

PROMOTING EVIDENCE BASED HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES

Objectives:

- Understanding Evidence Based Health Care approach
- Learning how policymakers/stakeholders should make use of EBHC

Discussion points

- What is evidence based health care?
- Organizations promoting evidence based practices/decision making
- Products of evidence based health practice and support needed
- Need of evidence based products in various processes of policy making
- Approaches to make use of the evidence based products by policymakers

Knowledge Management Share Fair

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Evidence Based Health Care - Definitions

- **JBI: EBHC** is the conscientious, explicit and judicious use of current best evidence in making decisions about the care of the individual patient. It means integrating individual clinical expertise with the best available external clinical evidence from systematic research (Sackett D, 1996).
- **Cochrane: EBHC** is the conscientious use of current best evidence in making decisions about the care of individual patients or the delivery of health services. Current best evidence is up-to-date information from relevant, valid research about the effects of different forms of health care, the potential for harm from exposure to particular agents, the accuracy of diagnostic tests, and the predictive power of prognostic factors.
- **OXFORD: EBHC** takes place when decisions that affect the care of patients are taken with due weight accorded to all valid, relevant information. (Nicholas Hicks, 1997)

Organization and Scope of EBP	Network in LMIC
1. Alliance for Health Policy & Systems Research (AHPSR/ WHO): Health Systems Research	AHPSR has 6 systematic review centers in LMICs – Lebanon, S. Africa, China, Chile, Uganda, and Bangladesh
2. Cochrane Collaboration : Health Care	A network of healthcare practitioners & researchers in >120 countries. It has 14 Centers supporting systematic review. All centers have LMIC in their scope
3. Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI): Health Care	JBI has >80 Centers in 72 countries, of them 25 are in LMIC. Many provide training and prepare Systematic Reviews with focus on Healthcare policy and practices
4. EPPI-Center : Education & Social policy, Health promotion & policy, International health Systems & development	The center is London based, supports teams funded to conduct systematic reviews fro international development with some of the LMIC based authors.
5. Campbell Collaboration : Crime & Justice, Education, International development, Social welfare	International Development Review Group is London Based & is a part of India-based Institution & supports teams conducting reviews, with some authors based in LMICs
6. Collaboration for Environmental Evidence center (CEE)	A network of researchers and managers to promote systematic reviews of environmental management; It has 4 centers including CEE, Johannesburg, S. Africa

Products of evidence based health care targeted to policymakers/stakeholders

Type of products and goals	Sources used or included
<p>1. Systematic Reviews (SRs): Policy makers use SRs of i. Observational studies to establish magnitude of problem or potential barriers options, ii. Qualitative studies for alternative framing problem options, iii. SRs of effectiveness for benefits or harms, iv. SRs of economic evaluation for cost-effectiveness of options</p>	
<p>2. Summaries of SRs: 1. policymakers identify the take-home messages relevant to their policy questions, 2. Also evaluate its quality, grade, and identify local applicability and equity.</p>	<p>Reviews of health system and provider behavior – change interventions, consumer targeted SRs, SRs of effects of prescribing related interventions, health system finance mechanism, human resources interventions, interventions to reduce child & maternal mortality in LMICs, etc</p>
<p>3. Overviews of SRs/Umbrella Reviews: Transparently identify, select, appraise and synthesize SRs for research questions in a given domain</p>	<p>SRs of health system finance mechanism, SRs of provider behavior – change interventions, consumer targeted reviews, with focus on LMICs.</p>
<p>4. Policy briefs: Transparently identify, select, appraise and synthesize SRs, research studies, and context – specific data to address all elements of policy question</p>	<p>Reviews that inform problem definition, policy options, and policy Implementation – strategy at the country level, with focus on countries in Africa, Asia, and the Americas with Evidence to policy Net. (EVIPNet)</p>

Need of evidence based products in various processes of policy making

Steps in a Policymaking Process	Types of Systematic Reviews That Acquired
<p>Defining the problem: Identifying indicators to establish magnitude of problem. Making comparisons (over time, across settings or against plans) to establish the magnitude. Highlighting alternative framings of the problem to assist with mobilizing support among different groups to address the Problem.</p>	<p>Reviews of observational studies (e.g., administrative database, studies, community surveys). Reviews of qualitative studies that examine stakeholders' views and experiences with problem (e.g., studies in which narrative data are collected from individual or groups of "informants" through interviews, focus groups, participant observation, or from documents)</p>
<p>Assessing policy and program options: Identifying policy & program options that could affect problem. Characterizing positive and negative effects, cost-effectiveness, stakeholders' views about and experiences With each policy options.</p>	<p>SRs of any type if frameworks were used to organize the search for, and presentation of, research evidence. SRs of effectiveness studies. SRs of economic evaluations. SRs of qualitative studies that examine how or why interventions work.</p>
<p>Identifying implementation considerations: Identifying barriers to implementation at level of patients/consumers, health workers, organizations, and systems. Characterizing effects of targeted implementation strategies.</p>	<p>Reviews of observational studies and/or reviews of qualitative studies. Reviews of effectiveness studies.</p>

Approaches to make use of the evidence based products by policymakers

Approach	Examples of Activities
Promoting a climate that supports the use of reviews and review-derived products in policymaking processes	Cite where reviews made difference between policy success & failure. Modifying policymaking processes giving explicit role for SRs.
Producing reviews and review-derived products that address high-priority policy issues	Undertaking priority-setting to identify short term review-derived products, medium-term systematic reviews, and long-term for primary research. Engaging policymakers in “merit review” of SRs and SR products.
Packaging reviews and review-derived products for policymakers and stakeholders	Engage policymakers with a solution-oriented question, take-home messages from the review, Presenting findings using an “inverted pyramid”. Using language that is appropriate to policymakers.
Disseminating reviews and review-derived products to policymakers and stakeholders	Sending a “refresher” e-mail alert about a new review. Providing face-to-face briefings about reviews /products. Executing proactive knowledge-translation strategies,
Providing policymakers with resources, skills, and opportunities to find and use SRs and SR derived products when they need them	Establishing mentor (Researchers)-mentee (Policymakers) relation Google group. Conduct policy brief dialogues.

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