



Street Play for Women

Suggested Scripts of Street Play Activities for the
State TB Offices.

Narrator: Hello! everybody. I am your friend and I have been sent by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to tell you about a common disease – TB. TB is the short form of Tuberculosis and is caused by bacteria named Mycobacterium tuberculosis. Anybody can catch this disease – men, women, children, rich, poor, city – dwellers, slum dwellers. But this disease is 100% curable like any other disease, provided people take their medicines regularly.

We will give you all the information through a street play. So, watch carefully.

Scene 1

(Home kitchen - Radha is washing the dishes and murmuring)

Radha: I am fed up with this maid Ganga. Everyday she comes late. When I am finished with dishes and house work, she drops in. Now it's too much. Today, I will fire her from the job. Let her come today

(Ganga enters the kitchen in the meantime)

Ganga: Namaskar memsaab, I am sorry I am late

Radha: (interrupts in between) Ganga, I am tired of your excuses everyday. I think you can stop your work from tomorrow.

Ganga: (sobs and coughs) Ok, memsaab, I won't come from tomorrow. Let me do my work today. (Coughs)

(Both are in kitchen. Radha is cooking something and Ganga doing the dishes. Ganga coughing at intervals)

Radha: (in irritated voice) Why are you coughing constantly? It's so irritating.

Ganga: Memsaab, its more than two weeks, the cough is increasing day by day. At night, I suffer from fever also. That is why I am getting late. (Coughs constantly and covers her mouth with her white dupatta)

Radha: Wait, let me get a glass of water for you.

Radha fetches a glass of water and gives it to Ganga. Ganga uncovers her mouth from dupatta. There are blood stains on the dupatta. Seeing this, Radha drops the glass and in a very perturbed manner says:

Radha: Ganga, you are coughing blood? Are you okay? Just hold on, let me take you to a doctor.

(Radha rushes out with Ganga and asks a rickshaw puller to take them to the PHC)

End of Scene 1

Narrator: Ganga was coming late not because she wanted to but because she had been suffering from a disease in which she was coughing for more than two weeks; She was also coughing blood and having fever during the nights. Radha took Ganga to the hospital. Let us see what the doctor had to say.

Scene 2

{Hospital: Chamber of the doctor}

Doctor: Ganga, I have done all the check-ups, but I must get some more tests done.

Ganga: Doctor saab, I do not have money to get the tests done.

Doctor: No, no Ganga, you do not have to pay anything for these tests. Karim, our lab assistant here, will take you to the laboratory.

Karim takes Ganga to a lab and gives her a small container.

Karim: Here, you will have to give your sputum in this container. I will show you how.

He breathes deeply, then coughs and bends over the cup. Ganga follows his instructions.

Karim: Good, now you must take this container home and tomorrow morning come with another sample. Do it the way I showed you. He demonstrates again.

(Ganga and Radha exit)

Narrator: Two samples of Ganga’s sputum are being tested. She has come again the next morning with the sample and given it to Karim in the laboratory. Today, she will get her report. Radha has accompanied her to give her support. Doctor saab in the meantime has given her medicines for the cough.

Doctor: Ganga, your symptoms matched those of TB and so I did tests for TB. I am sorry but you do have TB. The test reports confirm that.

Ganga: (starts crying) Oh God! I have caught TB. I have heard that one who has TB does not live for long. Who would look after my children after my death.

Doctor: Relax Ganga, you have heard half-truths. Today, TB is like any other disease and is completely curable through regular medicines. This is called DOTS. You will be given medicine under the direct observation of a DOT Provider. So, you don’t need to worry at all.

Radha: Doctor saab, how long would the treatment for TB last? It must be costly, isn’t it?

Doctor: Oh no Ganga, the treatment is not at all costly. In fact, the government provides free of cost, quality medicines under DOTS to all patients once diagnosed to have TB. The complete course of a medicine box is allotted in the name of each patient.

Ganga: But Doctor saab, who is a DOT Provider? Who will give medicines to a poor person like me?

Doctor: The DOT provider is your friend who helps you to take medicines regularly without fail under his/her direct observation. They could be anybody but your family member. Ganga, we have a list of people who are DOT Providers. We can see who stays near your house.

Radha: Doctor, what does a DOT Provider do?

Doctor: Oh, the DOT Provider will be given a box with the complete set of medicines for the patient. The DOT Provider then has to ensure that the patient takes the medicines every alternate day. We also tell the DOT Provider to check for common side-effects and give moral support to the patient.

Radha: That is all? Then I do not mind being a DOT Provider for Ganga. After all, Ganga comes to my home daily. I will ensure that she takes her medicines regularly.

Doctor: That is really great Radhaji. It is people like you who make us believe that there is still so much humanity on earth. Ganga, see your problem is solved. But never forget to take your medicines and a few hygienic practices that you must take care of. Always cover your mouth while coughing or sneezing. Always use a spittoon. If you have small children below six years in the house, get them tested for TB as well. I will start your medicines and in two weeks you will feel better, but you must complete your course for 6 to 8 months and do your tests on time.

Narrator: Radha and Ganga thank the doctor. Friends, did you see how Radha helped another woman like her? The doctor has explained to Radha how the medicines are to be given, how Ganga should take care of herself and the possible side effects that Ganga can have. Both of them are now well prepared to tackle TB head on. We meet them after three months.

End of Scene 2

Scene 3

(Slum area: Ganga sitting on a chaupal talking to some women)

Ganga: What happened Shantabai, you are looking pale and ill?

Shantabai: (Coughing) Yes, I am not feeling well these days. This cough is really troubling me.

Ganga: For how long have you been coughing?

Shantabai: It is going to be more than two weeks. I also took medicines and some cough syrup. But after initial relief, it has come back, I am feeling so weak these days that I am not able to go to work to the textile mill.

Ganga: Shantabai, more than two weeks of cough could be TB. Why don't you go to Doctor saab at the community centre for a free check-up?

Shanta Bai: Speak a little softly about TB. If somebody overhears that I have TB, I will be in a big problem. My gharwala will throw me out and no one will come to my house.

Ganga: Yes Shantabai, you are right. But things have changed and we have to be the ones to lead the change in our community. Do we not bring the money home? Do we not run our families, look after our children, our in-laws and sometimes even our husbands?

Today, TB is totally curable like any other disease. If you don't talk openly about it, how would you seek cure for its treatment? That becomes an even bigger problem for you and your family. You know I am also undergoing treatment and I have no shame in admitting that.

Shantabai: Hmm, I think I should discuss this with my other colleagues in the textile factory. There are many who have similar symptoms but are hiding them due to fear of losing their jobs.

Ganga: Yes, please do that. Talk to them freely and bring them to the DOT centre for check-up and treatment.

Shakti: (Shantabai's friend seated at the chaupal) I was also on DOTS for the last six months. Doctor saab told me a couple of days back that now iam totally cured.

They all laugh.

End of Scene 3

Narator: So friends, you saw that more than two weeks of cough could be TB. You don't need to fear from the disease as it is completely curable. You heard that from doctor saab and Ganga. It is your right to be healthy and to seek treatment services. The government is providing free treatment for TB patients. Go to your nearest health centre and get yourself checked for free. And remember, nobody can take your job away.

You will find women like Ganga, Shanta and Shakti, everywhere. You will also find women like Radha who are willing to help.

Be strong like them. Take your decisions firmly. Get Tested. Get Cured.



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