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Disaster health management competencies for physiotherapists in India : A scoping review protocol

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Support - Nil.

Review Stage at time of this submission - Preliminary searches.

Conflicts of interest - None declared.

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Amendments - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 25 August 2024 and was last updated on 25 August 2024.

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective To determine the competencies of disaster health management among physiotherapists in India.

Background A disaster is defined as "a catastrophe, mishap, calamity, or grave occurrence in any area, arising from a natural or man-made cause, or by accident or negligence, which results in substantial loss of life or human suffering, damage to and destruction of property, damage to or degradation of the environment, and is of such a nature or magnitude as to be beyond the coping capacity of the community of the affected area" by the Disaster Management Act of 2005. When creating creative disaster management solutions, the timeline for a crisis is crucial. Three phases of disaster management were identified by Quarantelli in 1980: pre-impact, trans-impact, and post-impact. Disaster management includes victim rehabilitation as well as prevention, mitigation,

response, and recovery. Determining the roles and responsibilities of healthcare staff is always crucial for disaster health management. On the other hand, competency is characterised as a complex blend of information, attitudes, and abilities that people exhibit and that are essential for executing their roles and responsibilities efficiently.

An efficient disaster health workforce should be made up of individuals and groups with various skills that regularly fulfil their assigned duties well. Recent improvements in physiotherapy research, education, and practice have led to physiotherapists undertaking new emergent responsibilities, as allied healthcare professionals support the medical team during any catastrophic health crisis. Core physiotherapy competencies are necessary for physiotherapists to manage disaster health as part of a multidisciplinary disaster health workforce team.

Rationale Disaster management necessitates an enormous workforce from several professional domains. Health care providers and support staff

must be prepared for disasters in order to protect themselves and the community. The World Confederation of Physical Therapy (WCPT) also encourages physical therapy professionals to contribute to strategies for disaster management and provides a variety of information on humanitarian response to disasters. There is a need to broaden their role in disaster management, support their involvement in Emergency Medical Teams (EMT), and emphasise the importance of establishing or developing physical therapy services in areas affected by disasters. Numerous studies on disaster preparedness and practices are carried out among healthcare professionals in India and around the world. However, very little research has been done to understand the competencies related to disasters among Indian physiotherapy professionals.

METHODS

Strategy of data synthesis A review will be carried out in accordance with the PRISMA criteria, with keywords searched in online databases such as PubMed, PEDro, Medline, Scopus, ResearchGate, and Google Scholar.

Eligibility criteria The study will include English articles, book chapters, and grey literature from 2018 to 2023 using a combination of MESH and Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT).

Source of evidence screening and selection Data will be searched in electronic databases such as PubMed, PEDro, Medline, Scopus, ResearchGate, and Google Scholar, using the terms "Physical Therapists" OR "Physiotherapists" OR "Physical Therapy" OR "Physiotherapy" OR "Allied Health Professionals" OR "Paramedical" OR "Paramedics" AND "Disaster Management" OR "Disaster Health Management" AND "Competencies" OR "Competency" in all fields. The search will include review articles or articles in English in the Web of Science (WoS) database. The selection of studies will occur in two phases. Initially, two independent reviewers will screen the titles and abstract records. Full-text articles will be obtained for eligible records. In second phase, two independent reviewers will screen full-text articles. If there is a disagreement on whether the record should be included at any stage, a third reviewer will be involved..

Data management All screened article details like author, article type, citations, country, digital object identifier, impact factor, journal, institution, keywords, sample size, study type, title, and year of publication will be exported from the WoS in text

file format and further summarised and analysed using the WPS office. All WoS database records will be saved as text files and then imported into the VOS viewer for further examination.

Reporting results / Analysis of the evidence All WoS database records will be saved as text files and then imported into the VOS viewer for further analysis.

Presentation of the results The total findings are around 654, document type: - (Articles: -503, Review Articles: - 56, and remaining 25), and we restricted to English only. The annual number of research articles in Disaster Health Management and Competencies in Physiotherapy has expanded considerably over the preceding decade. The year 2022 had the most publications, with 89, while 2014 had the fewest, with 22. The most citations were noticed in 2022, with 89 citations observed each year.

Language restriction English.

Country(ies) involved India.

Keywords "Physical Therapists" , "Physiotherapists" , "Physical Therapy" , "Physiotherapy" , "Disaster Management" , "Disaster Health Management" , "Competency" , "Competencies".

Dissemination plans Introduction and review of literature: 2 months, result writing: 1 month; and discussion 1 month.

Contributions of each author

Author 1 - JYOTI SHARMA - Author 1 will draft the manuscript.

Email: jsharmaphysio@gmail.com

Author 2 - AKSH CHAHAL - Author 2 will contribute to the screening of eligibility criteria and data extraction.

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