

Southern & South East Asia



● Almost 1/3 of the world's population

● Not even 1/3 of their trials are in CENTRAL

Background

Practihc¹ is an EU funded project, part of which sought to identify randomised trials or controlled clinical trials (RCTs/CCTs) from low and middle income countries. As part of this project bibliographic databases other than CENTRAL have been searched for trials.

Objective

- To identify RCTs/CCTs in the WHO HELLIS Network's Index Medicus for South-East Asia Region (IMSEAR).
- To identify whether these are disseminated within CENTRAL

Method

The online database was searched, records downloaded and manually inspected.

We searched CENTRAL for the identified trials.

Search terms

randomi\$ OR double-blind OR assign\$ OR allocate\$

Results I

- Records in IMSEAR date from 1980 to 1995
- We found 642 unique records
- 558 seem to be RCTs/CCTs
- 156 (28%) were found in CENTRAL
- Health issues addressed in these trials are numerous and include management of pain, heart disease and infectious diseases.

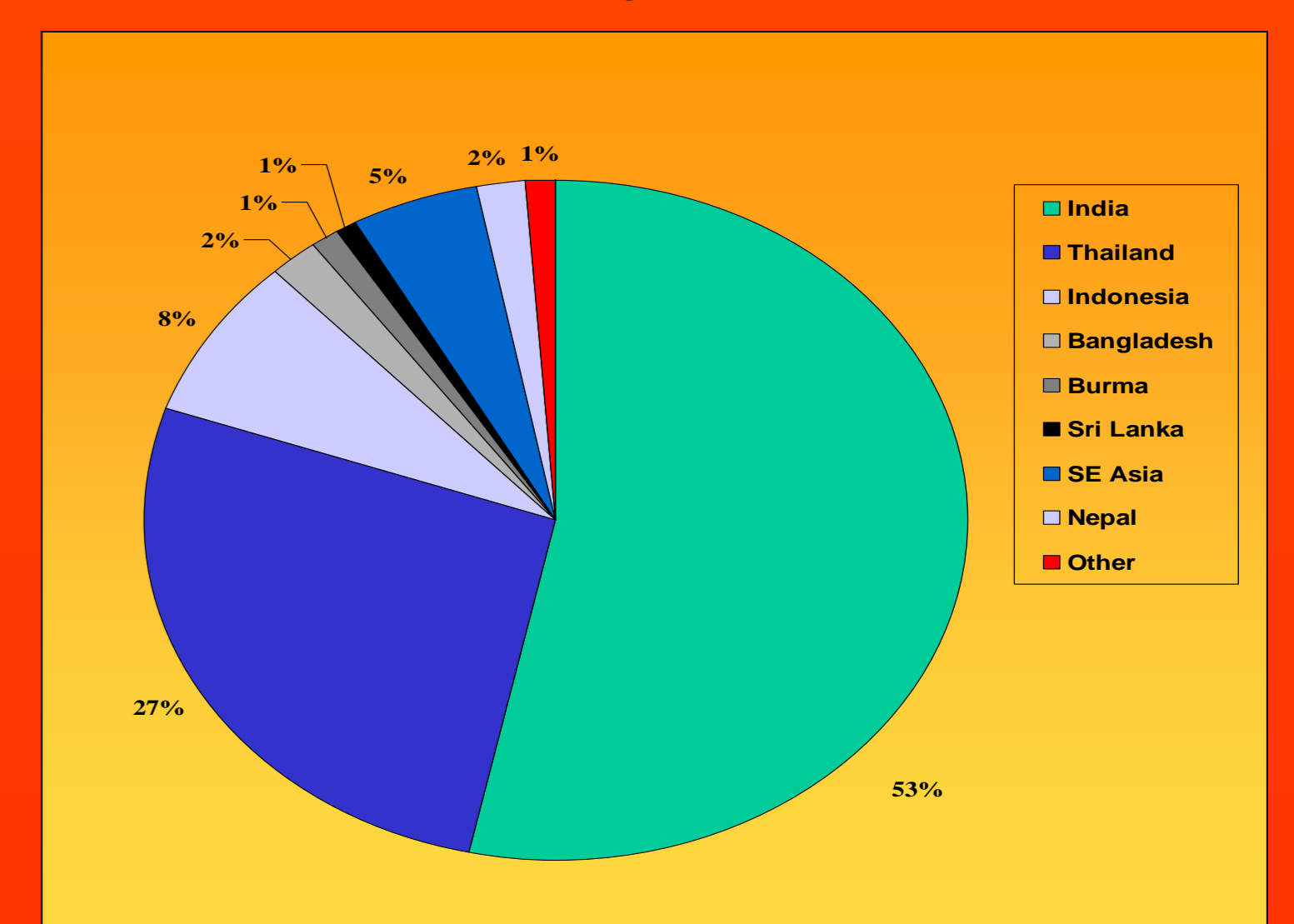
Conclusions

- CENTRAL remains a considerable resource for those wishing to identify RCTs/CCTs
- Other work has found CENTRAL not to be comprehensive for trials from Bulgaria, China, Hungary, Korea, Poland, and the Ukraine - this study demonstrates that Southern and SE Asia can now also be added to this growing list
- Omission of such trials from CENTRAL leaves Cochrane reviews vulnerable to random error and bias

Methods II

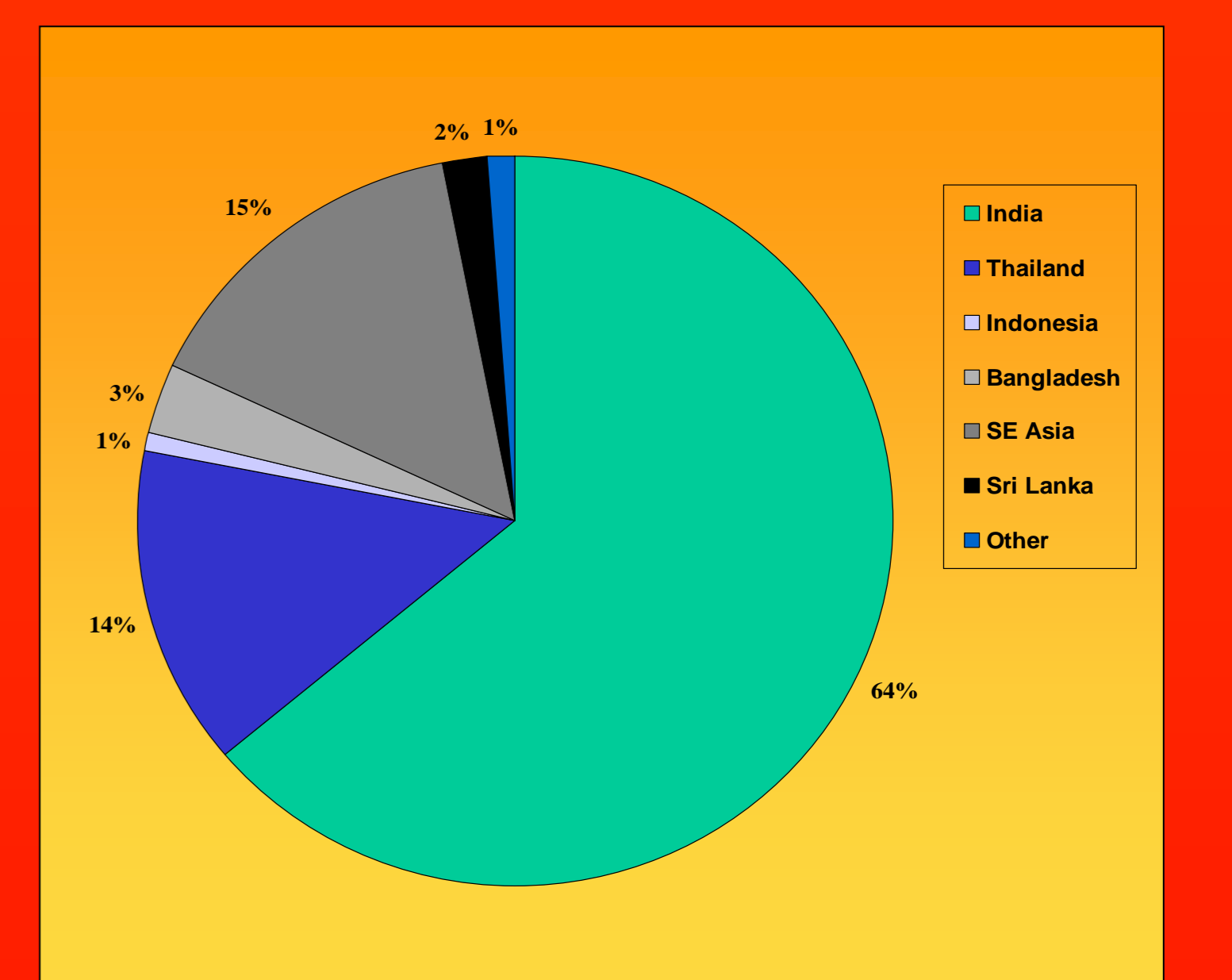
We listed the country of origin of all journals on IMSEAR in which we had identified RCTs/CCTs (Fig 1).

Figure 1. Country of origin of IMSEAR journals containing RCTs/CCTs



We then sought these citations on CENTRAL, found 28%, and again listed the country of origin of journal (Fig 2).

Figure 2. Country of origin of journals of 28% of IMSEAR citations in CENTRAL



Results II

- CENTRAL included relatively few of the citations from Thailand and Indonesia
- Many databases specific to Thailand have yet to be systemically searched