

Dr. Vijayashree Yellappa

MBBS, MPH, FHM, PhD

Senior Specialist

CAREER SUMMARY

Medical doctor with twenty years of experience in Public Health working for UN agencies, donor agencies, academia, governments, NGOs and private health sector. Vast experience in health system and implementation research with focus on TB and private sector, infectious diseases (including HIV and Leishmaniasis) management of complex public-private partnerships in Asia and design of primary health care models in India. Unique combination of experience, ranging from medical officer at primary health centre to leading and advising National Government in planning and implementation of health projects based at India's premier think Tank – NITI Aayog, Government of India.

Strong understanding and familiarity with health ministries of developing countries in Asia including their organizational structures, resource constraints, power relations, priorities, capacity limitations and the expectations from partners especially the private health sector. Ability to quickly identify the critical gaps in knowledge and discover opportunities to address those gaps. Special skills to assist Governments to develop and implement governance and regulatory arrangements for engaging private sector service delivery, and attract private sector engagement not focusing on co-financing, but also efficiency gains. Heavily engaged in leading multi-country research projects combining both quantitative and qualitative analysis to produce empirical evidence to strengthen health systems. Lead high level policy advice through knowledge brokering with senior decision makers and develop health systems policy briefs for wider health policy debate.

Experience of leading proposal development and project management leading multidisciplinary teams. Liaising and fostering partnerships with international and regional partners, and research institutes to build strategic alliances. Member of National Technical Working Group of TB control and member of the expert panel of a learning network on [private health sector engagement](#) – PPM-TB learning network as its member. Honorary Senior Fellow at NITI Aayog, the premier advisory agency of the national government and contribute to formulation of policies around public-private partnership initiatives in the health sector of the country. Strong understanding of the health financing, health insurance and regulatory mechanisms. Hands on experience implementing schemes of enablers and incentives for private sector.

Widely cited scientific publications in international peer-reviewed journals in health system research with special focus on TB and private sector. Medical degree from India, Masters in Public Health from National University of Singapore, PhD (Institute of Tropical medicine, Belgium and Maastricht University, Netherlands) and Fellowship in HIV Medicine from Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi, as academic qualifications.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1. Health System Transformation Platform, New Delhi

Senior Specialist, Health Service Delivery

January 2020 till date

- Lead conceptualization, design, implementation and assessment of comprehensive primary healthcare models in the country. Currently leading primary healthcare models in two metropolitan cities in India to provide the evidence to the government for replication.
- Leading an implementation research project to explore potential for intersectoral action for health among slum dwellers and migrant workers in an urban setting of South India.
- Mobilising and coordinating the financial resources needed to accelerate primary health care in the provinces.
- Engage with high-level government leadership involved in policy formulation, establish stakeholder relationships with donors, multilateral and bilateral donors and agencies, as well as civil society and private sector representatives.

2. Government of India: NITI Aayog, New Delhi

Non-Resident Senior Fellow

April 2020 till date

- Senior Fellowship Programme of NITI Aayog, is an effort by Government of India's premier think-tank to tap into the best minds from across the world. The programme seeks to draw up on global expertise across sectors of national importance to move beyond conventional planning in formulating government policy.
- Currently assisting NITI Aayog in formulating policy reforms in the Nursing sector in the country and support PPP – Medical education policy formulation to address the acute shortage of qualified medical doctors in the country.

3. Government of India: NITI Aayog, New Delhi

Senior Consultant (Health), Programme Appraisal and Management Division & PPP Cell

June 2018 to December 2019

- Undertake appraisal of public funded projects from the Ministries of Health, Women and Child Welfare, Education, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate. The appraisal includes assessment of needs and demands of the target population, technical feasibility, implementation feasibility and cost-effective analysis. Based on the appraisal report, projects are recommended for funding to the Ministry of Finance.
- Offer international comparative perspectives and recommend technical options across the spectrum of policy and implementation strategies to Ministries of social sector. Assist Ministry in designing tailored interventions based on national and international evidence and handhold State Governments in implementing the interventions.
- Working in partnership with governments, international organisations, academics, and practitioners to provide evidence-informed policy options in the area of health systems with emphasis on universal health coverage and Public Private Partnership (PPP).
- Developed model concession agreement- policy guidelines for PPP in medical education, to utilise government district hospital for teaching purposes, through private investments.

4. Government of India: Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) New Delhi
Technical Consultant **December 2017 to May 2018**

- Establish, lead and manage Indian secretariat of SPEAK (Setting the Post Elimination Agenda for Kala-Azar in India) research consortium at ICMR, New Delhi. The research consortium aimed to identify gaps that threaten elimination of Kala-Azar and its sustainability in the Indian sub-continent.
- Facilitated the conceptualisation five research projects embedded within the consortium by building regional alliances in Indian sub-continent. Liasoned with principal investigators of five research projects and assisted them in getting approval from the International Health division of ICMR. Collaborated with five universities from overseas to match technical needs of the local research partners.
- Conducted landscape analysis of institutions conducting research in tropical diseases in the Indian sub-continent and developed a resource directory for ICMR.

5. Non-Profit Research Institute: Institute of Public Health, Bengaluru, India

Faculty **2010 to 2017**

I led multi-country research projects with particular emphasis on health system strengthening vis-à-vis disease control programmes. Below is the list of major research projects that I completed during this tenure:

Health System Regulation and Governance in India, China and Vietnam 2010 to 2012

Conducted a multi-country research project, funded by European commission, aimed to compare maternal health regulations in three Asian countries-Vietnam, India and China. The research goal was to support policy decisions in the application and extension of principles of accessibility, affordability, equity and quality coverage of health care in the three countries.

World Bank **2013 to 2014**

Evaluated results-based financing strategies for tuberculosis care and control in India. This study unveiled dynamics of private tuberculosis market in India and approaches to engage private health sector players in TB care and control.

McGill University, Canada (funded by BMGF) **2013 to 2014**

In association with Maastricht University, Netherlands, carried out an exploratory qualitative research to understand the barriers for implementing the point of care tests in different settings of Indian health system.

6. Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium

PhD Scholar **2013 to 2017**

As part of my PhD, I designed a health system-oriented intervention model to improve the collaboration of private practitioners with National TB programme in a south Indian district. I demonstrated the effectiveness of the model by building capacity of the TB

programme staff to collaborate with private health sector. The study site was selected by Asian Development Bank to showcase successful PPP model in disease control programme to delegates. (<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/Foreign-delegates-visit-Tumakuru-TB-centre/article16082349.ece>). The project was also selected as top 30 Social innovations in the Global South (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pgo87hkz5Ok&feature=youtu.be>).

7. WHO-TDR, Geneva, Switzerland

2016 to 2017

Conducted an implementation research in a south Indian district to involve private pharmacists and private practitioners in National TB programme. We demonstrated the effectiveness of a multi-component intervention to improve private practitioners and private pharmacists' referrals of presumptive TB cases to National TB programme.

8. World Health Organization: WHO India Country Office

National Medical Consultant for Tuberculosis (TB)

2006 to 2009

- Provided technical assistance to the State Governments in planning and implementation of National TB Programme guidelines in three different states of India; Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka.
- Ensured quality implementation of the programme through supervisory visits, on-the-job training, and evaluation of program performance.
- Established TB/HIV collaborative activities in the states and validated programme data through regular supervision of data reporting, analysis and utilization.
- Coordinated involvement with other line ministries and involved several NGOs, medical colleges associations of private health providers and corporate sectors etc. in the programme.

9. Government: Department of Health and Family Welfare, Karnataka Government

Deputy Chief Medical Officer in District Hospital

2003 to 2005

- Worked as in-charge medical officer in the blood bank and HIV testing center.
- Provided curative services.
- Managed medico-legal cases and represented Government in judiciary to provide medico-legal evidence.

Medical Officer in Primary Health Centre

2000 to 2003

- Implemented, supervised and monitored the National health programmes.
- Undertook various primary health care initiatives to implement outreach activities. One such important activity was to establish a special team to survey and establish a registry of people requiring cataract surgery. Mobilized local funds and specialists from nearby medical college to operate 82 cataract patients with free of cost. Government awarded me with 'Best Medical officer' for recognizing this initiative.

- Streamlined the process of undertaking school health programmes and Anganawadi visits (rural child care centre in India for children below 5 years) to identify and refer children requiring tertiary care.
- Undertook periodical Epidemiological investigations of disease outbreaks like Cholera and Gastroenteritis.

EDUCATION

- **PhD:** Faculty of Medicine, Maastricht University, Netherlands and Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium from 2013- 2017.
- **Masters of Public Health**, National University of Singapore, Singapore; 2009.
- **Fellowship in HIV Medicine**, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi, India; 2008.
- **MBBS: Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery**, JJM Medical College, Davanagere, Karnataka India.1997.

PUBLICATIONS

1. **Vijayashree Yellappa**, Hima Bindu, Neethi Rao, etal. Understanding Retail Private Pharmacist's Role in Private Tuberculosis Market: A Qualitative Inquiry from a South Indian district 2020 (Submitted to BMJ).
2. **Vijayashree Yellappa**, T. Battaglioli, S. K. Gurum, etal. Involving private practitioners in the Indian tuberculosis program: a randomized trial. *Tropical Medicine and International Health*. 2018; 23(5): 570-579.
3. Nora Engel, **Vijayashree Yellappa**, Nitika Pant Pai, etal. Diagnosing at Point of Care in South India: Coordination Work and Frictions. *Science and Technology Studies*. 2017; 30(3): 54-72.
4. **Vijayashree Yellappa**, Narayanan Devadasan, Anja Krumeich, etal How patients navigate a fragmented health system to reach a diagnosis: A qualitative study from India. *Global Health Action*. 2017. VOL 10, 1350452.
5. **Vijayashree Yellappa**, Pierre Lefèvre, Tullia Battaglioli, etal. Patients Pathways to Tuberculosis Diagnosis and Treatment in a Fragmented Health System: A Qualitative Study from a South Indian district. *BMC Public Health*. 2017. 17:635. DOI 10.1186/s12889-017-4627-7.
6. Archana Basavaraju, **Vijayashree Yellappa**. A Unique Survey on Tuberculosis in Urban Slums of Mysore City, Karnataka, India. *International Journal of Medical Science and Clinical Inventions*. 2017. 4(5): 2875-2883.
7. **Vijayashree Yellappa**, Pierre Lefèvre, T. Battaglioli, etal. Coping with tuberculosis and directly observed treatment: a qualitative study among patients from South India. *BMC Health Services Research*. 2016; 16: 283.
8. **Vijayashree Yellappa**, Vani Kandpal, Dorothy Lall, etal. Determinants of sputum conversion at two months of treatment under National Tuberculosis Programme, South India. *International Journal of Medical Science and Public Health*. 2016; 5(12).
9. **Vijayashree Yellappa**, T. Battaglioli, S. K. Gurum, etal. Private practitioners' contributions to the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme in a South Indian district. *Int. Tuberc Lung Dis*. 2016; 20(5): 659–665.

10. Nora Engel, Gayatri Ganesh, Mamatha Patil, **Vijayashree Yellappa**, et al. Barriers to point-of-care testing in India: Results from qualitative research across different settings, users and major diseases. *Plos One*; 2015. 10(8).
11. Nora Engel, Gayatri Ganesh, Mamatha Patil, **Vijayashree Yellappa**, et al. Point-of-care testing in India: missed opportunities to realize the true potential of Point of Care testing programs. *Bio Med Central*. 2015; 15:550.
12. **Vijayashree Yellappa**, N. Devadasan and Neethi V Rao. Evaluation of Results Based Financing Strategies for Tuberculosis care and Control in India. January 2014. Report submitted to the World Bank. Available at <http://iphindia.org/publication/>.
13. **Vijayashree Yellappa**, Neethi V Rao. Incentives for tuberculosis care in the private sector in India: a qualitative study. *International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease*; November 2014: Volume 18; Number 11; Supplement1.
14. Monica Dias, Mukund Uplekar, Diana Weil, **Vijayashree Yellappa**. Report of the meeting held by WHO, SEARO Region and Global Fund. Reaching the “missing million” through scaling up public-private mix for TB care and control in “high-impact” Asian countries. 2014. Available at: http://www.who.int/tb/careproviders/ppm/WHOGF_workshop_Delhi.pdf.
15. **Vijayashree, H**, Elias, M.A., Patil, M.R. *et al*. ‘She was referred from one hospital to another’: evidence on emergency obstetric care in Karnataka, India. *BMC Proc* 6, P15. 2012. doi:10.1186/1753-6561-6-S5-P15.
16. Elias, M.A., Mishra, A., **Vijayashree, H**. *et al*. Interpreting the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act by primary care providers in rural Karnataka: implications on safe abortion services. *BMC Proc* 6, P14. 2012. doi:10.1186/1753-6561-6-S5-P14.
17. Health system stewardship and regulation in Vietnam, India and China. India country report. Institute of Public Health (2012) ‘India Country Report on Health system stewardship and regulation in Vietnam, India and China’, NCIHD and Leeds Institute of Health Sciences, University of Leeds, UK. Available at: <https://iphindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/HESVIC-INDIA-COUNTRY-REPORT.pdf>

