

Peer Review

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

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The study addresses a crucial public health issue by evaluating cognitive screening tools for dementia detection in primary healthcare (PHC) settings in India. While the paper is well-structured and provides valuable insights, I have several comments and suggestions for improvement.

1. Lack of Critical Evaluation of Tool Validation in the Indian Context

The review presents a comprehensive list of cognitive screening tools but does not critically assess their validation within Indian PHC settings. Provide more details on whether these tools have been tested and validated in Indian populations, particularly among low-literacy and rural groups. If data are unavailable, discuss the implications and gaps in validation research.

2. Need for Quantitative Analysis or Comparative Evaluation

While the paper discusses tool effectiveness in general terms, it lacks a structured comparison of sensitivity, specificity, and other performance metrics. A comparative table or synthesis of the most effective tools based on available quantitative evidence would enhance the paper's analytical depth. If a formal meta-analysis is not feasible, a discussion on relative effectiveness based on reported data should be included.

3. Limited Scope Due to English-Only Literature

The exclusion of non-English sources limits the comprehensiveness of the review. Some important studies on cognitive screening in India may exist in Hindi or regional languages. Acknowledge this limitation explicitly and discuss potential implications.

4. Clarity in the Methods Section

The eligibility criteria mention the PCC framework, but its application is not clearly explained. Briefly clarify how each component (Participants, Concept, Context) was used to select studies.

5. Standardization of Terminology

The manuscript inconsistently refers to "cognitive screening tools," "dementia screening," and "cognitive assessments." Maintain consistency in terminology throughout the paper to avoid confusion.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.