



WHO INTER-REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON MALARIA ERADICATION  
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DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED IN MAINTAINING TOTAL COVERAGE  
DUE TO FACTORS RELATED TO PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT OR HUMAN  
CUSTOMS AND HABITS

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Some of the difficulties encountered in maintaining total coverage due to factors related to physical environment, social customs and human habits are given below:

1. Due to factors related to physical environment

a) Extremely difficult terrain:

Some of the areas are largely impervious and the travel is hampered by natural geographical obstacles. 12-14 days journey is required to be performed, often on foot, being forced to cross deep and fast running rivers intersecting the mountains and somewhere extremely dangerous to reach such places, e.g. Badakshan, Door Baba, Nooristan, Juwain and Purchaman.

b) Extreme Severity of winter:

Extremely severe cold of January and February makes it difficult to carry on the case detection activities by house-to-house visits.

c) Blockage of roads or bad roads:

Blockage of roads by snows after heavy snow-falls or by stones or fallen trees after heavy wind-storms or otherwise broken and bad roads create impediments in the progress of the programme.

d) Disappearance of footpaths:

The roads and footpaths leading to places in deserts and hills get covered with sand, with thick snow after dust storms and snow-falls, respectively, and almost disappear, making it difficult for the staff to trace the correct approach route to destinations.

2. Due to human customs

a) Pardah:

Although "pardah" is almost given up in the cities, it is prevalent in the rural areas. The staff cannot enter a house unless a male member is also present.

b) Bi-weekly bazars:

Bi-weekly markots are held where almost all the male members of the village go for marketing leaving the women behind, who neither allow the DDT spraying nor permit case detection activities in the absence of male members.

3. Due to human habits

a) Sleeping outdoors during summer:

Many people sleep outside in the open instead of the rooms in the houses.

b) Shifting of the population to the temporarily constructed huts in gardens and farms:

During the period of transmission of malaria, some people leave their houses and go to their gardens and farms and live in temporarily constructed huts.

c) Sitting of the people by the side of the walls of rooms:

Scraping of the lower wall surfaces of the houses by the backs of the people, who assume a sitting position with lower wall surfaces as back rests.