

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: **IJAR-53304**

Date: 16-08-2025

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

Recommendation:

Accept as it isYES.....

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 Aamina

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

Abstract Review:

The abstract introduces the research problem by emphasizing the lack of conclusive evidence regarding the macroeconomic impacts of tuberculosis, noting that most studies focus primarily on household- or patient-level economics. It situates the issue within the context of India by referencing the World Economic Forum's estimate of the massive annual loss of workdays due to TB. The abstract then signals that the study will focus on the broader socioeconomic burden of tuberculosis in Southwest Asia. Overall, it provides a concise yet clear rationale for the study.

Methods Review:

The methodology section outlines the selection process for the meta-analysis, specifying that nine studies were chosen after screening and excluding irrelevant ones. The databases used for sourcing studies are identified as PubMed, Embase, Google Scholar, and ScienceDirect. The description further indicates that data extraction followed a detailed review of the included studies. This demonstrates reliance on established academic databases and a structured selection process for the meta-analysis.

Introduction Review:

The introduction contextualizes tuberculosis as a pressing global public health challenge,

International Journal of Advanced Research

Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP

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REVIEWER'S REPORT

highlighting its particular impact in Southwest Asia. The countries included in the study's scope—Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Nepal—are explicitly listed, giving clarity to the geographic coverage. Reference to WHO statistics underscores the scale of TB's impact, with emphasis on its ranking among the top ten global causes of death and the significant proportion of the disease burden concentrated in Asia. The discussion then narrows to the socioeconomic vulnerabilities of the Southwest Asian region, establishing the relevance of the meta-analysis within this context.

Overall Assessment:

The abstract, methods, and introduction present a coherent framework for the study. The text highlights the gap in existing literature, outlines the methodological rigor in study selection, and situates the research within a global and regional health context. The presentation reflects clear alignment between the research objectives, methodology, and broader public health significance.
