

Misreporting of Stanford University Study in News Media, Exaggerated Claims of Covid-19 Jabs Having Saved 34L Lives



To:
The Editors of relevant media outlets

Date: 27 February 2023

Subject: Misreporting of Stanford University Study in News Media, Exaggerated Claims of Covid-19 Jabs Having Saved 34L Lives

Electronic form of this letter is at: <https://uho.org.in/files/2023-02-27-stanford-report-letter.pdf>

Dear Madam/Sir,

Recently several media outlets have claimed that a Stanford University study has reported an estimated 34 lakh lives saved by the Covid-19 vaccination drive in India.

- India Saved Over 3.4 Million Lives Due To Covid Vaccines: Stanford Report, NDTV, 24 Feb 2023 [\[link\]](#)
- 'India's Covid vaccination drive saved over 34L+ lives', The Times of India, 25 Feb 2023 [\[link\]](#)
- India's Covid vaccination, lockdown saved over 34 lakh lives: Stanford varsity report, The Indian Express, 25 Feb 2023 [\[link\]](#)
- Indian Covid-19 vaccine drive saved more than 34 lakh lives: Stanford University report, OpIndia, 25 Feb 2023 [\[link\]](#)

The first and foremost concern with this is that this constitutes **misreporting** of facts. The estimation of the number of lives saved is *not* a finding of the Stanford University study in question. The Stanford study [\[link\]](#) merely *cites* a Lancet publication from *eight* months back for the 34 lakh number. Media outlets must do due diligence in checking such aspects before reporting any government press release widely. We urge that the error be corrected with immediate effect.

The second related concern is that the link to the Stanford University study itself was missing in the above media reports. To maintain a high standard of verifiable reporting, we urge that such critical links be provided in future similar news reports.

The third concern is that the claim of 34 lakh lives saved is highly exaggerated and does not pass basic checks. The Lancet publication [\[link\]](#) cited by the Stanford University study is a *mathematical model*. Such models constitute the weakest possible scientific evidence, as such models invariably make several assumptions. This particular model specifically has a whole slew of verifiably *false* assumptions. A detailed writeup on these flaws can be found here: "More Flaws in the Vaccine Model Claiming 20 Million Lives Saved" [\[link\]](#). It is telling that after 220+ crore jabs, the best evidence of Covid-19 vaccines having saved lives is a flawed mathematical model, and not a rigorous vaccine trial report. Most of India's Covid-19 jabs were administered after the second wave, by which time the vast majority of India's population had already been exposed [\[link\]](#). It was always known (but only recently widely acknowledged [\[link\]](#)) that immunity after natural exposure is strong. Therefore the claim of 34 lakh lives saved fails the test of basic scientific evidence and rationale.

We draw your urgent attention to the above concerns and urge you to issue the necessary corrections at the earliest. Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Amitav Banerjee (MD, Clinical Epidemiologist. Professor of Community Medicine)

Dr. Veena Raghava (MBBS, DA, Clinical Nutrition (NIN))

Bhaskaran Raman (Professor, Computer Science and Engineering)

On behalf of the Managing Committee of Universal Health Organisation ([UHO](#))

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