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## **Enabling Indian Health Systems Respond to People's Needs**

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**Progress 2019-20**

**Research for  
Health Systems  
Design**

**Enhancing  
Stakeholder  
Capabilities**

**Fostering  
Policy  
Dialogue**

# Research for Health Systems Design

Through value-based partnerships with state & local governments, state level research and knowledge partners, HSTP is developing comprehensive tools for health systems assessment and designing strategies for improving outcomes with a focus on population health & wellness.



SYSTEMS DIAGNOSIS

CONTEXTUALIZE  
INDIAN & GLOBAL  
LEARNINGSDESIGN FEASIBLE  
REFORM OPTIONS &  
EXPERIMENTEARLY  
IMPLEMENTATION  
SUPPORT TO  
STAKEHOLDERSEVALUATE & DOCUMENT  
FOR SCALE UP

India is on the path to provide equitable access to good quality, affordable health services for achieving better health outcomes for all. Each state is at different level of transformational reforms and faces unique challenges in implementing existing government schemes or conceptualizing new interventions to address local needs. HSTP is working with state governments and local research institutions to strengthen evidence-based research to support health policy & systems design. The results will be used to design improvements in the system to achieve better health outcomes.

**HSTP's focus is on urban primary healthcare and establishing linkages to primary healthcare for PMJAY hospitalizations - both these areas have received comparatively less attention.**

Urban areas have an ecosystem built on public secondary care and private/ informal primary care with poor referral linkages and access barrier for the urban poor. Central and State governments are struggling to find appropriate urban primary healthcare model.

**Odisha Health Systems Transformation is** four-year program (2019-2023) implemented in collaboration with the State Government of Odisha, Harvard School of Public Health and Indian Institute of Public Health Bhubaneswar. Currently diagnostics of the system (public & private sector) is being conducted. In 2020, key intervention areas will be identified and prioritized in consultation with state government to design appropriate & feasible initiatives.

HSTP is exploring with State & local governments of two cities - Mysuru (Karnataka) and Indore (Madhya Pradesh) to identify opportunities to design interventions to improve urban primary healthcare that can be scaled up. This is envisaged as a research driven technical support program involving local implementing partners - Karnataka Health Promotion Trust & Swasti; knowledge partners - St. Johns Research Institute, IIM Indore, MG Medical College, Indore.

**Strategic Partnership with the National Health Authority for thought leadership & experimentation**

This partnership began in 2019. HSTP provides thought leadership & support for experimentation on (1) expanding health coverage to the "missing middle" population and (2) establishing PMJAY linkages to primary healthcare. HSTP with its collaborators is developing strategies to address both these issues drawing from theory, global best practice and consultations with Indian stakeholders.

# Enhancing Stakeholder Capabilities

Transformation is possible if policymakers, researchers & practitioners can conceptualize, design and implement reforms. HSTP’s training programs, tailored to Indian context, aim to build these capacities with a focus on knowledge and skill transfer through creating immersive experiences in real-world settings.

**Annual Flagship Course on Health Systems Strengthening and Sustainable Financing** is aimed at senior policy makers, practitioners and researchers. This is conducted in partnership with Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare - India and Harvard School of Public Health. The 5-day intensive residential course is aimed to generate structured and strategic thinking on how to provide affordable and equitable access to efficient and quality health care with financial risk protection. The course approach integrates lectures, group work and case studies. Guided assignment on designing health transformation within the bounds of Ayushman Bharat provides a realistic experience. **Third edition was held in August 2019 and 50 participants were trained.**



**Training in Health Systems Research** is aimed at Indian early-career and mid-career researchers. In 2019-20,

- 22 researchers were trained in “writing a public health teaching case” by Prof. Michael Reich, Harvard School of Public health.
- 24 researchers participated in a knowledge sharing effort on measuring performance of the Indian/state health systems focused on health accounts for health systems analysis; measuring access, equity & quality; financial risk protection & evaluating health programs.

## Launching Health Policy and Systems Research Fellowship in 2020

HSTP in collaboration with its Indian and global partners is developing a training program on Health Policy and Systems Research methods coupled with a year-long fellowship where researchers work on a small research grant, receive structured mentorship from experts for a well-rounded experience.

Training practitioners on improving program implementation & operations is aimed at transitioning from existing systems to one that meets the aspirations of Ayushman Bharat. In 2019-20, HSTP engaged in the following capacity building initiatives.

**Implementation research for primary healthcare in India** workshop was conducted in April 2019 in collaboration with experts from World Health Organization and Society for Applied studies and Basic Health Services where 40 state level practitioners were trained to design and experiment context specific microcosms of primary healthcare systems using implementation research



**Training for functionaries of Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY), Odisha** In 2019-20, 40 personnel at BSKY received training through a series of workshops conducted with our partners ACCESS Health International and Indian Institute of Public Health Bhubaneswar on data analytics for decision making, medical audit and claims processing. This has helped the State Health Assurance Agency (SHAS) in monitoring and trigger improvements in scheme implementation.

**Sponsorships for participating in global learning events on health systems**

2019-20 provided an opportunity to eight Indian policy makers & practitioners to participate at The Prince Mahidol Award Conference (PMAC) and UHC Forum 2020 to share and learn from an annual congregation of health systems experts from across the world. HSTP also actively participated at International Health Economics Association Conference 2019 and WHO symposium on Health Financing for UHC 2019.



Ensuring Presence of Indian Health Systems Stakeholders at Global Health Convenings

HSTP aims to co-create and sponsor opportunities to participate in global health conventions. This exposes stakeholders in the Indian health systems to global best practices and new knowledge on driving systems change for improved design and implementation.

# Fostering Policy Dialogue

Creating momentum towards Universal Health Coverage by fostering a safe space for dialogue among Indian health systems stakeholders to enable collective problem solving & recognize windows of opportunity to drive change.

**Expert Consultation on Improving Quality of Healthcare in India** was conducted in November 2019 in collaboration with Institute of Healthcare Improvement (IHI) exploring the landscape on delivering quality healthcare in India to understand the gaps and opportunities to feed into our work on state health systems and engagement with National Health Authority. Participants were 30 leaders from healthcare quality space in India from provider accreditation bodies, professional associations, healthcare providers, technical organizations of Ministries, Indian & international quality experts.



**Two Giants Go Universal: India and Indonesia on path to UHC**, a panel discussion was organized by HSTP in partnership with the National Authority India and the World Bank at The Prince Mahidol Award Conference (PMAC) and UHC Forum 2020 in Bangkok Thailand in January 2020. Eight policy makers and practitioners from India and Indonesia shared their experience, engaged in policy discussions identifying challenges and learnings for both countries. There was a common thread emphasizing the value of political context, policy experimentation in a federal government and an iterative strategy in achieving UHC.

HSTP is a not for profit company engaged in health policy & systems research.

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HSTP's Founding Chairman Prof Maharaj Kishan Bhan (1947-2020) nurtured a team of brilliant and passionate professionals focused on health systems to build HSTP as an organization par excellence. Dr Bhan was a globally recognized medical research leader and innovator. He developed Rotavirus vaccine, supported establishment of institutions that bridged medicine, science & engineering. Learn more @ [www.mkbhan.in](http://www.mkbhan.in)