

Health Intervention Technology Assessment (HTA): Making Informed Decisions for Public Health in Nepal

Leveraging Evidence-Based Insights for Improved Public
Health

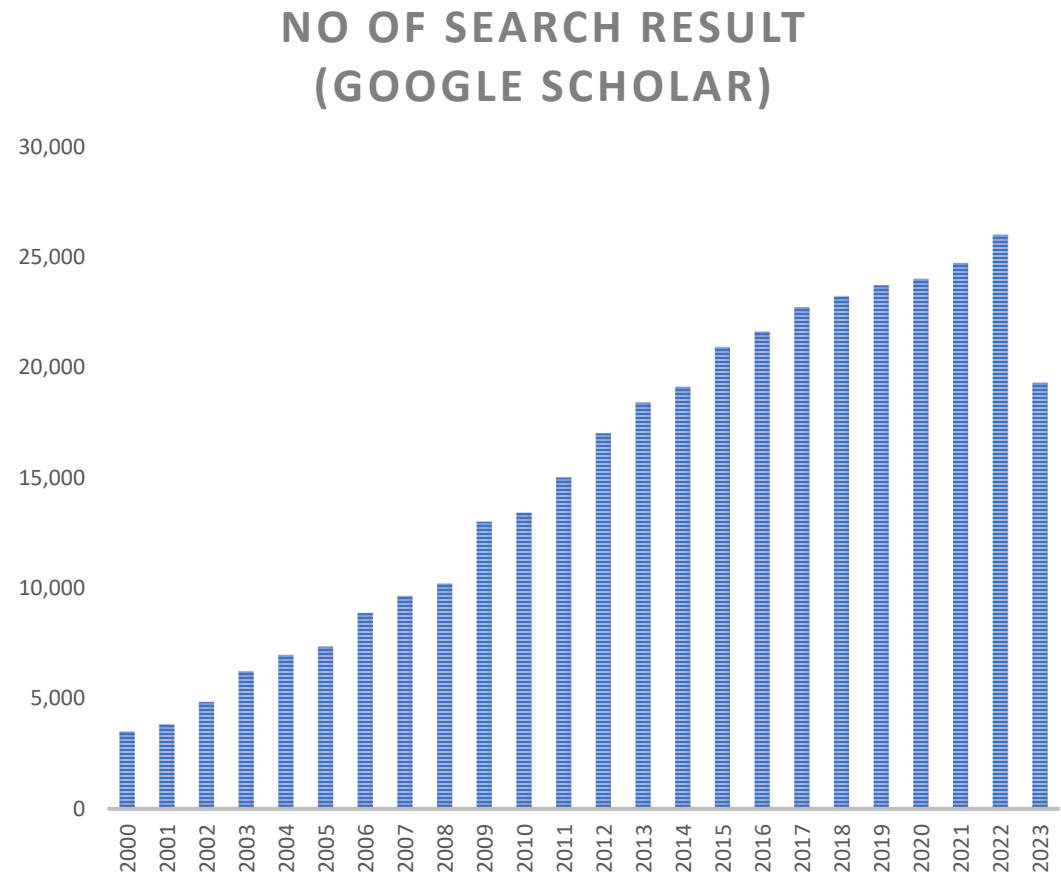
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HITA, A Multidisciplinary Compass

- **A multidisciplinary approach:** expertise from various fields like medicine, economics, ethics, and social sciences¹.
 - E.g. economic impact of a new vaccine or assess ethical implications of genetic testing (social and legal concerns).
- **A guiding compass:** Provides policymakers with policy choices that deliver the greatest value for public health.
 - E.g. decision to introduce a community-based smoking cessation program vs traditional clinical interventions

HITA: A Global Movement Gaining Momentum²

- 5% of total HTA related to Public Health in Canada, UK USA, Denmark (2010)
- 40% of WHO member state using HTA in Public Health (2015)
- 71% of 52 HTA agencies engaged in public health (2020)



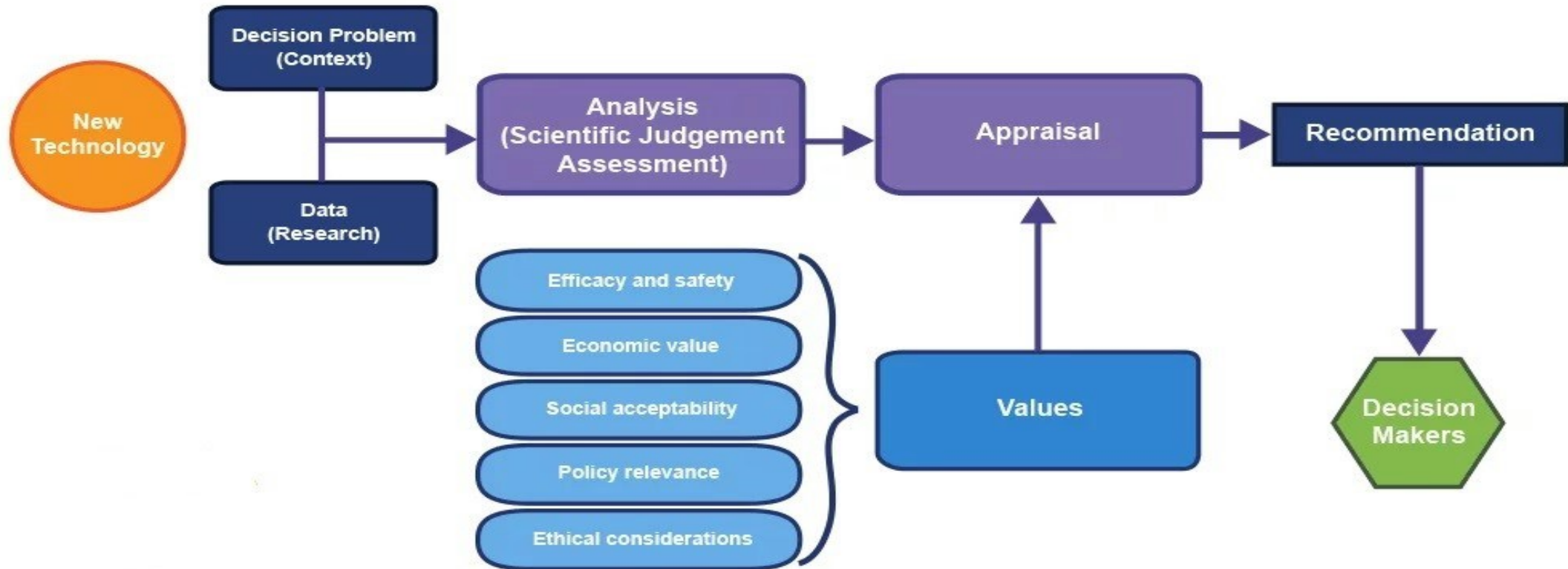
Unlocking the Power of HITA: Benefits for Informed Policymaking

- Enhanced Resource Allocation
 - a study on public sector cost of school based childhood obesity prevention program in China³.
- Strengthen Decision-making
 - Expansion of benefit package following budget impact analysis in Thailand⁴.
- Alignment with national priority – e.g. development of national guidelines
- Transparency and accountability – HITA is a systematic process
- Improve quality of care and health system strengthening⁵.

Myth Busters: Uncovering the True Potential of HITA⁶

- HITA is only for high-cost interventions (Rather focuses on impact on health outcomes and resource allocation)
- HITA is a purely technical exercise (what about ethics and social dimension?)
- HITA only focuses on cost savings (What about equity, quality and safety dimension?)
- HITA delays decision-making (Isn't this better than preventing costly mistakes?)
- HITA is only relevant for developed countries (Do you know that our neighbors are pioneers in this field?)

Bridging HTA Findings with Policy Decisions



Nepal's Healthcare Crossroads: Navigating Scarcity with Smart Decisions



Related Examples of HITA

- Development of MCH voucher scheme in Myanmar
 - Improved service coverage, offering a promising solution to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality⁷.
- Treatment of Anxiety Disorder in Australia
 - Effective allocation of health care resources optimise mental health outcomes⁸.
- Other more examples²
 - Contraceptives and nutrition
 - Education attainment and school intervention
 - Physical environment and food regulation

Obstacles on the Path: HITA Adoption⁹

- Capacity Challenges
 - Comprehend and contextualize research findings
 - Lack of budget/ information
- Academic and Technical Challenges
 - e.g. research implementation issues
 - Barriers to translate HITA evidence in policy
- Conflict of Interest
 - e.g. Potential for bias due to financial ties between researchers and pharmaceutical companies
- Political Challenge
 - Alignment of HITA timelines with political decision-making cycles

Embarking on HITA in Nepal: Practical Steps

- Laying the Groundwork
 - Initiate dedicated HITA team in the Ministry. Review the policy environment
- Addressing Challenges
 - Prioritise potential areas for initial HITA project.
 - Partner with academia and EDPs
- Building Momentum
 - Pilot small scale HITA study to demonstrate policy value feasibility

Reference

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