



Mental health and snakebite in West Bengal, India:

A survey – February 2024



The George Institute
for Global Health

Facts:

- It is estimated that 5 million snakebites occur annually, with snakebite listed by the World Health Organization as a priority neglected tropical disease.
- Previous studies have found that prevalence of depression ranges from 25-54% amongst snakebite survivors. Similarly, 8-43% of snakebite survivors were found to experience PTSD.

Project Cycle:

2023–2024

Supporters:

Royal Society of Tropical
Medicine and Hygiene, UK
Wellcome Trust, UK

Principal Investigator:

Inika Sharma

Background:

- Snakebite can have chronic impacts on survivors' physical and psychological wellbeing.
- Understanding the prevalence of mental illness among snakebite survivors is crucial to the development of comprehensive support from health systems and providers.

Aims:

- To determine the prevalence of depression and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) amongst snakebite survivors in the Sundarbans, India.

Methods:

- In-person surveys will be conducted in community settings in one block of the Sundarbans (West Bengal).
- Participants will be adults who have been bitten by a snake in the past year.
- Snakebite survivors will be identified using a community knowledge approach.

Impact:

- This research aims to improve understanding of how snakebite affects mental health, leading to better long-term care practices.
- The results of the study will be disseminated to local stakeholders through an online workshop, thereby improving awareness at the community level regarding the psychological experiences of snakebite survivors.

Contact:

To find out more about this project and its principal investigators or The George Institute please contact Abhishek Shandilya +91 11 4158 8091-93 or AShandilya@georgeinstitute.org.in

The George Institute For Global Health:

We're improving the lives of millions of people worldwide through innovative health research. Working across a broad health landscape, the Institute conducts clinical, population and health system research aimed at changing health practice and policy worldwide.