

Peer Review

Review of: "Cognitive Screening Tools for Dementia Detection in Primary Healthcare Centers in India: A Scoping Review"

Donna De Levante Raphael¹

1. National memory Screening Program, Alzheimer's Foundation of America, New York, United States

Hello Jeevitha Gowda,

As a professional in the field of Gerontology focused on Alzheimer's disease and its impact on public health, I am always looking for researchers interested in the issues we have regarding the limits and non-inclusion of the cognitive assessment tools. Your scoping review provides a timely and comprehensive analysis of cognitive screening tools for dementia detection in primary health care centers in India. Given the increasing problem of dementia, and the critical role of early detection in improving patient outcomes, your study addresses an important public health concern. In your manuscript, you have systematically mapped

The available screening tools, their applicability in the Indian healthcare context, and key challenges associated with implementation.

Relevance and Importance:

- **Strengths:** The review addresses a crucial issue in public health, particularly in India, where dementia rates are increasing, but awareness and diagnostic frameworks remain underdeveloped. The need for effective cognitive screening tools in primary care is paramount, as early detection significantly impacts patient management.
- **Suggestion:** Consider discussing how the findings might influence policy, training, or healthcare infrastructure improvements at a broader national level. This would help demonstrate the practical impact of the review beyond the academic audience.

Strengths:

Comprehensive literature and thesis: the review effectively synthesizes existing cognitive screening tools, highlighting their strengths, limitations, and feasibility within the resource-constrained settings of primary healthcare centers in India. Comprehensive literature and thesis: the review effectively synthesizes existing cognitive screening tools, highlighting their strengths, limitations, and feasibility within the resource-constrained settings of primary healthcare centers in India.

Methodology Rigor:

As a professional in the field of Gerontology focused on Alzheimer's disease and its impact on public health, I am always looking for researchers interested in the issues we have regarding the limits and non-inclusion of the cognitive assessment tools. Your scoping review provides a timely and comprehensive analysis of cognitive screening tools for dementia detection in primary health care centers in India. Given the increasing problem of dementia, and the critical role of early detection in improving patient outcomes, your study addresses an important public health concern. In your manuscript, you have systematically mapped

Search Strategy

- **Strengths:** The inclusion of various databases (e.g., PubMed, Google Scholar, and local Indian databases) enhances the comprehensiveness of the review. Mentioning the search terms used adds transparency and replicability to the process.
- **Suggestion:** Consider specifying how the inclusion and exclusion criteria were developed. Were any specific types of studies, such as RCTs, cohort studies, or qualitative research, prioritized? This can help clarify the types of evidence reviewed.

Results and Discussion:**Cognitive Screening Tools**

- **Strengths:** The review covers a wide variety of tools, such as the Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE), Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA), and other locally adapted instruments. This is important, as it acknowledges the diversity of diagnostic methods that might be more relevant in an Indian context.
- **Suggestion:** It would be helpful to include a comparative analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of each tool in terms of cultural appropriateness, ease of administration, and validity in Indian

populations. For instance, do some tools work better in rural areas compared to urban settings?

Accessibility and Feasibility:

- **Strengths:** Including an evaluation of the accessibility and feasibility of these tools in primary healthcare centers in India is a great strength of the paper.
- **Suggestion:** More detailed insight into the challenges faced by healthcare workers in administering these tools (e.g., lack of training, time constraints, language barriers) would make the discussion richer. Additionally, it would be valuable to explore any technological or digital solutions that might help address these challenges (e.g., mobile health apps).

Identification of Gaps and Future Directions:

Strengths: The study does an excellent job of identifying gaps in existing research, such as a need for culturally validated, resource-efficient tools suitable for non-specialist healthcare providers.

- **Suggestion:** It would be beneficial to include recommendations for future research directions, such as the need for longitudinal studies to test the validity of cognitive screening tools over time in diverse populations.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.