

Centres for Systematic Review of Health Policy and Systems Research: Progress and Challenges

The Centres for Systematic Review
Of Health Policy and Systems Research
Ransom M, Koehlmoos T, Pantoja T, Meng Q, Pariyo G



Overview

Rationale

Introducing SR centres in LMICs

Progress- Past and current work

Sources of Support

Challenges

Opportunities for Improvement

Why build SR centres in LMICs?

- To build capacity for generating policy relevant information
- To promote the use of research to inform policy

Why are SR centres needed in LMICs?

- To support and strengthen weakened health systems through promotion of evidence based policy making
- To explore, develop and improve methodologies for generating policy relevant SRs for LMICs

Four Centres established

April 2007

- Uganda- Human Resources for Health
- China- Health Financing
- Bangladesh- Non State Sector
- Chile- Methodology Centre

Process

- Workshops
- Matching with Northern Partners
 - EPPI Centre, University of London
 - Cochrane EPOC-Norwegian Satellite
 - Effective Health Care Research Programme Consortium (Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine)

Progress

- Human Resources for Health
- Team Leader: Dr. George Pariyo,
– Makerere University, Uganda
- *Strategies to Scale Up the Health Workforce*
- CDSR 2009 vol 2
- Current work:
- Protocol Scoping Review on *Dual Practice*

Progress

- Non-State Sector
- Team Leader: Dr. Tracey Pérez Koehlmoos
ICDDR,B Bangladesh
- *Effect of Social Franchising on Access to and Quality of Health Services in LMIC.*
- Published in CDSR, 2009, vol 1
- Current work:
- Scoping review of *social franchising*
- *Community Mobilization on SafeMotherhood*

Progress

- Health Finance
- Team Leader: Prof. Meng Qingyue
Shandong University, China
- *Strategies for expanding health insurance coverage in vulnerable population*
- Journal of Chinese Evidence Based Medicine
– Submitted in English language journal
- Current work: *Means Testing for Targeting the People in Health Programs*

Progress

- Methodology
- Team Leader: Tomas Pantoja
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Completed:

Protocol: *Interventions for Controlling Emigration of health professionals from LMIC* (CDSR vol 1)

Briefing Note on Systematic Reviews for HPSR

In progress: In depth analysis of methodologies for LMIC and challenges

Success

- Three published reviews
- Engagement with policy makers
- Established cadre of LMIC based reviewers
- Application of reviews to priority LMIC issues

Success

- Close links between North and South collaborators
- Engagement with global fora for SR
- Training of additional reviewers

Challenges--Technical

- Specialized skills are required for carrying out the various steps of a SR:
- writing and refining the protocol
- conducting searches
- screening literature, and
- extracting and analyzing the data

Challenges--Physical

- SLOW progress
- Lack of access to search engines and databases
- Slow or irregular internet access

Challenges--Methodological

- Trained and encouraged to start with impact reviews
- Two reviews of effect for the Cochrane Collaboration: "empty" or singular studies for inclusion
- Frustration for researchers and policy makers
 - Meta-publication bias
 - Does it work?

Challenges--Methodological

- Access to Grey literature and non-English literature
- Defining the right Question:
 - effect v. scoping
- Synthesizing a variety of study designs
 - Limited rigorous studies in HPSR
- Other considerations for health sector decision makers:
 - Cost effectiveness
 - Generalizability
 - Scalability
 - Equity

Next Steps

- Continue to research and train in SR
- Continue to develop and test methodology
- Make systematic reviews available and user friendly
- Orient decision makers in how to use SRs in the health sector

Thank you

Questions?