

Volume 08, Issue 02: December 2021

Public Health Evidence South Asia (PHESA) includes the South Asian satellite of Cochrane Public Health Group and is one of the seven centres under Prasanna School of Public Health (PSPH), Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Manipal. PHESA co-ordinates the activities of the MAHE Cochrane Affiliate Centre under the newly formed Cochrane India Network. We aim 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. We work together to foster a flexible environment that inspires new ideas, debates, changes, and innovation, with a focus on evidence synthesis and capacity building in public health research.

Highlights of this edition

- **Cochrane India Network inauguration**
- **Certificate Course in Evidence Synthesis: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis**
- **PHESA published 4 protocols, 6 systematic reviews, 2 Conference proceedings and registered 1 protocol**

Message from the Coordinator:

Dear readers,

As you all know, 2021 was a tough year, it was the same for PHESA staff. During these difficult times, we supported and stood by each other. As we have come to an end of the year 2021, there is a major emphasis on the importance of Evidence Synthesis and its use. Despite the challenges, the team has given the best. The team of six people, published 16 reviews on Evidence Synthesis including the reviews relevant to COVID 19 and will continue to contribute towards the evidence needs of the community. We plan to conduct an Evidence Synthesis conference for South Asia early next year in order to disseminate the findings of our current work. This year, we have learnt and worked on indigenizing evidence and provided the evidence on importance of 'Public Funded Health Insurance' in India along with the reviews on other important issues like pension schemes for older adults, nutrition, maternal and child health etc. In the year 2022, we would like to work and focus on effective utilization of the evidence synthesized via systematic reviews. I congratulate the team for their sincere hard work and for maintaining the quality of work.

Wishing all the readers a very happy 2022 from the team at PHESA!

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

Cochrane Public Health Group activities

Cochrane India Network inauguration

Along with eight other eminent institutions of India, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Manipal, has been selected as the Cochrane Affiliate Centre under the newly formed Cochrane India Network. The Director of this affiliate centre is Prof. Dr. H. Vinod Bhat, Executive Vice President, MAHE, Manipal. The centre is currently placed at Prasanna School of Public Health (PSPH), MAHE, and the activities of the centre are coordinated by Public Health Evidence South Asia (PHESA), PSPH, MAHE. The Cochrane India Network was inaugurated on October 26, 2021 in a 3-hour online event. The chief guest for the event was Dr. Vinod Paul, member, NITI Aayog and the keynote address was delivered by Dr. Balram Bhargav, Secretary, DHR & DG ICMR, Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist, the WHO and Karla Soares-Weiser, Editor in Chief, Cochrane Library. Plenary sessions were handled by Dr. Dheeraj Shah, Director- Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University College of Medical Sciences and GTB Hospital, Delhi, Dr. N. Sreekumaran Nair, Professor & Head, Department of Biostatistics (Biometrics), JIPMER, Puducherry and Dr. Joseph L. Mathew, Professor, Pediatric Pulmonology, Advanced Pediatrics Centre, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, India. More information about the centre can be found on the official website, <https://india.cochrane.org/cochrane-india-network/manipal-academy-higher-education>.

Capacity Building Workshops and Trainings

Certificate Course in Evidence Synthesis: Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

PRASANNA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
MANIPAL
(A Constituent Unit of MAHE, Manipal)

**Certificate Course in Evidence Synthesis:
Systematic Review and Meta-analysis**
September 20–25 2021
Public Health Evidence South Asia- PHESA
(Coordinates the activities of MAHE Cochrane Affiliate Centre- Cochrane India Network)
Department of Health Information
Prasanna School of Public Health (PSPH)
Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Manipal, Karnataka, India

Public Health Evidence South Asia is an initiative that includes the South Asian satellite of Cochrane Public Health, based at Prasanna School of Public Health, Manipal Academy of Higher Education. PHESA aims to meet the public health evidence needs of the South Asian region and has network and collaboration with several eminent institutes and organisations such as WHO, DFID-UK, EPPI-Centre (University College London), Campbell Collaboration and more. To date, PHESA has conducted more than 35 national and international workshops.

Overview:
The online certificate course will offer an opportunity to learn systematic reviews (Cochrane methodology) through a series of lectures by evidence synthesis experts from eminent institutions of India. Participants will get an opportunity to engage in discussions on how systematic reviews can be made more interdisciplinary and relevant for practice. Applying the principles of 'learning by doing', the participants will concurrently work towards developing a systematic review protocol. Participants will be guided through registering the protocol on PROSPERO, and publishing it in indexed journals.

Outcomes:
1. A systematic review protocol
2. Development of a structured plan to conduct the proposed systematic review

Who can attend?
Faculty, researchers, graduates, postgraduates, PhD scholars & post-doctorates from any discipline.

Credit Points: 4

Planned online sessions:

- Introduction to systematic review (SR)
- Basics of research methodology
- Formulation of a research question
- Searching for studies
- Data management, screening and data extraction
- Data analysis: Narrative synthesis and meta-analysis
- Risk of bias assessment and GRADE
- Qualitative and mixed method SR
- Rapid reviews
- Overview of SR evidence for research
- Systematic review evidence for India
- Policy implications of SRs
- Writing a SR protocol and registration
- Writing a full systematic review

Registration details:
Registration fee for MAHE: INR 8,000
Non-MAHE: INR 10,000
International: USD 300
Interested candidates please send your CV and a comprehensive letter of motivation to phesaindianetwork@manipal.edu before 31st August 2021.

For more details, please contact:
Dr. Bhramika T.V., Coordinator,
PHESA, PSPH, MAHE, Manipal-576104
Email ID: phesaindianetwork@manipal.edu
Telephone: 0810-2923449
Website: <http://www.phesa.manipal.edu>
Follow us on Twitter @phesa_manipal and Facebook @PublicHealthEvidenceSouthAsia

PHESA has successfully completed the fourth 'Certificate Course in Evidence Synthesis: Systematic Review and Meta-analysis'. Due to the current pandemic situation, the certificate course carrying 4 credit points was conducted online from September 20 to 25, 2021. The course aimed at sensitizing participants on systematic review methodology and provided step-by-step guidance on how to perform systematic reviews and meta-analysis. The certificate course in 2021 included special sessions on evidence-informed policymaking, rapid evidence synthesis and the use and role of evidence in policy. A total of 52 participants representing various disciplines completed the course and were trained in systematic review methodology.

'Indo-UK workshop on Systematic Reviews and Meta-analysis' at Manipal College of Nursing: November 2021

Dr. Shradha S. Parsekar and Dr. Prachi Pundir, Research Officers, PHESA were the resource persons for the "Indo-UK workshop on Systematic Reviews and Meta-analysis" organized by Manipal College of Nursing, MAHE, Manipal, held between November 22 and 26, 2021.

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

PHESA mentors a course module on systematic reviews for the first semester M.Sc. Health Economics students from the Department of Commerce, MAHE, Manipal. The course is structured for the students to initiate a systematic review / scoping review as part of the research work during their two-year academic programme. Currently, PHESA staff is guiding the fourth batch of M.Sc. Health Economics students.

2020-2022 batch

The students are currently working on two scoping reviews with mentoring and support from PHESA. Two protocols have been submitted to BMJ Open and are presently under review.

1. Diagnostic and Treatment Cost of Cardiovascular Disease Management in India: A scoping review
2. Cost of breast cancer diagnosis and treatment in India: A scoping review

Internship program at PHESA

As a part of the capacity building exercise of PHESA, interns are trained to work on public health issues of south Asia and the core area of evidence synthesis. At present, there is one intern working with PHESA on systematic review topic. Currently, the internship is being held online considering the ongoing COVID-19 situation in the country.

1. Dr. Sujata Shirodkar is working on 'Effect of iron and folic acid fortification and supplementation on nutritional status of women: an overview of systematic reviews'.

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. Under this project, staff from PHESA, PSPH, MAHE, were trained by experienced researchers and staff from the University College London (UCL), UK, in newer methods for evidence synthesis. Currently, we are working on collaborative papers that would contribute in developing methodologies for indigenising evidence.

Knowledge Dissemination and Advocacy

Journal Publications

- Reshmi B, Unnikrishnan B, **Rajwar E, Parsekar SS**, Vijayamma R, **Venkatesh BT**. Impact of public-funded health insurances in India on health care utilisation and financial risk protection: a systematic review. *BMJ Open* 2021;11:e050077. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2021-050077. Available from: <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/bmjopen/11/12/e050077.full.pdf>
- Menon DD, Joy JM, Paul A, Reddy SA, Raj EA, **Krishnan JB**, Vilakkathala R. Effectiveness of pictograms in patients or caregivers in healthcare settings: a systematic review. *Journal of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research*. 2021 Nov;12(4):607-14. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1093/jphsr/rmab049>
- **Parsekar SS**, Hoogar P, **Dhyani VS**, Yadav UN. The voice of Indian women on family planning: A qualitative systematic review. *Clinical Epidemiology and Global Health* 2021;12(2021):100906. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cegh.2021.100906>
- Amin R, Vaishali K, Maiya GA, Mohapatra AK, Yadav UN, **Parsekar SS**. Effect of home-based pulmonary rehabilitation on functional capacity in people with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis—a systematic review protocol. *Syst Rev* 2021;10:297. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13643-021-01853-9>
- Nair NS, Lewis LE, **Dhyani VS**, Murthy S, Godinho M, Lakiang T, **Venkatesh BT**. Factors Associated With Neonatal Pneumonia and its Mortality in India: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Indian pediatrics*. 2021; 58 (11) 1059-66. Available from <https://www.indianpediatrics.net/nov2021/1059.pdf>
- Bhattacharjee NV, Schaeffer LE, Hay SI, [...], **Parsekar SS**, et al. Mapping inequalities in exclusive breastfeeding in low- and middle-income countries, 2000–2018. *Nat Hum Behav*.2021; 5(8): 1027–1045. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-021-01108->

- Dsouza SA, Ramachandran M, Nishiura Y, **Venkatesh BT**, Dahlberg L. Assessment of time-related deficits in older adults: a scoping review protocol. *BMJ Open* 2021;11:e050521. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2021-050521. Available from: <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/bmjopen/11/9/e050521.full.pdf>
- **Rajwar E, Pundir P, Parsekar SS, Venkatesh BT**, Vogt T. Income support programmes for the older adults in South Asia: a scoping review protocol. *BMJ Open* 2021;11:e050676. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2021-050676. Available from: <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/bmjopen/11/8/e050676.full.pdf>
- Arunachala S, **Venkatesh BT**, Bhatt MT, Puranik A, Rao S, Ravindranath S. COVID-19 Pandemic: Impact on Admission, Diagnosis, and Treatment of Non-COVID-19 Patients Admitted to SARI ICU. *Indian J Crit Care Med* 2021;25(8):854–860. Available from: <https://www.ijccm.org/abstractArticleContentBrowse/IJCCM/64/25/8/24574/abstractArticle/Article>
- Dsouza SM, **Krishnan JB**, Saran A. PROTOCOL: Social interventions to improve well-being of people with mental disorders: Global evidence and gap map. *Campbell Systematic Reviews*. 2021;17: e1182. Available from : <https://doi.org/10.1002/cl2.1182>

Conference proceedings

- **Parsekar SS**, Nair S. 663 “To tell or not to tell...” Practice of (non) disclosure and collusion of cancer in India. *International journal of Epidemiology* 2021;50(Supplement 1): dyab168.524. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ije/dyab168.524>
- Hoogar P, Pujar A, **Dhyani VS**, Yadav UN, **Parsekar SS**. 651 The voice of Indian women on family planning: A qualitative systematic review and meta-synthesis. *International journal of Epidemiology* 2021;50(Supplement 1): dyab168.286. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ije/dyab168.286>

Registered protocols

- Haritha Mohan, Shivani Tiwari, Calida Frieda Pinto, **Vijay Shree Dhyani**. A Systematic review of association between home literacy environment and emergent literacy skills in children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. PROSPERO 2021 CRD42021268905 Available from: https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/display_record.php?ID=CRD42021268905

Activity for promotion and dissemination of Cochrane reviews

Latest published Cochrane Public Health reviews relevant to LMICs

PHESA includes the South Asian satellite of Cochrane Public Health (CPH) group and undertakes various activities as a part of this role. One of the activity is to disseminate the information on Cochrane reviews using various web-based platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and PHESA website. Following are the latest CPH reviews relevant to LMICs:

1. School-based physical activity programs for promoting physical activity and fitness in children and adolescents aged 6 to 18
2. Non-pharmacological measures implemented in the setting of long-term care facilities to prevent SARS-CoV-2 infections and their consequences: a rapid review

Cochrane Public Health group reviews addressing the issues of low- and middle-income countries are available on our website www.phesa.manipal.edu and are regularly updated via. our Twitter handle (@phesa_manipal) and Facebook Page (Public Health Evidence South Asia-PHESA).

Awards and Recognition

- Dr. Prachi Pundir won the first prize for the best e-oral presentation at IPHACON-2021 (the 65th annual conference of Indian Public Health Association) organized by IPHA Pondicherry state branch and JIPMER held online from 23rd - 26th September 2021.
- Dr. Shradha S. Parsekar received bursary support to attend and disseminate her study findings via. on-demand oral presentation at the “World Congress of Epidemiology- WCE 2021” organized by International Epidemiological Association held virtually (3-6 September 2021).

Consultancy

PHESA is providing consultancy for conducting systematic reviews. For any queries related to consultancy services, please contact PHESA office.

Telephone: 0820 2923449 | Mail id: ph.cochrane@manipal.edu

For more information and updates, please follow us at:

@PublicHealthEvidenceSouthAsia on Facebook and @phesa_manipal on Twitter

