

DISSERTATION TITLE:
**A STUDY ON THE MAGNITUDE AND FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR
DELAYS IN REPORTING TO THE HEALTH FACILITIES AMONG
TUBERCULOSIS IN KILOMBERO DISTRICT – TANZANIA**

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ABSTRACT

Delay in reporting among tuberculosis patients may worsen the disease, increase the risk of death and enhance tuberculosis transmission in the community. This study aimed at determining the magnitude and factors responsible for delay in reporting between the onset of symptoms and patients first visit to health care (patients delay).

A descriptive cross-sectional study was done from November 2002 to April 2003 176 tuberculosis patients were interviewed using interview-administered questionnaire. Findings show that the magnitude of delay in reporting among tuberculosis patients is 83% in kilombero district.

Likewise, patient's delay was contributed by the place where the patient first pay visits for their problems. This study shows that 65.3% of respondents first visited traditional healer before they eventually reported to the health facilities. Also Delays were contributed by patients who live/stay more than 5kms from the health facilities

($X^2= 27.6$; df 1; $p<0.05$).

Delay has also been associated by social stigma as those who perceived stigmatization delayed reporting ($x^2= 31.4$; df 1; $p< 0.05$).

Therefore factors, which were responsible for delay, were distance to the health facility, place of first visit and stigma attached to the disease.

Further decentralization of TB services, raising public awareness of the disease to increase services utilization is recommended.