

Volume 06, Issue 02: 2019

Public Health Evidence South Asia (PHESA) is an initiative, which includes the South Asian satellite of Cochrane Public Health, and is based at Department of Health Information, Prasanna School of Public Health (PSPH), Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Manipal. PHESA aims to meet the public health evidence needs of the South Asian region. Presently, we have grown into an international network with global collaborations, including many universities, public health organizations and NGOs. Our staff and interns have roots across the globe. We aim to partner with various organizations and individuals spanning subject areas to solve a variety of public health problems faced by low-and middle-income countries (LMICs). We work together to foster a flexible environment that inspires new ideas, debates, changes and innovation; with a focus on capacity building in public health research.

Highlights of this edition

- **Protocol Development Workshop on Evidence & Gap map (EGM) in liaison with Campbell South Asia**
- **Workshop on 'Introduction to Health Technology Assessment and Health Economics'**
- **SPARC Project-'Indigenizing Evidence Synthesis and Systematic Reviews for International Development and Global Challenges'**
- **Projects developed as an outcome of EGM workshop**

Message from the Coordinator:

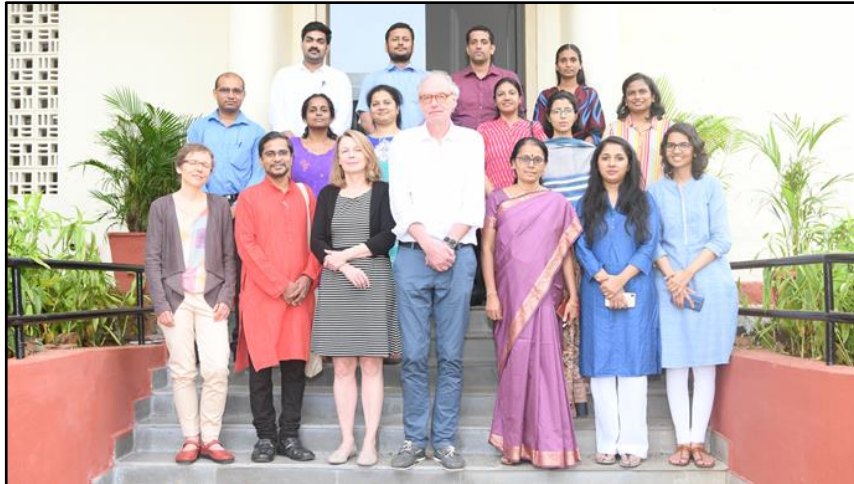
We are pleased to release the second issue of PHESA newsletter for the year 2019. The department newsletter 'Evidensia' provides information on the latest activities taking place at PHESA. This half of the year has been eventful for us in terms of trainings and capacity building workshops, and PHESA publications. The workshops attended by PHESA staff, recent events and upcoming events are given in the issue along with the latest activities at Transdisciplinary Centre for Qualitative Research.

PHESA is a research centre based at Prasanna School of Public Health. As a research centre we are involved in generating empirical evidence and are taking steady steps towards the same by networking and consistently publishing in indexed journals and Cochrane library. Our current focus area is Health Technology Assessment (HTA) and we invite collaborations and projects for the same. With this newsletter, we are also happy to announce our upcoming certificate course on evidence synthesis in 2020. We hope you enjoy reading this edition!

-Dr. Bhumika T.V., Coordinator, PHESA

Capacity Building Workshops and invited talks

Workshop on 'Introduction to Health Technology Assessment and Health Economics': 2nd - 6th December, 2019



A four day workshop on 'Introduction to Health Technology Assessment and Health Economics' was conducted by Prasanna School of Public Health, Manipal, in collaboration with University of Health Sciences, Medical Informatics and Technology (UMIT), Austria. The workshop was organized from 2nd – 6th December, 2019, for PHESA and Department of Data Science faculty and researchers. Dr. Petra Schnell-Inderest, Senior Scientist and Dr. Beate Jahn, Assistant Professor from UMIT, Austria were the resource persons for the workshop. Dr. Biju Soman, Professor & Associate Dean (Health Sciences), Sree Chitra Thirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum, Kerala, which is the regional resource hub of the HTAIn (the government HTA organization in India), delivered a talk on 'HTA in India' on the first day of the workshop.

'Workshop on systematic review and meta-analysis' at Manipal College of Nursing: 4th November 2019

Dr. Eti Rajwar, Research Officer, PHESA, was the resource person for the workshop on systematic review and meta-analysis organized by Manipal College of Nursing, MAHE, Manipal, from 4th-6th November, 2019. She delivered the session on 'Developing a systematic review protocol'.

Workshop on ‘Introduction to Systematic reviews’ at Manipal College of Health Professionals: 23rd September 2019.



PHESA conducted a one day workshop on ‘Introduction to Systematic reviews’ at Manipal College of Health Professionals (MCHP), Manipal on 23rd September, 2019. The workshop was conducted for sensitizing the faculty and research scholars/ students to develop a basic understanding of evidence synthesis and to begin working on systematic reviews in their respective interest areas. Dr. Shradha S. Parsekar, Research Officer, PHESA, Dr. Prachi Pundir, Research Officer, PHESA and Dr. Vijay Shree Dhyani, Research Assistant, PHESA were the resource persons for the workshop. More than 50 participants actively participated in the systematic review workshop.

Protocol Development Workshop on Evidence & Gap Maps (EGM) in liaison with Campbell South Asia: 4th - 5th July, 2019.



A two day Protocol Development workshop on Evidence & Gap Maps was conducted on 4th and 5th July, 2019. Dr. Ashrita Saran, Evidence Synthesis Specialist from Campbell South Asia, New Delhi conducted sessions on the scientific principles, methods, analysis, and reporting standards that guide the process of conducting EGM. The workshop provided advanced level training as a continuation to the previous workshop on Title Registration Form (TRF) by Campbell South Asia in January 2019 at Manipal.

Systematic Review course for M.Sc. Health Economics (1st semester)

PHESA is supporting Department of Commerce, MAHE, Manipal, in organizing a course module on systematic reviews for the first semester M.Sc. Health Economics students. The course is structured for the students to initiate a systematic review as part of research work during their two-year academic programme. The outcome of the course will be at least one systematic review protocol publication by students on their respective topics.

Two protocols have been submitted to PROSPERO, an International prospective register of systematic reviews for registration in this semester, by first batch of M.Sc. Health Economics students (2018-2020):

1. Cost effectiveness of preventive programmes for diarrhea management among children in community-based settings: a systematic review
2. Impact of increased taxation on tobacco use among tobacco product users in India: A systematic review.

PHESA faculty and staff are guiding the second batch (2019-2021) of M.Sc. Health Economics students in their respective systematic review projects.

Evidence Building

Current projects

Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Researcher Collaboration (SPARC) 'Indigenizing Evidence Synthesis and Systematic Reviews for International Development and Global Challenges'

PHESA, PSPH, MAHE, Manipal and Manipal College of Nursing (MCON), MAHE, Manipal, received the prestigious Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Researcher Collaboration (SPARC) grant in 2019. SPARC is a Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India initiative that aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian institutions and the best institutions in the world. This project concentrates on strengthening and promoting evidence policy for India in the area of public health, social, and health sciences. During the project research scholars, early career researchers, post graduate students and faculty from MAHE will be trained by experienced researchers and staff from the University College London (UCL), UK; in new methods for evidence synthesis. Through this project, essential resource material relevant to India for high quality research in the domain of evidence synthesis will be developed, sustainable research activities and programmes in the area of evidence synthesis in India will be designed and implemented. Collaborative workshops between MAHE and UCL will be organized for consolidation of bilateral cooperation through academic and research partnerships between India and UK. The project will be operational for two years.

Project updates

As part of capacity building, Dr. Bhumika T.V., Assistant Professor and Coordinator, PHESA; and Dr. Eti Rajwar, Research Officer, PHESA will undergo 2 months training in advanced methods for evidence synthesis at UCL, London, UK, in the month of February and March 2020 and trainers from UCL will visit Manipal in July 2020. As part of the project, the team i.e. PHESA and MCON from India and UCL from UK will also be involved in preparation of a handbook on advanced systematic review methods according to the Indian context. Additionally, work on joint collaborative advanced systematic review projects will be initiated and completed between the Indian and UK partners, during the course of the project.

Knowledge Dissemination and Advocacy

Journal Publication

- Hombali AS, Solon JA, **Venkatesh BT**, Nair NS, Peña-Rosas JP. Fortification of staple foods with vitamin A for vitamin A Deficiency. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2019, Issue 5. Art. No.: CD010068. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD010068.pub2.
<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD010068.pub2/abstract>
“Appeared in the ‘Top publications for the period of April-June 2019’ in MAHE Research Bulletin”
- **Parsekar SS, Pundir P**, Bevilacqua V. Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and related Behaviour Change Communication strategies in Bangladesh, Nepal and India: A narrative review, Clinical Epidemiology and Global Health, *In press* 2019, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cegh.2019.08.014>

Protocol/ Title registration

- Dsouza SM, **Krishnan JB**, Sebastian AM, Saran A. Social interventions to improve well-being of people with mental disorders: global evidence and gap map. Campbell Collaboration 2019. Available from: https://campbellcollaboration.org/library/download/1494_3bae1ca6656747f39363d58ff96a7f73.html
- Judith A. Noronha, **Vijay Shree Dhyani**, Prathibha Kamath, Ashrita Saran, Preethy Dsouza, Anil Raj. Effectiveness of interventions to reduce environmental air pollution: An evidence and gap map in low- and middle-income countries. Available from <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/cl2.1065>
- Ashrita Saran, Howard White, **Bhumika T V**, Divya Sussana Patil, **Eti Rajwar**. An evidence and gap map of development evaluations conducted in India. Available from <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/cl2.1065>
- **Bhumika TV**, Ashrita Saran, Divya Sussana Patil, **Eti Rajwar**, Howard White. An evidence and gap map of development evaluations conducted in Karnataka 2000-19. Available from <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/cl2.1065>

New joining

Research officers

Dr. Prachi Pundir and Dr. Shradha S. Parsekar joined as Research officers at PHESA in September 2019. They have a rich experience of working in the field of systematic reviews, Evidence and Gap maps and qualitative research, and have previously worked with PHESA. Dr. Shradha S. Parsekar is currently pursuing her PhD at Kasturba Medical College, MAHE.



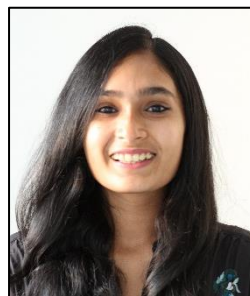
Dr. Prachi Pundir, BDS, MPH



Dr. Shradha S. Parsekar, BHMS, MPH

Interns

Dr. Priyanka Prasad joined as a PHESA intern in December 2019, for a period of six months, and is working on a systematic review titled 'Oral health related quality of life in patients with HIV: A systematic review'. During the course of the internship, she will be working on the systematic review under guidance of PHESA staff and will also be involved in other work-based learning opportunities provided by PHESA.



Dr. Priyanka Prasad, BDS

Transdisciplinary Centre for Qualitative Research Methods (TCQM)

Certificate Course on Qualitative Research Methods: August – October, 2019



Certificate Course on Qualitative Research Methods for the year 2019 was conducted from August to October, 2019. Total 25 participants had enrolled in the program. The course structure for the program included both class room teachings and assignments. This certificate course session included various steps involved in qualitative research methods such as research design, participant recruitment, in depth interviews, focus group discussions, observations, data management, analysis and presentation. Participants were grouped in to five groups. Each group worked on a group based assignment with the aim to develop knowledge and skills in qualitative research methods. This certificate course is designed and lead by Dr. Ajay Bailey, Coordinator, Transdisciplinary Centre for Qualitative Methods and Associate professor, International Development Studies, Department of Human Geography and Spatial Planning, Utrecht University, Netherlands.

Kick-off workshop: Inclusive Cities through Equitable access to Urban Mobility Infrastructures for India and Bangladesh (EQUIMOB)



The Kick-off workshop of the Project Inclusive Cities through Equitable access to Urban Mobility Infrastructures for India and Bangladesh (EQUIMOB) was held at Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore on 26th and 27th September 2019. TCQM as a co-applicant with Utrecht University, The Netherlands, has received the WOTRO-NWO-SDG grant for the proposal on 'Inclusive Cities through Equitable access to Urban Mobility Infrastructures for India and Bangladesh'. Dr Ajay Bailey, Coordinator, Trans-disciplinary Centre for Qualitative Methods, will lead the project as the Principal Investigator. This grant is co-funded by Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) and Utrecht University, Netherlands. This project is financing two Post-docs and two PhDs and will be carried across three cities Delhi, Bengaluru and Dhaka.

Training of Trainers in Qualitative Research Methods



Mr. Ri Kang Jin, Ms. Jang Un Hye, Dr. Ambuja Kowlgi (Resource person), Dr. Maeng Hyong Hui and Mr. Kang Mun Chol

Training of Trainers (ToT) in Qualitative Research Methods for the representatives of United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) from Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The course started on 3rd December 2019. This ToT is designed under the three main domains of qualitative research: Research Design Cycle, Ethnographic Cycle and Analytic Cycle. Main objective of the program is to cultivate knowledge and skills in teaching qualitative research methods among trainees. ToT is a mixture of interactive lectures, discussions, assignments and field work practices. The duration of the course is eight weeks and will be completed on 24th January 2020.



- Kick off meeting for SPARC projects at UCL, London, from 17th - 18th February 2020
- Cochrane meeting for South Asian centres and satellites at New Delhi from 19th - 22nd February 2020. Dr. Bhumika T.V. will be attending the meeting as a representative of the South Asian satellite of Cochrane Public Health (PHESA)
- Certificate Course on Evidence Synthesis by PHESA– 23rd - 28th March 2020
- Training on advanced systematic review methods by UCL, London, UK as part of the project 'Indigenizing Evidence Synthesis and Systematic Reviews for International Development and Global Challenges' in July 2020 at Manipal

For PHESA and TCQM events please track the respective websites (<http://www.phesa.manipal.edu/> and <http://tcqm.manipal.edu/>) or email us at ph.cochrane@manipal.edu and tcqm.mu@manipal.edu