

EVIDENCE on WOMEN's GROUPS on HEALTH AND NUTRITION OUTCOMES

A mixed methods systematic review



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Objectives and Methods



Rationale for review

- 1) No systematic review of evidence on women's groups across health domains in India
- 2) Need to distill lessons for programs at scale by understanding barriers and enablers



Objectives of the review

- 1) What impacts have women's groups interventions had on women's and children's health in India?
- 2) What barriers and enablers related to context, mechanisms and outcomes explain these effects?

Methods

Systematic search and extraction

Map health outcomes by domain and intervention type

Quality appraisal

Identify SBC techniques (Kok et al)

Critical summary of enablers and barriers

92 Studies

16 RCTs

22 Quasi-experimental

28 Quantitative, observational

26 Qualitative

Domains

Maternal and Newborn Health

Nutrition

Sexual Health/HIV

Vector-borne disease

Violence against women

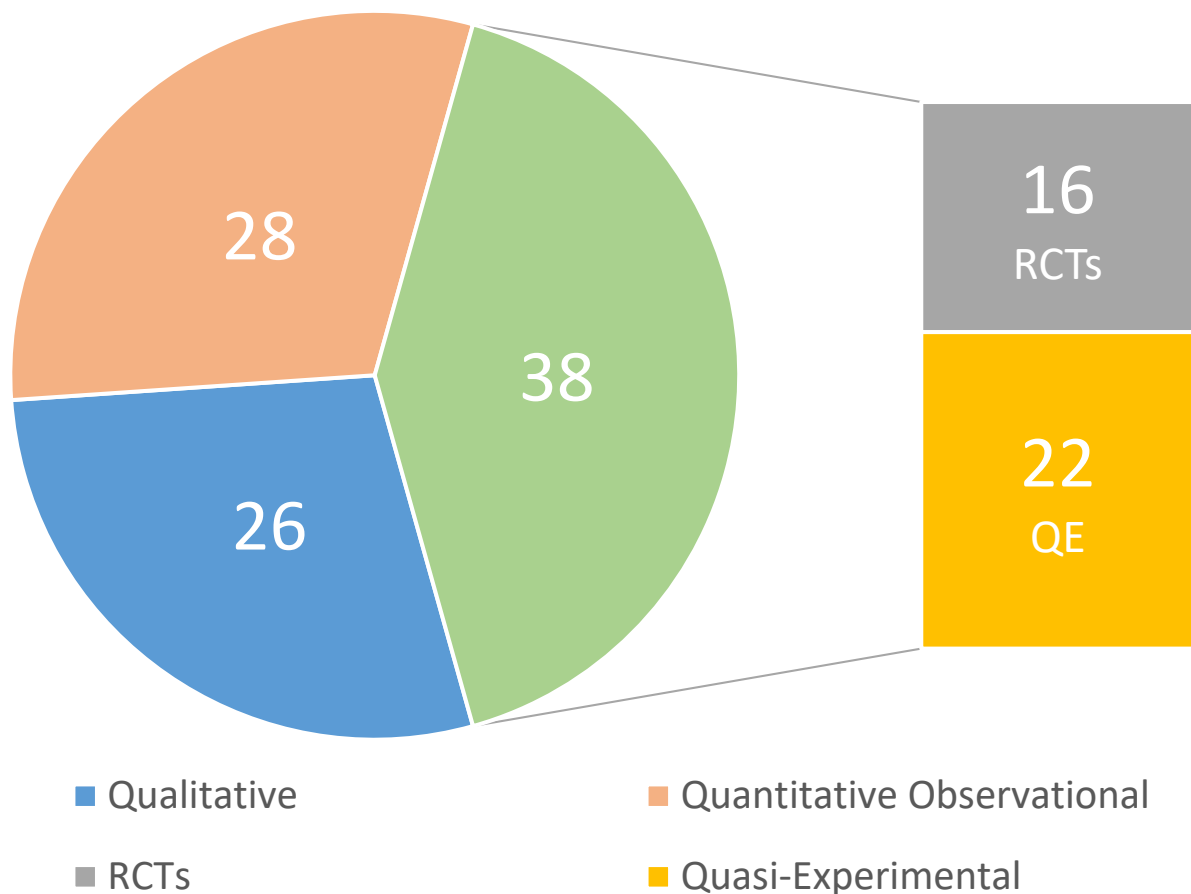
Health expenditure

Mental health

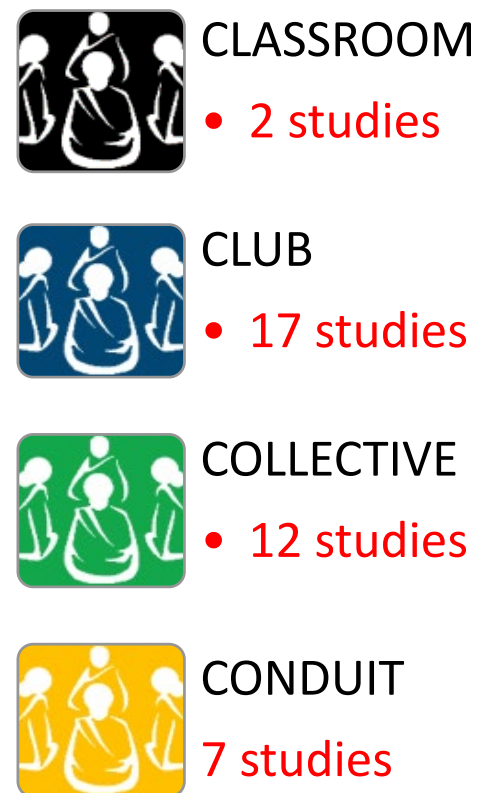


Studies by method (n=92) and group typology (n=38)

Methods



Group Typology

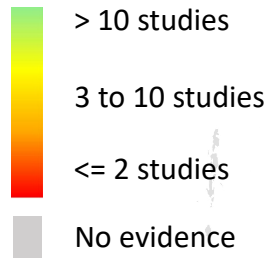
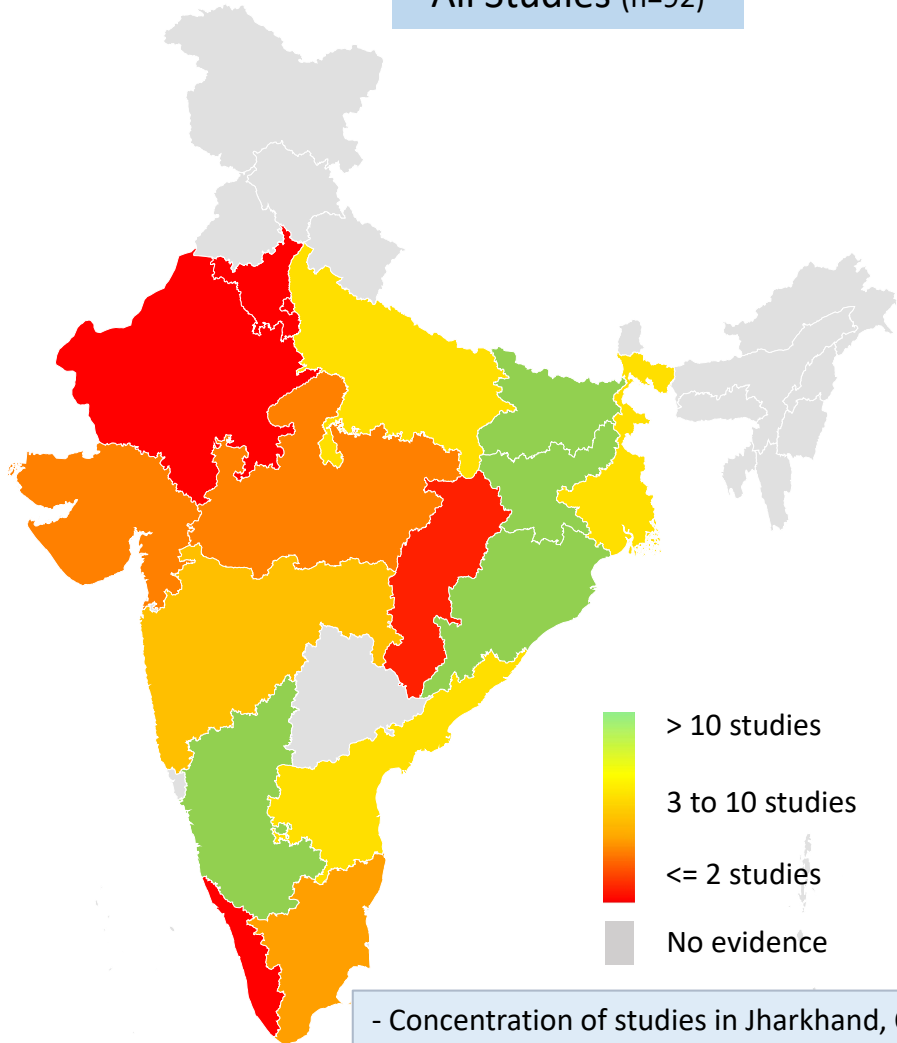


Note: These typologies are only for the Impact Evaluations (N=38)



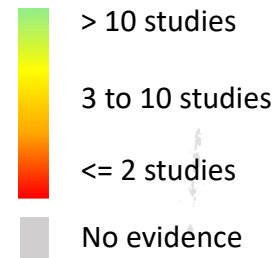
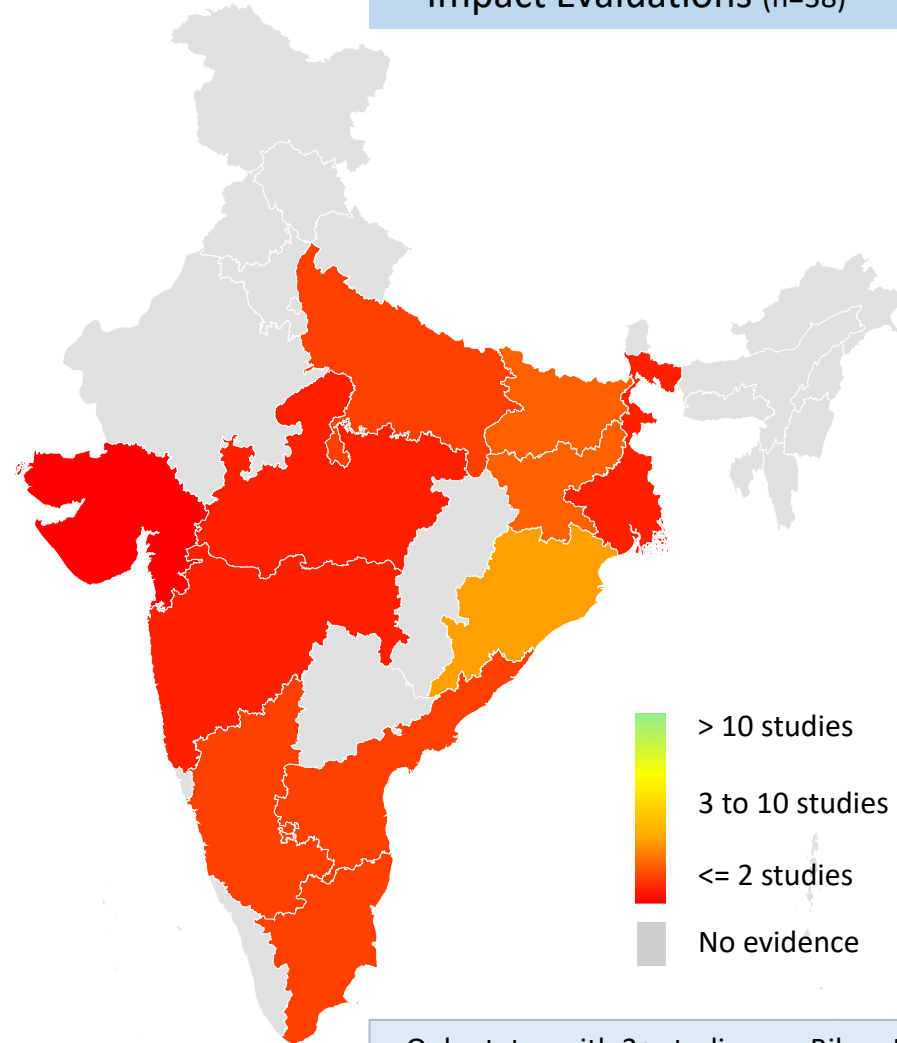
Evidence Map

All Studies (n=92)

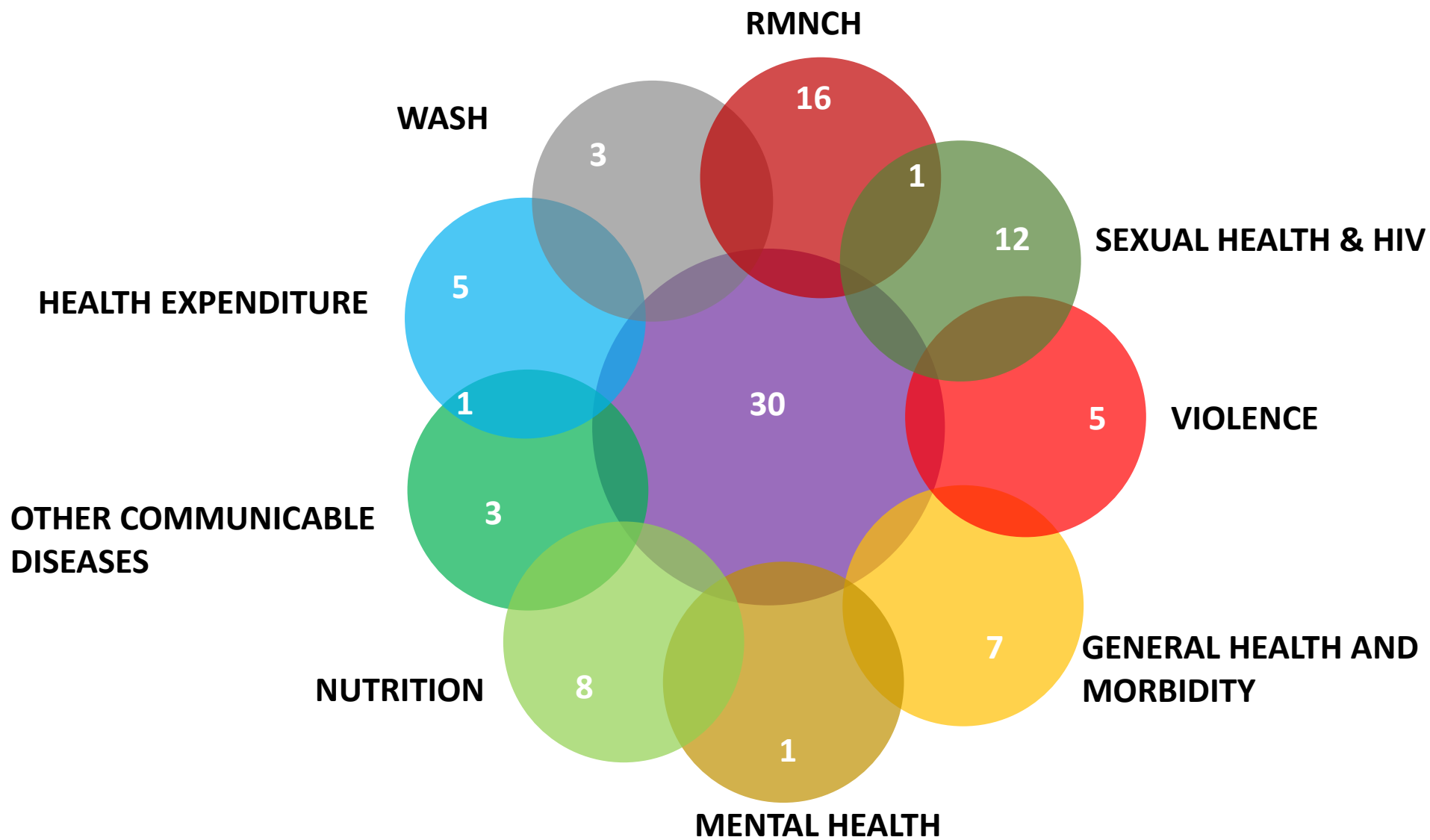


- Concentration of studies in Jharkhand, Odisha and Bihar
- Little evidence from Kerala and Chhattisgarh
- No evidence from NE, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal, Rajasthan

Impact Evaluations (n=38)



- Only states with 3+ studies are Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha
- No evidence from Chhattisgarh, NE and Kerala, Rajasthan








Findings on maternal and newborn health: Variation by approach, context and scale

Group type	Studies	Model	Effects on NMR
COLLECTIVE 	Tripathy et al (2010) Tripathy et al (2016) More et al (2014) Kumar et al (2008)	PLA, NGO – Rural PLA, NGO+ Govt – Rural PLA, NGO – Urban Comm mob, NGO – Rural	AOR: 0.68, (0.59-0.78) AOR: 0.54 (0.36-0.80) AOR 1.42 (0.99-2.04) AOR 0.46 (0.35–0.60) Reduced NMR in rural, but not urban setting
CONDUIT 	Acharya et al (2015)	Govt CHW+ meetings, at scale	AOR: 0.98 (0.81, 1.19) Scaled up model had no effect on NMR
CLUB 	Saggurti et al (2019)	Govt SHG+ health education	Clean cord care: 1.9 (1.5,2.3) Skin-to-skin care: 1.8 (1.5,2.3) Breastfeeding: 1.3 (1.0,1.7) Delayed bathing: 2.3 (1.8,2.9) Changes in SHG members' behaviour (no evidence of effects on mortality)






Nutrition: Improvements in behaviour with variations in level, intensity and role of supply

Group type	Studies	Model	Effects
COLLECTIVE 	Tripathy et al (2010) More et al (2012) Subramanyam et al (2010) Nair et al (2017) Gope et al (2019)	PLA, NGO PLA, NGO+Govt PLA, Govt PLA PLA (+ creche)	(+) Breastfeeding No effect on breastfeeding No effect on RMNCH outcomes (+) min dietary diversity (-) underweight No effect on stunting, care-seeking (-) wasting, underweight, stunting Mixed effects, largely due to coverage, intensity and addressing supply
CONDUIT 	Acharya et al (2015)	CHW+ meetings	(+) ANC and IFA. Effect on supply-dependent behaviour at population level
	Saggurti et al (2018) Saha et al (2016) Prennushi and Gupta (2014)	Govt SHG+ health NGO MF + health SHG (no health)	(+) Breastfeeding (+) Breastfeeding Effect on reported supply-independent behaviour amongst members No effect on breastfeeding



VAW: Most evaluations report no effect on incidence

Group type	Studies	Model	Effects
COLLECTIVE 	Subramanyam et al (2017) More et al (2017)	SHG + PLA Home visits, group meeting, service provision	No effect on VAW Afraid of husband – B/ SE 0.0002 (0.0071) Push/ shake/ throw at wife – B/SE -0.0184 (0.0151) Kick/ Drag/ beat wife –B/SE -0.0344 (0.0142) Choke/burn wife –B/SE -0.015 (0.0098) Forced sexual activity –B/ SE -0.0206 (0.0104) Reported VAW in last 1yr – OR (95% CI) 0.85 (0.44-1.64)
CONDUIT 	Jeejebhoy et al 2017	SHG + peer mentors	Emotional violence (AOR 1.72 (1.22, 2.42)) Physical violence: AOR 0.96 (0.71, 1.29) Sexual violence AOR 1.17 (0.71, 1.91)
CLUB 	Yaron et al 2017 Prillaman et al 2017	SHG	(-) Reduction in VAW (index of DV) - 4.0796 No effect on VAW -0.092 (SE 0.074) (improvements in decision making for women reg consumption, daily tasks and children's education)

OUTCOME CHARACTERISTICS

Issue relevant to participants

Independent of supply-side issues

Focus on fewer outcomes within a single domain

GROUP TYPE

Open groups

Include poorest and most vulnerable

FACILITATION

Experienced facilitator (FLW facilitates/ attends)

Trusted and from within the community

Sufficient staff to cover population

Paid

GROUP MEETINGS

Sufficient time to discuss health

Intention to address health

INTERVENTION DESIGN

Beyond information dissemination

Problem-solving, participatory activities

Leverage local practices and beliefs

Contextually relevant, easy to understand material