

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-53628

Date: 30/08/2025

Title: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW ON FACTORS INFLUENCING COMPLIANCE WITH DIRECTLY OBSERVED TREATMENT, SHORT-COURSE (DOTS) FOR TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS

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: 30/08/2025

Reviewer's Comment for Publication:

The review underscores that adherence to DOTS therapy for TB is a complex, multifactorial issue intertwined with socioeconomic, behavioral, and systemic healthcare barriers. Addressing these determinants requires a holistic approach that combines clinical interventions with social support and community engagement. Strengthening healthcare systems, fostering better patient-provider relationships, and mitigating social determinants like poverty and low literacy are vital for improving compliance. Such integrated strategies are crucial for accelerating progress toward global and national TB elimination goals and achieving a TB-free world.

Reviewer's Comment / Report

Strengths

- Comprehensive Methodology:** The review employs a systematic approach following PRISMA guidelines, ensuring transparency, rigor, and reproducibility in study selection and synthesis.
- Wide Data Sources:** Uses multiple reputable databases (PubMed, Scopus, CINAHL, Google Scholar), capturing diverse and recent literature (2015-2025), which increases the reliability of findings.
- Thematic Synthesis:** Clear categorization of determinants into socioeconomic, personal, behavioral, and healthcare system factors allows for structured understanding.
- Context-Specific Insights:** Focus on Indian urban settings aligns with national TB control programs, making findings highly relevant for policymakers.
- Emphasis on Multi-sectoral Strategies:** Highlights the importance of integrating social, economic, and healthcare interventions, advocating for patient-centered and community-based approaches.

Weaknesses

- Limited Geographic Scope:** While focused on India, the findings may not be entirely generalizable to other regions with different healthcare systems and social determinants.
- Limited Primary Data:** The review primarily synthesizes existing studies and external sources; original data or longitudinal analyses are lacking, which can limit causal inferences.
- Potential Bias in Study Selection:** Despite systematic methods, there might be publication bias or language restrictions affecting included studies.
- Focus on Drug-Sensitive TB:** Excludes drug-resistant TB populations, which are a significant part of the global TB burden, limiting scope.
- Inconsistent Measure of Adherence:** Variability in how different studies define and measure adherence may affect the comparability of findings.