Evolution of Tuberculosis Vaccine Modelling studies: Insights from studies in India

Ruchita Jalal¹, Adhin Bhaskar^{2,},Gabriela Gomez¹, Surabhi Pandey³, Saif ul Hadi¹, Malaisamy Muniyandi², Rajat Goyal¹, Nimalan Arinaminpathy⁴, Jessy Joseph¹

¹International Aids Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), ²ICMR-National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis, Chennai, India, ³Independent consultant, ⁴World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva

Background

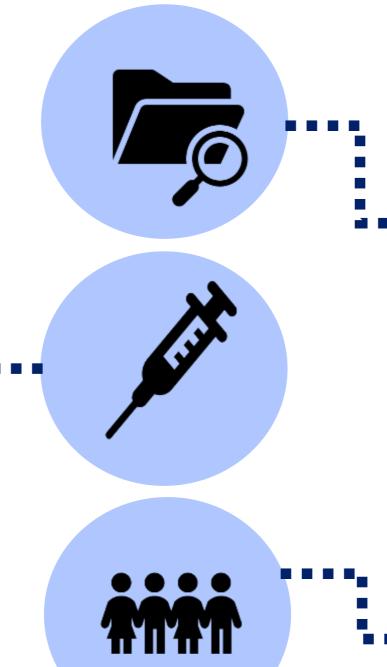
- > TB remains a major global health challenge.
- > New TB vaccines are recognized as a priority tool to meet global TB targets and a robust vaccine pipeline.
- Mathematical models can provide insight into the epidemiological and economic impacts of vaccine rollout.
- > Reviewing these models will help policymakers better understand the quality of modelling evidence and inform future strategies.

Methods

- > Focusing on India, we performed a **scoping review** to identify and evaluate studies that have used mathematical modeling to assess the epidemiological and economic impact of TB vaccine introduction in India.
- \geq By reviewing these studies, we thus aimed to gain a comprehensive understanding of the current evidence base and identify areas for future research.

Results

- Vaccines Modelled: Most studies (72%) evaluated prevention-of-disease (PoD) vaccines; some also considered prevention-of-infection (Pol) vaccines.
- Efficacies & Impact: Modelled vaccine efficacies ranged from 50-80%.
- **Disease impact:** POD vaccines were projected to prevent millions of TB cases and deaths by 2050.
- **Economic Impact**: Vaccine introduction estimated to be cost-effective (against a comparator of no vaccine), especially in adults.

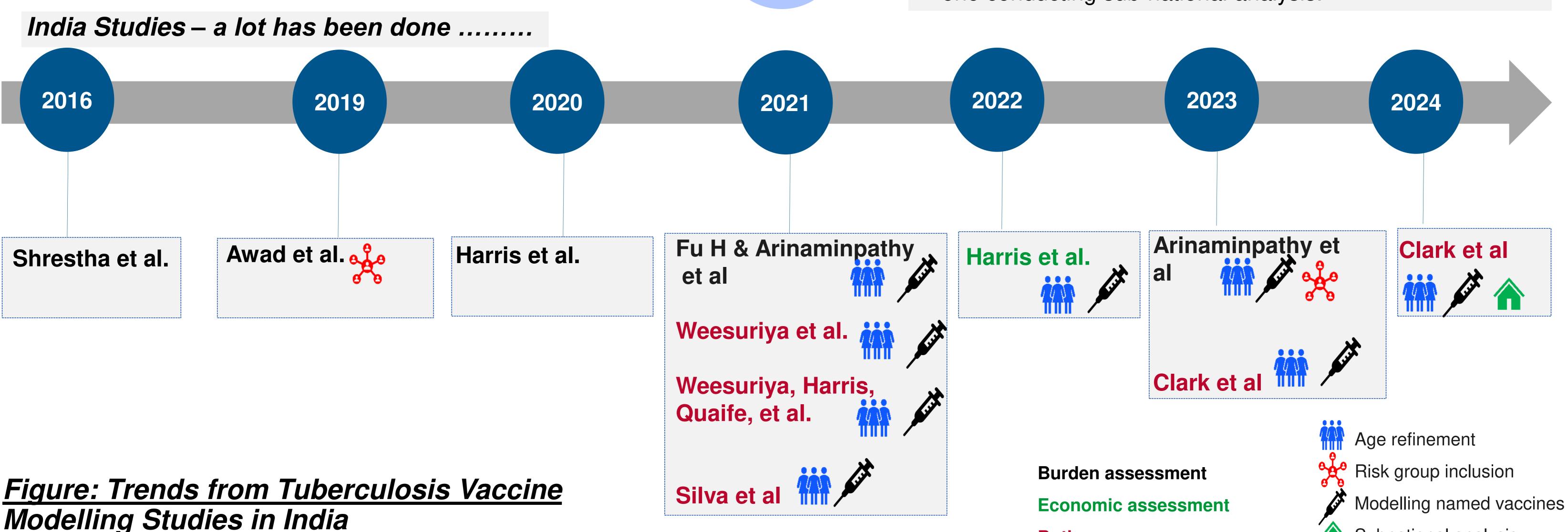


- From 2014 to date, eleven modelling studies were published
- Five focused on disease impact, one on economic impact, and five on both.
- **Target Populations**: Focus on adolescents and adults; most models simulated mass vaccination campaigns combined with routine immunizations.

Notable trends over time include:

- Incorporation of more **refined age structures**
- Incorporation of **risk groups** as potential targets for prioritisation (more recently)
- Moving from hypothetical to named vaccines.

Most studies adopted a national perspective, with only one conducting sub-national analysis.



Ruchita Jalal

Rjalal@iavi.org

Conclusion

- > Synthesis of these modeling studies reveals an evolution in target populations, interventions, and rollout strategies, driven by prioritisation of risk groups, advancements in the vaccine pipeline, varying coverage levels, and delivery mechanisms.
- > However, persisting gaps include inadequate inclusion of at-risk demographics as well as the integration of vaccines with emerging programmatic strategies for diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. Addressing these gaps in future modeling studies holds promise for maximising benefits within available resources by enabling country specific decision making.

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