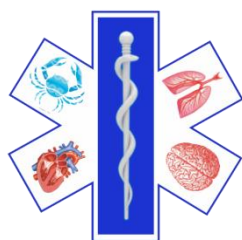


ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

**CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR EVIDENCE BASED
RESEARCH ON NCDS IN LMICS**

WORLD NCD FEDERATION



World NCD Federation

Executive Summary

World NCD Federation has established Centre of Excellence for Evidence based research on NCDs in LMICs to foster the development of evidence for informed policy, NCD programmes and practices in NCDs in low and middle income countries (LMICs) in the year 2020. Its objectives are to generate high quality evidence through systematic reviews and meta-analyses on NCDs prevention and control to inform policies for low and middle income countries (LMICs), promote implementation research in NCDs in LMICs, promote knowledge translation through publications and preparing high quality briefs for NCD programmes and practitioners.

One of the key annual activities of the centre include training on Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses. In this year, International CME on SR/MA was conducted on 7th March 2021 which was attended by 300 participants. Later on 9th August 2021, regional training on SR and MA was conducted, which was attended by 101 participants. Thus, in a year, the 401 participants benefitted from the training opportunities at Centre of Excellence.

The Centre of Excellence invited proposals periodically via international calls for proposals and shortlisted a total of 17 proposals after approval by panel of experts. The first International Advisory Committee met on 17th June, 2021 to guide further suggestions for smooth functioning of centre and improve international outreach.

Two review meetings for ongoing systematic reviews and meta-analyses have been held dated 25th August, 2021 and 17th November, 2021. The purpose of the meeting was to assess the ongoing systematic reviews and meta-analyses under the centre and address the issues faced by investigators during conduction of systematic review.

Regular core committee meetings are held to monitor the activities being held under the Centre of Excellence. Three core committee meetings have been held till now.

The dissemination of the research was also done via publications in reputed journals. In the year 2020-21, the one manuscript and 2 protocols have been published in the scientific journals.

1. Background and History

World NCD Federation has established Centre of Excellence for Evidence based research on NCDs in LMICs to foster the development of evidence for informed policy, NCD programmes and practices in NCDs in low and middle income countries (LMICs) in the year 2020. As the burden of NCDs is rapidly increasing in low and middle income countries, the importance of area specific research capacity and role of contextually relevant research in informing policy, programme and practice is of paramount importance. There is limited and scattered quality evidence on NCDs pointing towards effectiveness of primary and secondary prevention and management interventions targeting risk factors and different NCDs globally especially in LMICs. Because most LMICs have poor health systems and require to develop more cost effective and equitable ways of addressing NCDs for which evidence needs to be generated for the implementation of such strategies. This centre is functioning since December 2020 and intends to contribute via research in achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The Centre aims to generate high quality evidence through systematic reviews and meta-analyses on NCDs prevention and control to inform policies for low and middle income countries (LMICs) and promote knowledge translation publications and preparing high quality briefs for NCD programmes and practitioners.

Three to five quality systematic reviews and meta analyses in major NCDs over a period of one year are expected. Evidence generated by systematic reviews will be used for strengthening national NCD control program and policy interventions in LMICs.

2. Details of Activities/Events of Centre of Excellence

2.1. Constitution of International Advisory committee

The International Advisory Committee has been constituted with 16 national and international members. **1st Virtual meeting of International Advisory Committee of Centre of Excellence for Evidence based research on NCDs in LMICs was held on 17th June, 2021.** The purpose of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) for World NCD Federation's (WNF) "Centre of Excellence for Evidence based Research on NCDs in LMICs" is to provide guidance and offer suggestions on the development, priorities setting and implementation of mandate of COE.

2.2. International CME on Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses for Evidence-Based Prevention and Control in NCDs (Virtual) held on 7th March, 2021

World NCD Federation in partnership with Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh (PGIMER) organized a virtual International CME on Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses for Evidence-Based Prevention and Control in NCDs to mark its Sixth Foundation Day and celebrate World NCD Day on 7th March 2021. The CME highlighted upon the evidence informed healthcare, steps in conducting systematic reviews and meta-analyses and relevance of evidence generation for clinical practice, policy and NCD Programme. A total of 300 participants from India and abroad participated in CME. The participants learnt basic steps and the importance of evidence generation for informed decision making.

2.3. Call for proposals on Systematic reviews and meta-analyses.

- **1ST Global Call for proposals on Systematic reviews and meta-analyses.**

The Centre for Excellence invited proposals for conducting systematic reviews and meta-analysis. 30 proposals were received which were evaluated by expert review team. The purpose of this activity was to support enthusiastic researchers to conduct quality research of the various aspects of NCDs. 27 proposals were shortlisted which are technically supported by Centre of Excellence.

- **Call for proposals for Africa and Latin America region**

The Centre of Excellence in collaboration with Viatrix invited proposals on Systematic review and meta-analysis. The aim is to aim to promote evidence generation about various public health aspects of NCDs from African and Latin American regions to support the researchers in developing health policy recommendations for these regions. One systematic review each for both regions is ongoing.

2.4. Trainings

One-day Training of investigators on Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses (9th August, 2021)

Centre of Excellence under World NCD Federation in partnership with Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh (PGIMER) organized a one-day training of investigators/and their colleagues on Systematic Reviews and Meta- analysis on 9th August, 2021. The investigators were trained in conduction of Systematic Review and meta-analysis, writing & registering a protocol, literature search, build search strategy, risk of bias assessment, tools for data extraction & synthesis of results.

2.5.Review Meetings

5.5.1. Periodic Review meetings

Two review meetings have been held dated 25th August, 2021 and 17th November, 2021. The purpose of the meeting was to assess the ongoing systematic reviews and meta-analyses under the centre and address the issues faced by investigators during conduction of systematic review.

5.5.2. Core Committee meetings

Regular core committee meetings are held to monitor the activities being held under the Centre of Excellence. Three core committee meetings have been held till now.

2.6.Forthcoming events

- Call for proposals for PhD students to conduct systematic review and meta-analysis.
- Planning for certificate course on SR/MA

3. Progress so far

Call inviting proposals on systematic reviews: Under the Centre of Excellence, a total of 17 systematic reviews are being conducted, out of which three are in-house systematic reviews. The systematic reviews and meta-analyses under the centre covers a diverse range of topics which includes behavioural risk factors of NCDs, screening & detection of cervical cancer, health promoting village programs, quality of life among cancer patients, hypertensive drugs, lung cancer, oral cancer, diabetes mellitus, health promoting schools, interventions for tobacco cessation, indoor air pollution etc.

Following are the achievements by centre of excellence during the year 2020-21.

Table: Annual outcomes of the Centre of Excellence (2020-2021)

Domain	Activity	Achievements
Human resource (HR):	Recruitment of project staff	Post filled for the following HR Project Officer: 1 Research Assistant: 1
Trainings	2 trainings (on Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses)	401 participants received certification for training
International Advisory committee	Constitution of 16- membered International Advisory Committee	Meeting with the committee and incorporation of suggestions in future activities
Engagement with researchers	Call for proposals on SR/MA	Three calls for proposals in a year (international, African and Latin American region specific); Call for proposals in collaboration with IPASMCON2021 and IPHACON2021
Identification of topics on SR/MA	Shortlisting of proposals obtained via calls for proposals as well as in-house identification of SR/MA	17 on-going systematic reviews under Centre of Excellence. Periodic review meetings with researchers to track the progress of on-going projects
Dissemination of activities	Publication of proposals and manuscripts	1 manuscript and 4 proposals published

4. Future Directions (till December 2022):

- Drafting a comprehensive book on conducting Systematic Review and Meta-analyses
- Completion of on-going SR/MA

-Publication of five SR/MA under CoE

-Creation of job opportunities under CoE: Proposal writing for new SR/MA and application for funding of the same (target: two proposals)

5. Publications under CoE during 2020-21

World NCD Federation under CoE has already published or initiated a few systematic reviews and meta-analyses of strategic importance to build robust NCD programmes for prevention and control.

7.1 Impact of Underlying Comorbidities on Mortality in SARS-COV-2 Infected Cancer Patients: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. Kaur H, Thakur J S, Paika R, Advani SM. Asian Pac J Cancer Prev, 22 (5), 1333-1349

7.2 Effectiveness of targeting the health promotion settings for non-communicable disease control in low/middle income countries: Systematic review protocol. BMJ Open. 2018;8: e014559

7.3 Effectiveness of interventions by nurse practitioners for prevention and control of NCDs in LMICs: A systematic review protocol. Kavita K, Thakur J S, Ghai S, Narang T. Int J Non-Commun Dis 2020;5:143-8

7.4 Community health workers for non-communicable diseases prevention and control in developing countries: Evidence and implications. PLoS ONE 2017;12(7): e0180640

7.5 Protocol for a systematic review of reviews evaluating effectiveness of mass media interventions for prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. BMJ Open. 2020: 10:e032611