

WEB TABLE: DETAILS OF SYSTEMATIC REVIEW METHODOLOGY

Objective: To identify, synthesize and summarize current best evidence pertaining to child health and survival/mortality in India, with specific reference to four clinical areas (ARI, diarrhea, anemia, and community-based newborn care), in order to facilitate UNICEF-PHFI to undertake advocacy on these issues.

1 Sources of literature

1.1 Technical issues

- § Medline
- § Cochrane Library
- § IndMed
- § Any other database specified by the individual authors with justification. This could include National Databases such as NFHS, NNMB, etc.
- § Sample Registration Survey (for data on mortality)

1.2 Operational issues

- § Popline.org
- § WHO documents available online
- § UNICEF documents available online
- § Government of India documents available online
- § Publications of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- § Publications of ICMR
- § CBHI reports
- § Grey literature acquired through contacts (personal/experts/other)

2 Type of studies/publications (in order of access and selection).

Separate searches will be run to access literature on each component of each question.

2.1 Technical issues:

2.1.1 Epidemiology (magnitude, time-trend, geographical trends, social/cultural trend)

- § **I:** Systematic review (SR) of observational studies within the last 10 years.
- § **II:** Cohort studies within the past three years (if no SR available within the past ten years), originating/pertaining to India, with clearly defined methodology that is regarded acceptable/appropriate for the research question addressed, and contains results presented in a clear format.
- § **III:** Cohort studies older than ten years (if no cohort studies available within the past ten years).
- § **IV:** Case-control studies (if no cohort study is available)
- § **V:** Modelling/ secondary calculations based on studies within the past ten years (if the above study types are not available).
- § **VI:** Modelling/ secondary calculations based on studies older than ten years (if none of the above is available).

2.1.2 Interventions

- § **I:** Systematic review of interventional trials within the last 10 years.
- § **II:** Randomized controlled trial(s) (if no SR available within the past ten years)
- § **III:** Quasi-randomized trial (if no randomized trial is available)
- § **IV:** Non-randomized trial (if no SR or RCT is available)
- § **V:** Modelling/ secondary calculations based on studies within the past ten years (if the above study types are not available).
- § **VI:** Modelling/ secondary calculations based on studies older than ten years (if none of the above is available).

2.2 Operational issues:

2.2.1 No specific order of preference except that documents pertaining to developing countries will have greater preference than developed countries or those otherwise unspecified. However the following hierarchy will be preferred.

- * Documents originating from/ pertaining to India.
- * Documents originating from/pertaining to developing countries in general.
- * Documents originating from/ pertaining to developed countries or unspecified countries, that could have a bearing on India and/or developing countries.
- * Among the documents available, those based on robust methodology will be given higher preference, as the risk of bias is lower.

2.2.2 Search string for Operational issues

* AND india AND (health policy OR health planning OR health programs OR health services OR program evaluation OR operations research)

* = Topic under review

3 Order of preference within a group

3.1 Type of participants

Pediatric data preferred over adult data or otherwise not specified

Data from India > developing countries > developed countries/unspecified

3.2 Type of interventions

Standard dose/route/administration > experimental special models

3.3 Types of outcomes

Primary/hard outcomes > secondary/surrogate/soft outcomes

4 Search strategy

4.1 Development of search string

§ Conversion to PICO format where feasible

§ Identification of key terms

§ Starting with broad sensitive search and tapering to narrow, specific search

4.2 Recording of search date and string

4.3 Recording of output

4.4 Selection of data/documents

§ First short-list based on title

§ Next short-list based on abstract/introduction

§ Final short-list based on full-text

5 Synthesis of results

§ Descriptive

§ No secondary analysis

6 Presentation of synthesis

§ Descriptive

§ Identification of Data gaps

§ Scope for future (policy implications and research implications)

§ Bibliography (*Indian Pediatrics style*)