

Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Researcher Collaboration (SPARC)

Public Health Evidence South Asia (PHESA), Prasanna School of Public Health (PSPH), Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), and Manipal College of Nursing (MCON), MAHE, recently received the prestigious Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Researcher Collaboration (SPARC) grant. SPARC is a Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India initiative that aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian institutions and the best institutions in the world. Title of the project is '**Indigenizing Evidence Synthesis and Systematic Reviews for International Development and Global Challenges**' with the main aim of capacity building of the researchers and academic faculty in evidence synthesis by incorporating the latest developments in systematic reviews viz. automation and machine learning. This project also concentrates on strengthening and promoting evidence policy for India in the area of public health, social, and health sciences. During the project research scholars, early career researchers, post graduate students and faculty from MAHE will be trained by experienced researchers and staff from the University College London (UCL), UK; in new methods for evidence synthesis. Also during the project, essential resource material relevant to India for high quality research in the domain of evidence synthesis will be developed, sustainable research activities and programmes in the area of evidence synthesis in India will be designed and implemented. Collaborative workshops between MAHE and UCL will be organized for consolidation of bilateral cooperation through academic and research partnerships between India and U.K.

The project will be operational for two years and the main collaborators for the project are PHESA; MCON; EPPI-Centre; Department of Social Science Research Unit, UCL, UK.