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**SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON TB PATIENTS AND THEIR
FAMILIES DURING ILLNESS**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL COMPLETION
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
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**BY
MANOJ VEERENDRA HEMARATNE
REG. NO. 113293317**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA**

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Abstract

Tuberculosis (TB) is the largest single infectious cause of death among young people and adults in the world. The economic impact of TB, mostly affects the economically active segment of the population (WHO).

Although tuberculosis is commonly thought to be a disease of the poor, this is not exclusively the case. Sri Lanka's health sector is in a higher position as the state continues to provide a free health system. Currently, TB patients in Sri Lanka receive free treatment and care. Nevertheless, TB is still continuing to be a major health problem in the country.

The main objective of this study is to understand the link between TB and the difficulties faced by TB patient and their family members.

It is evident that the non-treatment costs of TB are borne by the patients and their families. These are often greater than the costs of treatment. The largest indirect cost of TB for a patient is income loss - by being too sick to work. When a woman suffers from TB, additional losses may result, like routine household activities. For this study I selected the TB patients from Gampaha District Chest Clinic. It included Twenty Five patients infected with TB and who have completed short-course chemotherapy, and interviewed Eight families from those patients on various issues coming out of this research.

According to research findings, we can see that all patients suffered from some kind of difficulty, though they are from different educational and social backgrounds, and they are from all strata of the society. Low-income people suffered however the most from the disease while wealthy patients suffered relatively less from the impact of the illness on the household.