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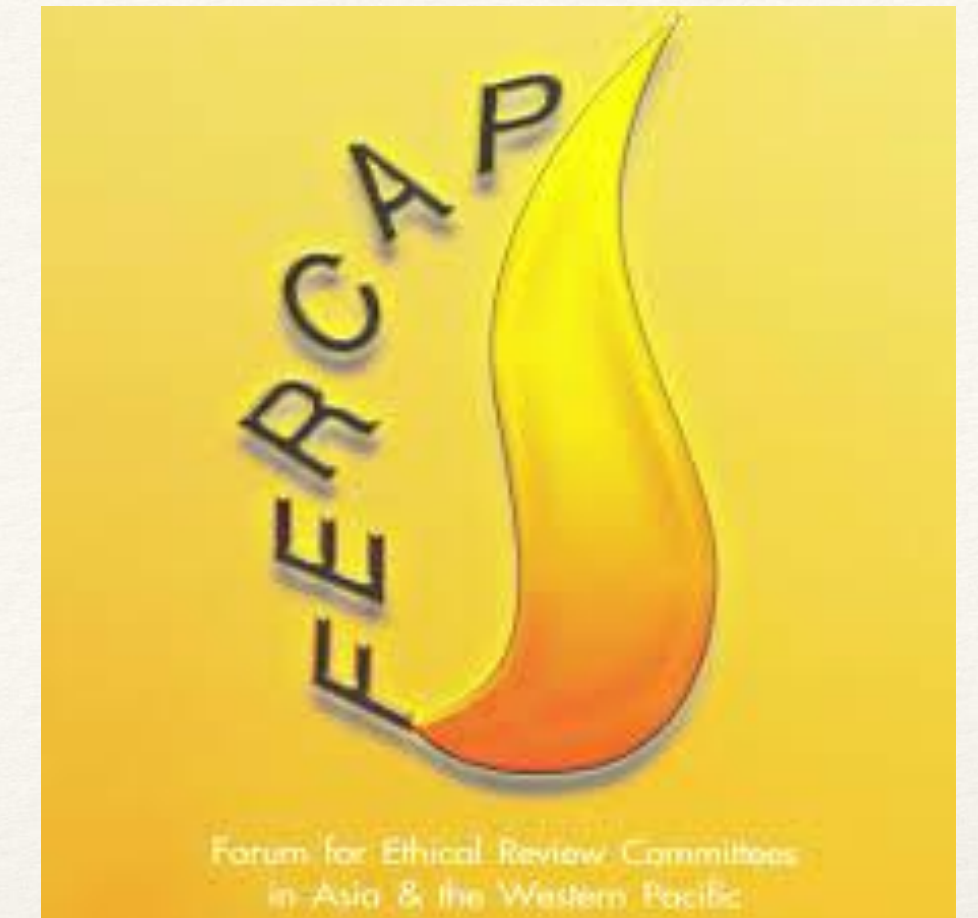
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Medical officer in internal medicine for over 5 years before
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FERCAP Presentation 2024

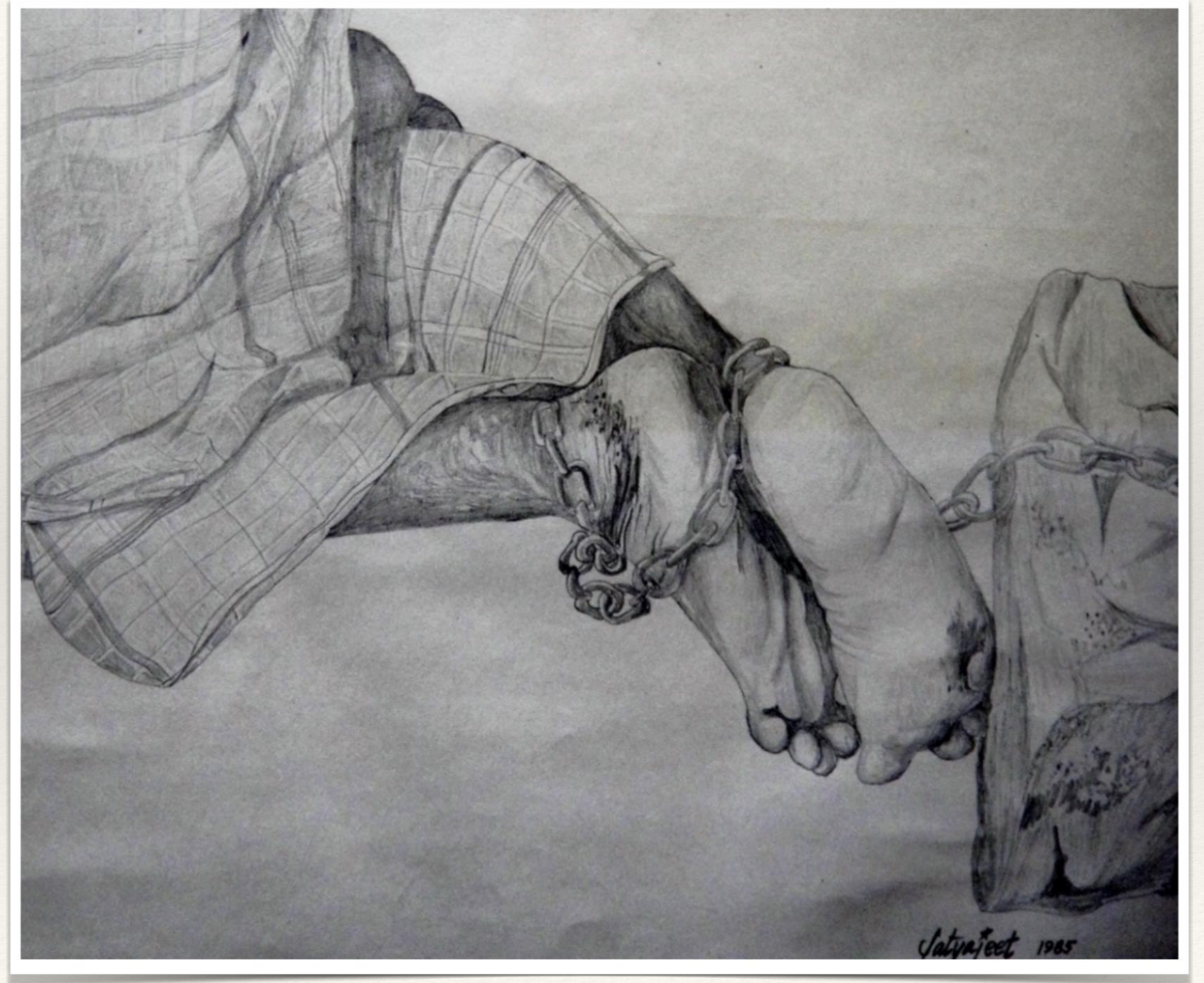
Recruitment Strategies in Health Research in Prison

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Presentation Outline

- Introduction & background
 - Research involving prisoners: a historical perspective
 - Prison population
- Review objectives
- Review methodology
- Results and discussion
- Review strengths and limitations
- Conclusion



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Introduction

Chronological Development of Guidelines for
Conducting Research





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Human Rights Instruments

UNIVERSAL INSTRUMENT

Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners

ADOPTED

14 December 1990

BY

General Assembly resolution 45/111

- ❖ All prisoners shall be treated with the respect due to their inherent dignity and value as human beings.
- ❖ There shall be no discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
- ❖ Prisoners shall have access to the health services available in the country without discrimination on the grounds of their legal situation.

- ❖ **Institutionalized persons** including prisoners are considered vulnerable because, in a confined setting, they have few options and are denied certain freedoms that non-institutionalised persons enjoy.
- ❖ “And inherently coercive environment”
- ❖ **Dependent relationship** between prisoners and prison guards which may compromise the voluntariness of informed consent.

International Ethical Guidelines for Health-related Research Involving Humans

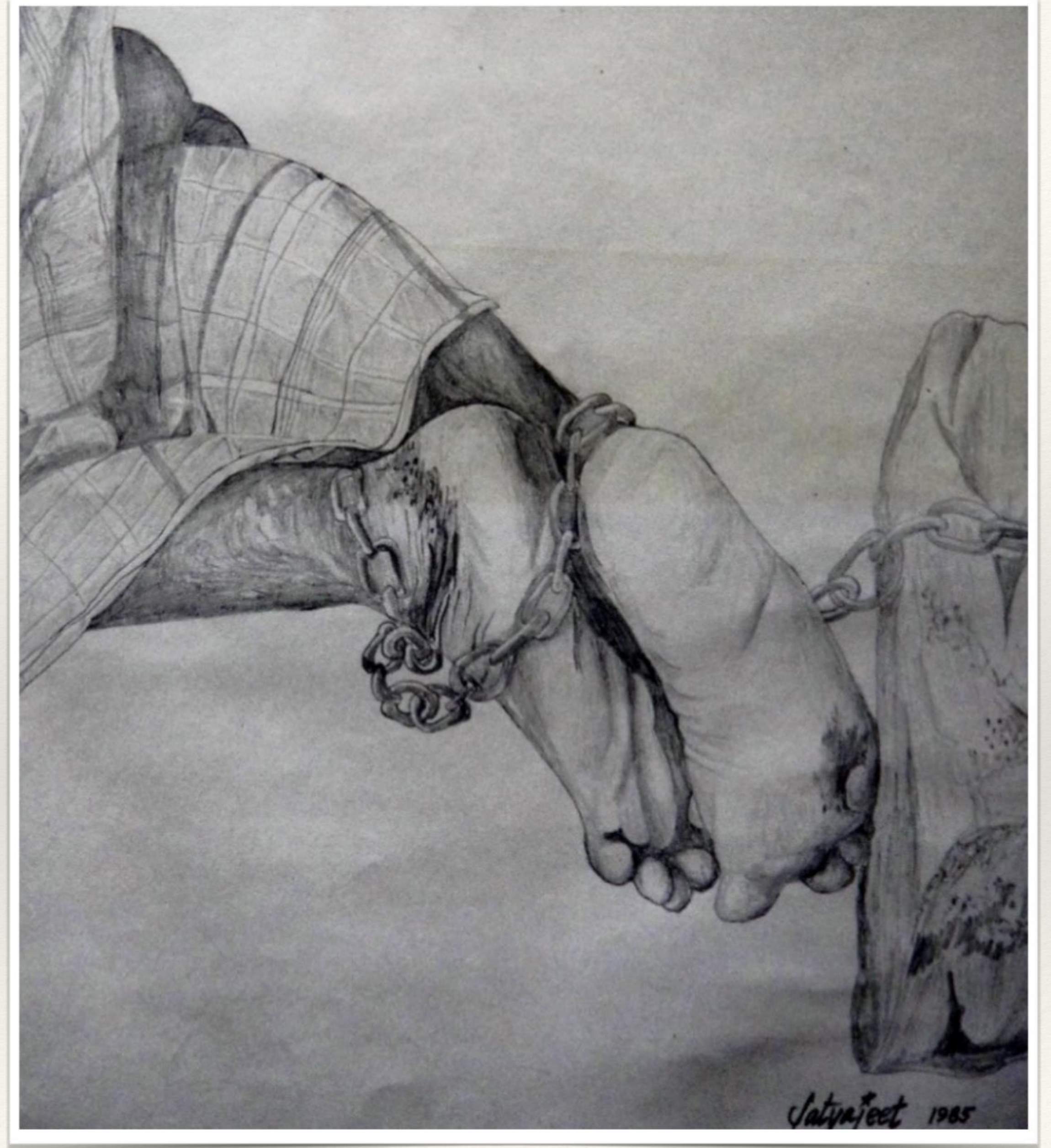
Prepared by the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO)



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Prison Population Background

Prison population statistics
Reality of health in prison



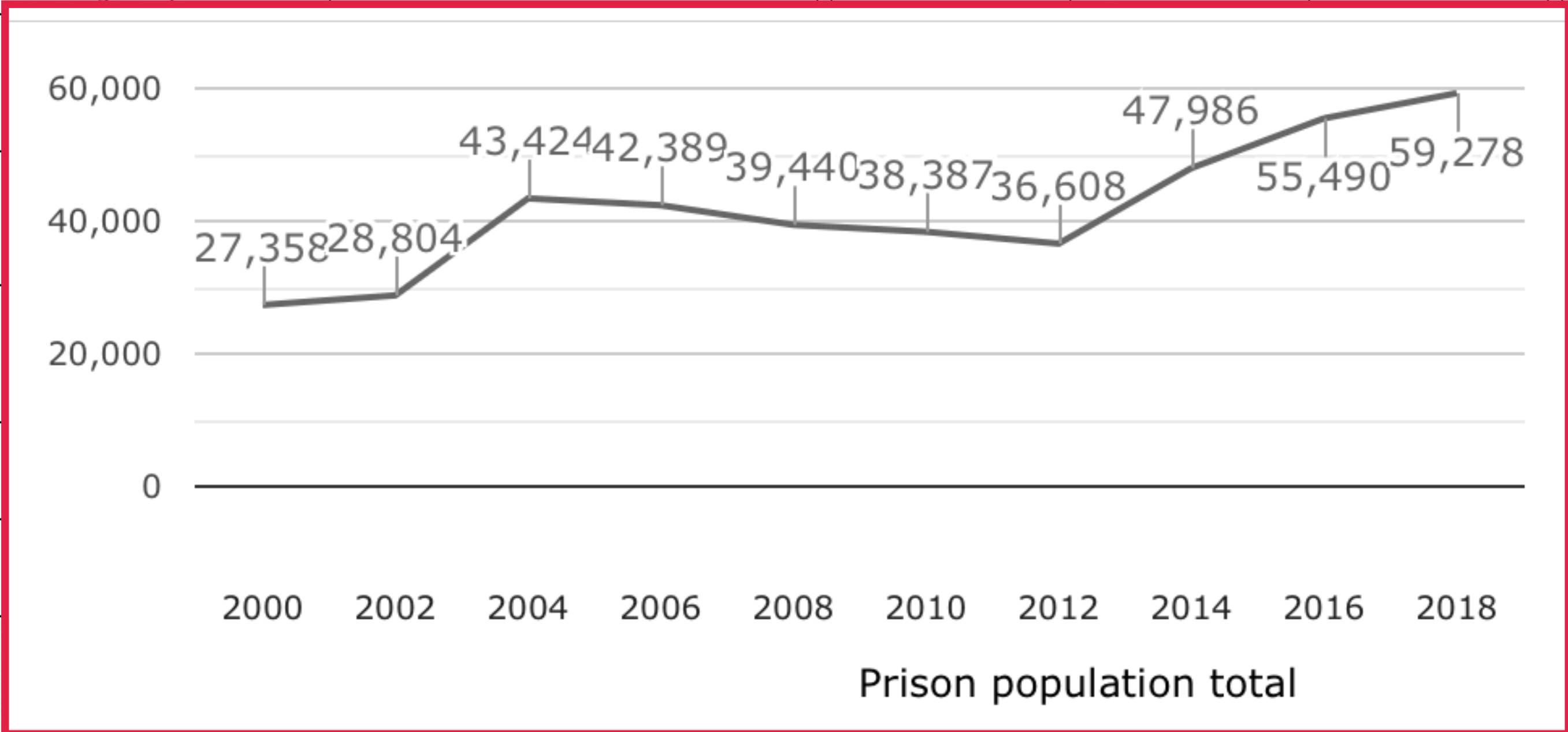
Prison population

World Prison Population List, 13th Edition (December 2021)

- ❖ More than 10.77 million people are held in penal institution globally
- ❖ Total number of prisoners has increased worldwide - Oceania by 82%, Americas by 43%, Asia by 38% and Africa by 32%
- ❖ Overcrowding of prisons
- ❖ Unmatched investment in capacity and resources

Country	Malaysia
Ministry responsible	Ministry of Home Affairs
Prison administration	Malaysia Prison Department
Contact address	Prison Headquarters, Bukit Wira, 43000 Kajang, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia
Telephone	+60 3 8732 8000
Fax	+60 3 8739 9205
Website	http://www.prison.gov.my
Email	pro@prison.gov.my
Head of prison administration (and title)	Datuk Nordin Muhamad Commissioner General
Prison population total (including pre-trial detainees / remand prisoners)	76 336 at 5.10.2022 (national prison administration)
Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population)	229 based on an estimated national population of 33.27 million at beginning of October 2022 (from United Nations figures)
Pre-trial detainees / remand prisoners (percentage of prison population)	41.7% (mid-2021) Further Information
Female prisoners (percentage of prison population)	5.9% (mid-2021) Further Information
Juveniles / minors / young prisoners incl. definition (percentage of prison population)	2.2% (30.9.2002)
Foreign prisoners (percentage of prison population)	18.3% (mid-2021)
Number of establishments / institutions	52 (2019)

Female prisoners (percentage of prison population)	5.9% (mid-2021) Further Information		
Juveniles / minors / young prisoners incl. definition (percentage of prison population)	2.2% (30.9.2002)		
Foreign prisoners (percentage of prison population)	18.3% (mid-2021)		
Number of establishments / institutions	52 (2019)		
Official capacity of prison system	61 242 (25.8.2021)		
Occupancy level (based on official capacity)	113.5% (25.8.2021)		
Prison population trend (year, prison population total, prison population rate)	2000	27,358	116
	2002	28,804	118
	2004	43,424	171
	2006	42,389	161
	2008	39,440	145
	2010	38,387	137
	2012	36,608	126





Prisoners as research participants: ethical challenges in low- and middle-income countries - a scoping review

Presentation Objectives

To explore the extent of literature published that involved prisoners in health research in low- and middle-income countries:

To identify recruitment methods for health research involving prisoners

To discuss the ethical issues when recruiting prisoners as research participants

Methodology

- ❖ Systematic scoping review
- ❖ PIO framework:
 - ❖ **P**opulation: *Prisoners*
 - ❖ **I**ntervention: *Recruitment strategies*
 - ❖ **O**utcome: *Protective measures*
- ❖ PubMed, Cochrane Library, Scopus
- ❖ Articles published from 2018

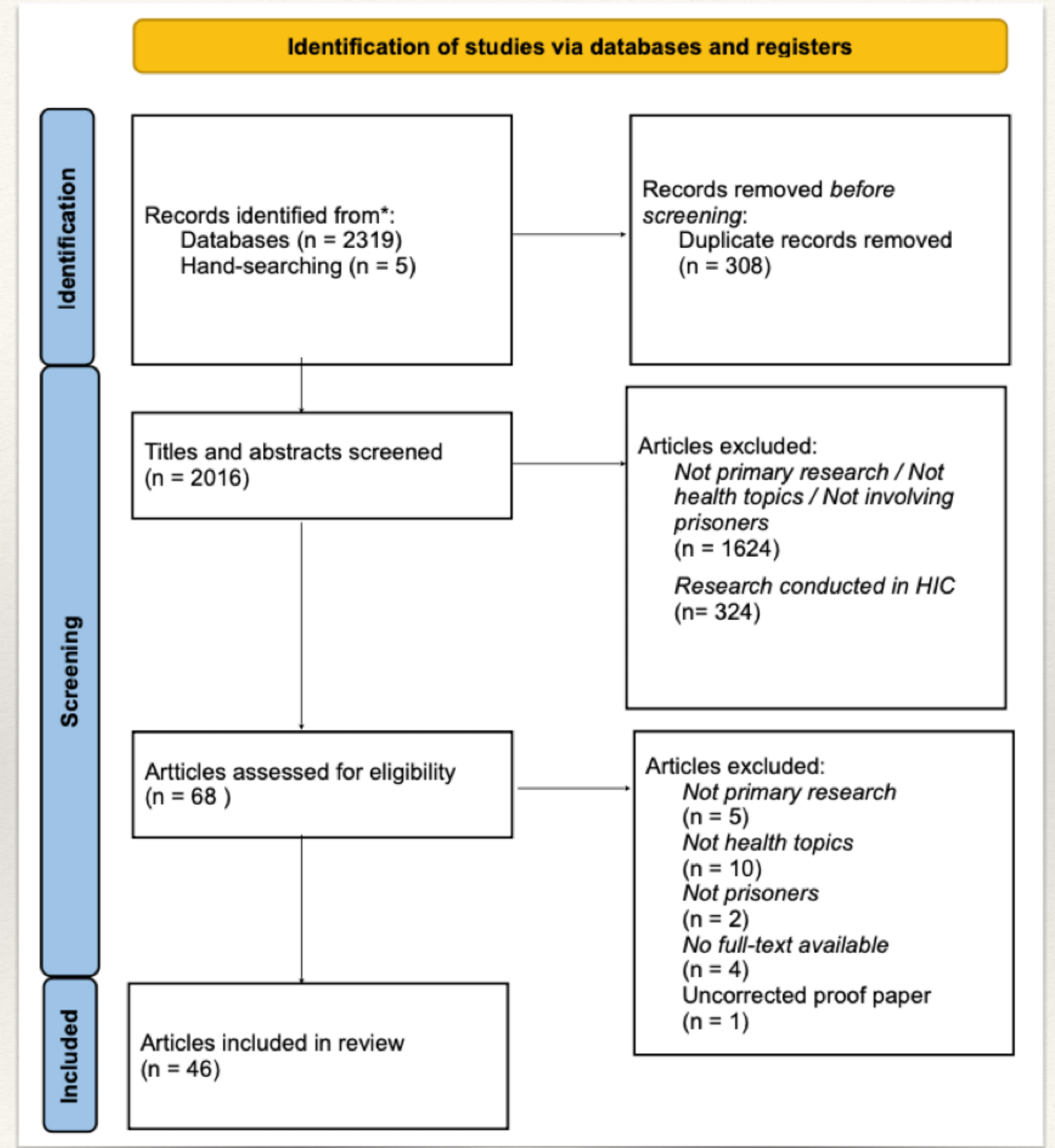
Results

PRISMA Flowchart



Review Results

- ❖ PRISMA Flowchart
- ❖ 46 articles were included based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria



Lorem Ipsum Dolor

Discussion

- ❖ Ethical challenges of health research involving prisoners
- ❖ Additional safeguards for the participating prisoners



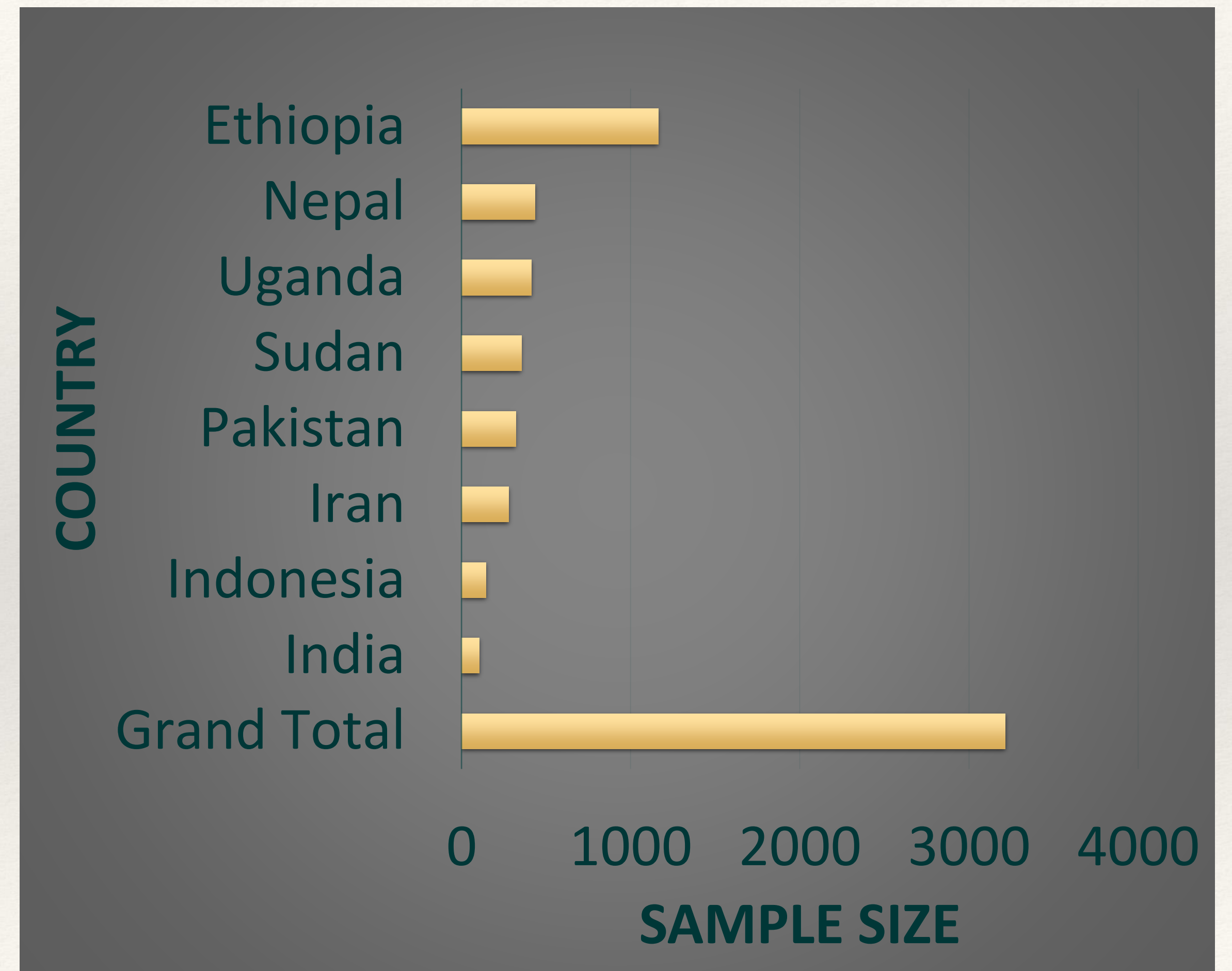
Sampling method

- ❖ Snowballing to reduce the effect of selection bias from purposive sampling
- ❖ Delegated person in charge as the spokesperson for the project
- ❖ Delegated prisoner in-charge for the project

Sampling method		Number of articles
Random sampling (<i>n=18</i>)	Simple random sampling	12
	Systematic random sampling	2
	Stratified random sampling	3
	Cluster random sampling	1
Non-random sampling (<i>n=27</i>)	Purposive sampling	16
	Convenience sampling	9
	Quota sampling	1
	Census	1

Number of samples according to country

Country	Sum of Sample size
Ethiopia	1163
Nepal	434
Uganda	414
Sudan	354
Pakistan	320
Iran	280
Indonesia	145
India	105
Grand Total	3215



Number of sample according to research methodology

Design	Sum of Sample size
Cross-sectional	20436
RCT	18142
Implementation research	1713
Mixed-method	857
Quasi-experimental	674
Randomised trial	606
Qualitative	295
Conjoint	160
Grand Total	42883

Power dynamic & coercion

- ❖ Acknowledgement of the superiority of prison officers above prisoners and applied it in research through patronage counselling intervention (9)
- ❖ An informal prison hierarchy system within prison called *obschak* governed by the prisoners themselves. (20,22)
- ❖ However, coercion was not mentioned clearly in any of the articles although it might be implied indirectly through the involvement of prison authorities in the recruitment process.

Informed consent

- ❖ Explanations were given to prisoners, allowing enquiries before agreeing and signing the informed consent.
- ❖ Specifically mentioned that consent was obtained **verbally** only due to cultural context (Gamble, 2020).
- ❖ Achieving true voluntary informed consent **may not be as apparent** due to the higher risk of coercion and undue influence.
- ❖ Even in privacy, the desperate impoverished living conditions in prison could be a significant factor that would affect their decision.

Type of informed consent	Number of articles
Written individually by participating prisoners	33
Written individually by next of kin/ LAR	1
Seid et al.; 2022; Ethiopia	
Not mentioned written or verbal	4
Chatterjee et al.; 2020; India	
Fakorede et al.; 2021; Nigeria	
Manzoor et al.; 2021; Pakistan	
Junaedi et al.; 2022; Indonesia	
Verbal	4
Topp et al.; 2018; Zambia	
Gamble et al.; 2020; Iraq	
Mohamed et al.; 2020; Sudan	
Diendéré et al.; 2022; Burkina Faso	
Not mentioned at all	4
Vildoso-Cabrera et al.; 2018; Peru	
Zajmi et al.; 2018; Kosovo	
Hechanova et al.; 2020; Philippine	
Sujianto et al.; 2021; Indonesia	

Privacy & Confidentiality Protection

- ❖ Many articles mentioned that confidentiality was assured
- ❖ Research activities - mainly interviews - were conducted in private rooms
- ❖ No prison staff presence during research activities
- ❖ Personal information collected was anonymized by replacing them with identification numbers, masked, or not documented
- ❖ Digital recordings were not permitted. Data was collected by taking detailed field notes (Chatterjee et al., 2020; India).
- ❖ Only audio recordings were allowed
- ❖ Strict and limited access to data stored. Documents and files were password-protected.
- ❖ Identities of non-participants were not revealed to prison officials in implementation research

Research incentives

- ❖ Incentives were not offered in most studies to minimise undue influence that could affect their decision to participate.
- ❖ Non-monetary incentives:
 - ❖ Snacks & gift items (Amoke, 2020, Nigeria), supplies of hygienic items (Kose et al.; 2019, Turkiye & Naidoo et al., 2022; South Africa), full meals (Hechanova et al., 2020; Phillippine)
- ❖ Monetary incentives:
 - ❖ 150 Ethiopian birr (\$5.50) for peer educators (Adane et al., 2019, Ethiopia), RM 40-130 (\$31) at different time points (Chandra et al., 2019, Malaysia)

Conclusion

- ❖ Study methodologies and provision of safeguards were contextually-based and may differ across countries
- ❖ Research stakeholders need be sensitive and aware of the ethical challenges in conducting research in prison population and we have to continue improvising safeguards for prisoners to protect them
- ❖ Balancing protection and allowing prisoners' right to get benefits from participating in research.