

**S3 Table:** Details of various studies (and corresponding number of samples) that were used for comparative analysis with Indian microbiome samples obtained in the present study

<b>Study Tag</b>	<b>Number of Samples</b>	<b>16S Variable region</b>	<b>Reference</b>
Japan_16	16*	V1-V2	Kato <i>et al.</i> , 2013
Japan_18	18*	V1-V2	Kim <i>et al.</i> , 2014
China	81*	V3	Xiao <i>et al.</i> , 2013
USA	80\$	V1-V3 & V3-V5	Turnbaugh <i>et al.</i> , 2007
Finland	54^	V1-V3	Scheperjans <i>et al.</i> , 2015
India_18	18#	V3	Bhute <i>et al.</i> , 2016
Present Study	160	V3-V4	-

\* Only those samples which were taken from healthy subjects (prior to administration of any form of pre/probiotics) were considered

\$ In all studies (including this one), only those samples were considered that had a minimum of 1000 assigned sequences

^ In this study, only those samples which were taken from healthy (control) subjects were considered for analysis

# 18 samples whose metadata clearly indicated the subjects as 'healthy' were only considered.