

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-53304

Date: 13/08/2025

Title: *Socioeconomic Impact of Tuberculosis in Southwest Asia: A Meta-Analysis*

### Recommendation:

- ✓ Accept as it is .....  
 Accept after minor revision.....  
 Accept after major revision .....  
 Do not accept (*Reasons below*) .....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr. S. K. Nath

Date: 14/08/2025

### Reviewer's Comment for Publication:

The paper concludes that TB remains a significant public health challenge in Southwest Asia with profound socioeconomic repercussions. Addressing barriers such as stigma, insufficient healthcare infrastructure, and drug resistance is essential for meeting regional and global TB control targets. The authors emphasize improving public awareness, strengthening health systems, and tailoring national strategies to local contexts as critical paths forward.

### Reviewer's Comment / Report

#### Strengths

- Comprehensive Regional Focus:** The paper covers multiple countries in Southwest Asia, giving a broad perspective on TB's socioeconomic impact in this geopolitically and culturally diverse region.
- Use of Multiple Data Sources:** Selection of nine studies from various reputable databases (PubMed, Embase, Google Scholar, ScienceDirect) supports a well-rounded review.
- Identification of Key Barriers:** The paper effectively highlights critical challenges in TB control such as stigma, drug resistance, poor awareness, and inadequate healthcare infrastructure.
- Policy and Program Analysis:** It details national strategies, including India's goal for TB elimination by 2025 and strategies like DOTS, providing context for ongoing efforts.
- Inclusion of Socioeconomic Factors:** It underscores how social determinants like poverty, undernutrition, and cultural beliefs influence TB prevalence and treatment outcomes.

#### Weaknesses

- Limited Quantitative Data:** The paper mentions some incidence rates but lacks deep statistical analysis or meta-analytic synthesis to measure the socioeconomic impact quantitatively.
- Insufficient Detail on Methodology:** The criteria for selecting the nine studies are not detailed, limiting assessment of the review's rigor.
- Broad Regional Scope Limits Specificity:** While regional overview is valuable, more country-specific analysis could improve targeted policy recommendations.
- Lack of Original Data or Modeling:** The study appears primarily review-based; it does not include new data collection or modeling to assess economic impact precisely.
- Limited Discussion on Innovative Interventions:** There's minimal exploration of new or emerging strategies, such as digital health solutions, to improve TB control.