resistance mutations in *M.tuberculosis* isolates for their rapid detection of MDR-TB in comparison with the conventional drug sensitivity method.**

- **To determine the prevalence of HIV seropositivity among tuberculosis patients enrolled under RNTCP in this region.**