

**Concept paper for – [insert title of the project here]**

*Insert name of primary investigator here*

**Background - justification** *[This section should have linked references]*

- Review in a first bullet the global consequences of the health problem being examined in terms of death, disability, effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of interventions.<sup>1</sup> Avoid general statements<sup>2</sup> and provide quantified data when available. Follow by explaining how this problem affects the place where the research is being considered.<sup>3</sup>
- Provide information on completed, ongoing or planned prevention/control efforts (or treatment options) targeting this problem in South Asia, India<sup>4</sup> and / or the State/Place<sup>5</sup> where the research will be conducted.
- Specify (1) the information needs of different stakeholders (health professionals/public/health programme/policy makers/implementers/community...) to improve this health problem (2) why currently available information is insufficient

**Objectives**

- Spell out primary objective. Make sure that you make it clear whether you propose to *estimate a quantity* (e.g., prevalence, incidence) or whether you propose to *test a hypothesis*.
- Spell out secondary objective (s). Clearly distinguish secondary from the primary objectives

**Proposed methods** *[Refer to [www.equator-network.org](http://www.equator-network.org) for specific requirements for specific type of studies]*

Study population

- Specify the population in which you will undertake the study (State, district, population size)

Study design

- Describe the type of study (e.g., survey, case-control study, clinical trial) in one short bullet

Operational definitions

- Provide information regarding the key operational definitions, criteria and / or participant recruitment strategy that you will be using.

Sampling procedure

- Describe the type of sampling you will be using

Sample size

- Briefly mention your sample size and the main assumptions you used to calculate it. This should contain enough information for the reader to redo the calculations to check the estimate.

Data collection

- Explain shortly who will collect what kind of data, what the timeline is and what quality assurance mechanism will be used.

Analysis plan

- Summarize the type of analysis (e.g., descriptive, analytical, stratified, multivariate) that you plan to carry out. Mention laboratory analysis if they will be part of the study.

Human participant protection

- Mention key measures taken to ensure the protection of human participants in your study and whether ethics committee review will be needed, expedited or not needed (exempt).

**Expected benefits**

- Describe the expected output (e.g., reports) that this study will generate and the timeline.
- Describe the expected outcome: How this study will influence prevention and control activities or management of this problem in question in the area where the research will be conducted.

**References** *[As per standard guidelines (refer to [www.icmje.org](http://www.icmje.org)), not more than 5]*

1. United Nations, Title, 2011
2. WHO, Title, Place 2011
3. X, Y, Z *et al.* Achieving the programme objectives. India International. 2011;12:22-26
4. Govt. of India, Title, Place 2010
5. Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Title, Place, 2011

**Budget (Optional)**

- Staff (Salary and per diem): A XX,XXX
- Transport: A XX,XXX
- Supplies (e.g., laboratory reagents, stationary and others): A X,XXX
- Miscellaneous: A XX,XXX

**Total amount needed: A X,XX,XXX**