

Faculty Development Program – February 2023- Report

The faculty development program was conducted by MEU department on Tuesday, 21/02/2023 at Sapphire Hall in Vallil Chathukutty Memorial Block at Malabar Medical College Campus from 09:00 am to 11:00 am.

The topic was **Systemic Review and Meta-analysis.**

The resource person was **Dr. Saritha Susan Vargese** who is an Associate Professor in Community Medicine, Believers Church Medical College, Kerala, India. She holds an MD in Community Medicine, Masters in Dementia studies from University of Stirling, Scotland with Commonwealth scholarship and is currently a doctoral researcher in Gerontology at Tampere University, Finland. She serves as the Deputy Director of Pushpagiri Centre for Evidence Based Practice: A Centre of Excellence under Joanna Briggs Institute, Australia, first of its kind in Kerala. She is an accredited trainer for Comprehensive systematic review training program. In 2022, she was awarded PRIIA fellowship from the University of Pittsburgh and she is working on a research project on mild cognitive impairment under the program. Recently she was selected to the Bernard Lown Program at Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Vargese's research interests include Ageing and non-communicable diseases with special focus on Dementia, implementation research and Evidence synthesis. She

is currently the Principal Investigator (2 projects) and Co investigator (2 projects) of ICMR funded projects.

The resource person joined the meeting through virtual meet via Google Meet, while all other faculties were at Sapphire Hall.

Dr. George P Jacob from Department of Community Medicine was the moderator. The meeting started by welcoming all the faculties to the meeting by the MEU Coordinator, Dr. Rijesh P. Prof. George then introduced the topic to audience and also introduced our resource person to audience.

Dr. Saritha started her talk by telling about the history of Evidence based healthcare, the dilemma of decision making in patient care based on current evidences and importance of Systemic review in this context.

Definition of Systematic Review as per Cochrane Handbook was introduced as "attempts to collate all empirical evidence that fits pre-specified eligibility criteria in order to answer a specific research question. It uses explicit, systematic methods that are selected with a view to minimizing bias, thus providing more reliable findings from which conclusions can be drawn and decisions made."

The steps of systemic review were then emphasised, which were

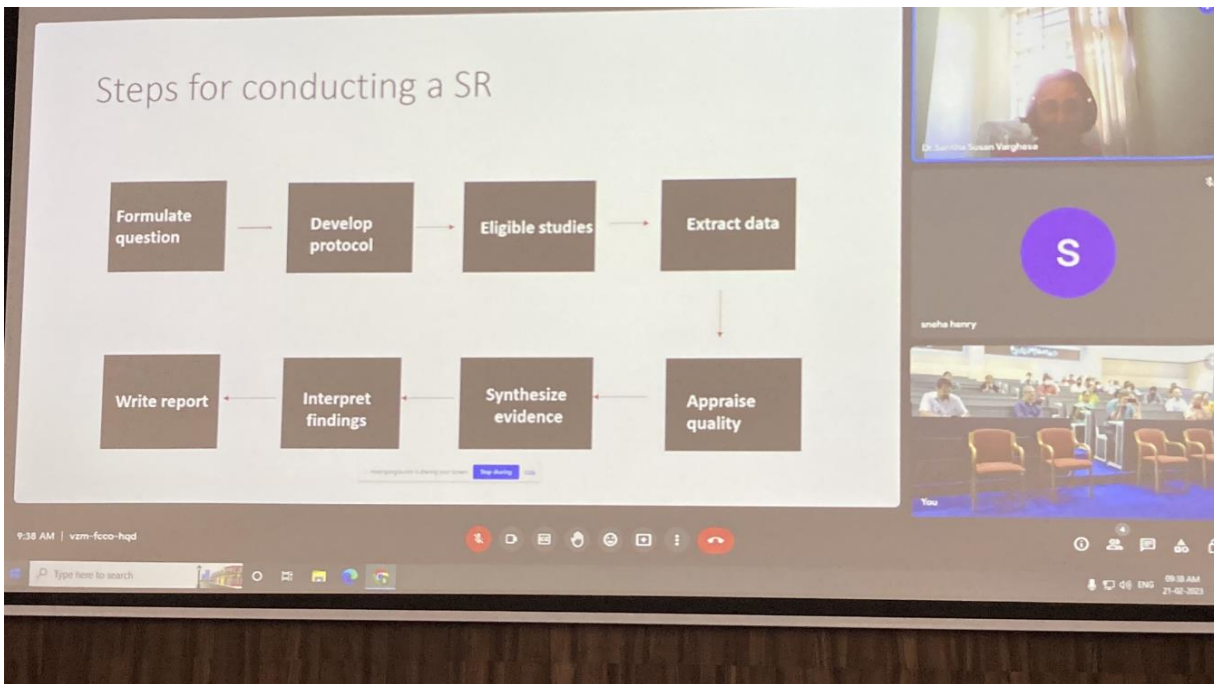
1. Formulate question
2. Develop protocol
3. Eligible studies
4. Extract data
5. Write report
6. Interpret findings
7. Synthesize evidence
8. Appraise quality

After this the need for meta-analysis was discussed and was emphasised that meta-analysis is only a component of systemic review. She introduced how to interpret I^2 .

She also delved on grading of evidence.

After conclusion, the moderator opened the meet for discussion on various queries by faculty members.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks by MEU Coordinator and address by the Principal of MMC, Prof PV Narayanan.



Meu Coordinator

Principal