Appendix 1 (Search Strategy)

Database (Date)	Search Strategy	References
MEDLINE- Pubmed	*(((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((Multimorbidity*[Title/Abstract])) OR (Multimorbid*[Title/Abstract])) OR (Multimorbid*)) OR (multi-morbid*[Title/Abstract])) OR (multi-morbid*)) OR (multi-morbidity[Title/Abstract])) OR (multi-morbidity*[Title/Abstract])) OR (comorbid*[Title/Abstract])) OR (co-morbid*[Title/Abstract])) OR (comorbid*)) OR (co-morbid*)) OR (multiple diseases*)) OR (multiple condition*[Title/Abstract])) OR (multiple diseases*[Title/Abstract])) OR (multiple chronic diseases*[Title/Abstract])) OR (multiple chronic diseases*)) OR (multiple chronic conditions*)) OR (multiple illnes*[Title/Abstract])) OR (multiple illnes*)) OR (multicondition*)) OR (polymorbid*[Title/Abstract])) OR (polymorbid*)) OR (poly-morbid*)) OR (**multiple diagnosis**)) OR (multiplediagnosis*)) OR (multiplediagnosis*)) OR (multiple diagnosis*)) OR (multiple-diagnosis)) OR (multi-pathology*)) OR (multiple pathology*)) OR (multiple chronic*)) OR (multiple comorbid*)) OR (many morbid*))) AND (((((((((india OR afghanistan) OR pakistan) OR nepal) OR bhutan) OR bangladesh) OR **sri lanka**) OR maldives)) OR (south asia))*	8951
EMBASE	multimorbidity* AND ([adult]/lim OR [middle aged]/lim OR [aged]/lim OR [very elderly]/lim) AND [humans]/lim AND [english]/lim AND [1990-2015]/py OR (multimorbid* AND ([adult]/lim OR [middle aged]/lim OR [aged]/lim OR [very elderly]/lim) AND [humans]/lim AND [english]/lim AND [1990-2015]/py) OR ('multi-morbid' AND ([adult]/lim OR [middle aged]/lim OR [aged]/lim OR [very elderly]/lim) AND [humans]/lim AND [english]/lim AND [1990-2015]/py) OR ('multi-morbidity' AND ([adult]/lim OR [middle aged]/lim OR [aged]/lim OR [very elderly]/lim)AND [humans]/lim AND [english]/lim AND [1990-2015]/py) OR (comorbid* AND ([adult]/lim OR [middle aged]/lim OR [aged]/lim OR [very elderly]/lim) AND [humans]/lim AND [english]/lim AND [1990-2015]/py) OR (comorbidity* AND ([adult]/lim OR [middle aged]/lim OR [aged]/lim OR [very elderly]/lim) AND [humans]/lim AND	2,181

[english]/lim AND [1990-2015]/py) OR ('multiple diseases' AND ([adult]/lim OR [middle aged]/lim OR [aged]/lim OR [very elderly]/lim) AND [humans]/lim AND [english]/lim AND [1990-2015]/py) OR ('multiple conditions' AND ([adult]/lim OR [middle aged]/lim OR [aged]/lim OR [very elderly]/lim) AND [humans]/lim AND [english]/lim AND [1990-2015]/py) OR ('multiple chronic conditions' AND ([adult]/lim OR [middle aged]/lim OR [aged]/lim OR [very elderly]/lim) AND [humans]/lim AND [english]/lim AND [1990-2015]/py) OR ('multiple chronic diseases' AND ([adult]/lim OR [middle aged]/lim OR [aged]/lim OR [very elderly]/lim) AND [humans]/lim AND [english]/lim AND [1990-2015]/py) OR ('multiple illness' AND ([adult]/lim OR [middle aged]/lim OR [aged]/lim OR [very elderly]/lim) AND [humans]/lim AND [english]/lim AND [1990-2015]/py) OR (multicondition* AND ([adult]/lim OR [middle aged]/lim OR [aged]/lim OR [very elderly]/lim) AND [humans]/lim AND [english]/lim AND [1990-2015]/py) OR (polymorbid* AND ([adult]/lim OR [middle aged]/lim OR [aged]/lim OR [very elderly]/lim) AND [humans]/lim AND [english]/lim AND [1990-2015]/py) OR ('multiplediagnosis' AND ([adult]/lim OR [middle aged]/lim OR [aged]/lim OR [very elderly]/lim) AND [humans]/lim AND [english]/lim AND [1990-2015]/py) OR ('multiple diagnosis' AND ([adult]/lim OR [middle aged]/lim OR [aged]/lim OR [very elderly]/lim) AND [humans]/lim AND [english]/lim AND [1990-2015]/py) OR ('multiple pathology' AND ([adult]/lim OR [middle aged]/lim OR [aged]/lim OR [very elderly]/lim) AND [humans]/lim AND [english]/lim AND [1990-2015]/py) OR ('multi pathology' AND ([adult]/lim OR [middle aged]/lim OR [aged]/lim OR [very elderly]/lim) AND [humans]/lim AND [english]/lim AND [1990-2015]/py) OR ('multiple comorbid' AND ([adult]/lim OR [middle aged]/lim OR [aged]/lim OR [very elderly]/lim) AND [humans]/lim AND [english]/lim AND [1990-2015]/py) OR ('many morbidity' AND ([adult]/lim OR [middle aged]/lim OR [aged]/lim OR [very elderly]/lim) AND [humans]/lim AND [english]/lim AND [1990-2015]/py) OR (multimorbidity* AND multimorbid* AND 'multi-morbid' AND

	'multi-morbidity' AND comorbid* AND comorbidity* AND 'multiple diseases' AND 'multiple conditions' AND 'multiple chronic conditions' AND 'multiple chronic diseases' AND 'multiple illness' AND multicondition* AND polymorbid* AND 'multiplediagnosis' AND 'multiple diagnosis' AND 'multiple pathology' AND 'multi pathology' AND 'multiple comorbid' AND 'many morbidity' AND ([adult]/lim OR [middle aged]/lim OR [aged]/lim OR [very elderly]/lim) AND [humans]/lim AND [english]/lim AND [1990-2015]/py) AND (india OR afghanistan OR pakistan OR nepal OR bhutan OR bangladesh OR 'sri lanka' OR 'maldives' OR 'south asia')	

Appendix-2 (Quality Assessment Score)

Item	Purty et al; 2005(28)	Khanam et al; 2011(24)	Joshi et al; 2003(29)	Swami et al; 2002(31)	Chakrabarty S et al 2005(27)	Bhojani et al; 2013(16)	Chakraborty D et al 2010(30)	Asadullah et al 2012(38)	Singh N et al 2012(39)
1a	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
1b	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
2	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
3	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
4	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
5	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
6	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
7	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-
8	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	-
9	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+
10	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	+
11	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
12	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
13a	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
14a	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
14b	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
16b	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-
17	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
18	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
19	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-
20	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
21	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-
22	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
*Total Score	14	19	19	16	16	21	16	11	11

ITEM	Minh AH et al(20)	Banjare P et al 2014(26)	Pati S et al 2014(23)	Arokiasamy et al 2014(22)	Vadrevu et al 2014(25)	Arokiasamy et al 2015 (21)
				Authors and Year		
1a	+	+	+	+	-	+
1b	+	+	+	+	+	+
2	+	+	+	+	+	+
3	+	+	+	+	-	+
4	+	+	+	+	+	+
5	+	+	+	+	+	+
6	+	+	+	+	+	+
7	+	+	+	+	-	+
8	+	-	+	+	+	+
9	+	-	-	-	-	-
10	+	+	+	+	-	+
11	+	+	+	+	+	+
12	+	+	-	+	-	+
13a	+	+	+	+	+	+
14a	+	+	+	+	+	+
14b	-	+	-	-	-	-
15	+	+	+	+	+	+
16b	+	+	+	-	+	+
17	-	-	-	+	-	+
18	+	+	+	+	+	+
19	+	+	+	-	+	+
20	+	+	+	+	+	+
21	-	-	+	+	-	-
22	+	-	+	-	+	-
Total Score*	21	19	20	19	15	20

STROBE = Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology.

Notes: + indicates that the study met criteria for that item, whereas − indicates that the study did not meet the criteria for that item. For description of STROBE items, go to: http://www.strobe–statement.org/fileadmin/Strobe/uploads/checklists/STROBE_checklist_v4_cross–sectional.pdf.

* Out of a maximum possible score of 23.

Appendix-3 (Diseases reported in the studies)

Disease	Purty et al; 2005	Khanam et al; 2011	Joshi et al; 2003	Swami et al; 2002	Chakrabarty S et al 2005	Bhojani et al; 2013	Chakraborty D et al 2010	Minh AH et al	Banjare P et al 2014	Pati S et al 2014	Arokiasamy et al 2014	Vadrevu et al 2014	Arokiasamy et al 2015
Hypertension	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Cardiac Problem/Heart disease	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Diabetes	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Arthritis	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Asthma	+		+	+		+			+	+	+	+	+
Cataract	+		+	+			+		+	+	+	+	+
Stroke		+						+	+	+	+		+
COPD	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+
Skin Problem	+		+	+			+		+				
Urinary Problem	+			+	+	+			+				
Mental Problem (Depression/Psychosis)	+		+		+		+		+	+	+		+
Refractive Error	+	+	+	+	+	+							
Acid Peptic Disease			+		+	+	+						
Prostate Problem			+				+						
Thyroid		+				+							
Dental Problem	+		+				+		+				
Cancer					+			+	+				
Anemia			+				+						
Tuberculosis	+		+				+						
GI Problem	+		+	+		+			+				
Piles			+		+								
Impaired hearing	+	+	+	+	+		+						
Generalised body pain	+												
Obesity		+	+										
Rheumatiod Arthritis			+										+
Cervical Spondylitis			+										
Sciatica			+				+						
Haemorrhoids			+										
Faecal incontinence			+										
Seizure						+							
Osteoporosis							+		+				
Dementia /Alzheimer's Disease									+				
Injury									+				