India Health Policy & Systems Research Fellowship

Progress Update July-October 2021

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The fellowship aims to enhance capacity of mid-career public health professionals in health policy and systems research methods to strengthen evidence-based policymaking in health. This blended training program, spread over a period of 18 months, includes online,face-to-face modules & mentorship for conducting a HPSR study. Twenty fellows are part of Cohort 2021. 🔗

An initiative of Health Systems Transformation Platform, the fellowship is organized in collaboration with eminent partners and is supported by Tata Trusts, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and ACCESS Health International.

We are pleased to share our progress with our stakeholders, friends & well-wishers. Reach out to us for sharing your opinions, queries and exploring collaborations or directing us to new avenues to strengthen our resolve for improving Indian health systems.

Completion of Face-to-Face training session

Launched in January 2021, the fellowship trains 20 fellows every year. The online phase for Cohort 2021 was completed in June 2021. The Face-to-Face training session was organised from 30 Aug - 4 Sept 2021 in New Delhi. The aim was to organise an in-person interaction with peers and faculty to strengthen the concepts taught in the online phase and allow fellows to reflect, refine & explore the paradigms of their research question further. The interactions & engagements were interspersed with group work and a facilitated peer review process providing constructive and specific feedback to each fellow.

The sessions were facilitated by core faculty - N Devadasan, Dorothy Lall, Sumit Kane, Prashanth NS, Rakhal Gaitonde, Devaki Nambiar & external expert Surekha Garimella. A session on understanding policy interface for evidence-based decision making in health was organized with Ms Arti Ahuja (Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare). For more details 🔗

Mentoring & Implementation Phase

By the end of the face to face training, the fellows refined & developed high value health policy & systems research proposals. These proposals were reviewed by a panel of HPSR experts comprising the core faculty and John Porter (Professor, LSHTM), Surekha Garimella (Senior Research Fellow, TGI India) & Rajesh Kumar (Technical Advisor, HSTP).

Anika Juneja, PhD fellow, Institute of Public Health Bengaluru
Mentor: Prof. Nakkeeran Nanjappan, Dr BR Ambedkar University

Research: How neighbourhood shapes access to healthcare for two Adivasi communities in central and southern India?

Antony Stanley, Research Associate, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences & Technology
Mentor: Prof. Jeemon P, SCTIMST

Research: Which is the most cost-effective renal replacement therapy among HD, CAPD and renal transplantation? What are the determinants and dynamics of treatment decision making regarding end-stage renal disease patients in Kerala?

Sabu K U, Impact Assessment Lead, Nourishing School Foundation
Mentor: Prof. Kara Hanson, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

Research: How, why and under what condition has the POSHAN Abhiyaan program contributed to the changes in Anganwadi service delivery, service utilisation and child nutritional status of the Paniya community?

Ankita Mukherjee, Qualitative Researcher, The George Institute for Global Health India
Mentor: Dr Rajani Ved, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India

Research: What are the facilitators and barriers that can impact the capacity of rural Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) to operationalize mental health related guidelines in Faridabad district in the state of Haryana?

Mintu Moni Sarma, Programme in Charge, The Ant
Mentor: Dr Renu Khanna, Sahaj

Research: Why patients are visiting the non-specialized paid services provided by non-government entity for mentally ill, despite having specialized public health facilities, in a district of lower Assam, affected by repeated violent conflicts?

Tanu Anand, Scientist D, Indian Council of Medical Research
Mentor: Prof. Shankar Prinja, School of Public Health, PGIMER

Research: What are morbidity profile, patterns of healthcare utilization and out of expenditure on healthcare among elderly and factors (socio-demographic, economic and clinical) associated with them in Longitudinal Ageing Study of India Wave 1? What are the reasons for such patterns?

Harsha Joshi, Program Officer, India Primary Health Care Initiative Project
Mentor: Prof.Helen Schneider, School of Public Health, UWC

Research: How is health equity conceptualized in the national 'Health and Wellness Centre' policy documents in India?

Ponnambily Chandy, Asst Professor, Sathyabhama College of Nursing
Mentor: Prof. Bart Criel, ITM Antwerp

Research: What are the determinants within the health system at various levels, micro, meso and macro for poor retention of nurses in rural Tamil Nadu PHCs?

Akanksha Sonal, Asst Professor, King George Medical University
Mentor: Dr Sumegha Asthana, Independent Expert

Research: How are mental health needs of older adults addressed in policies and programs of central and different state governments of India?

Anuj Ghanekar, Social Anthropologist, Urban Health & Climate Resilience Center of Excellence
Mentor: Prof. Greg Armstrong, Nossal Institute for Global Health

Research: What processes and mechanisms determine the responsiveness of urban primary health centers in Surat towards primary healthcare of adolescents in order to implement RKSK?

Gitismita Naik, Independent Researcher
Mentor: Dr Sridhar Kadam, Indian Institute of Public Health Bhubhaneswar

Research: Why are there barriers to Antenatal care for Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy at primary level health system in Jharsuguda district of western Odisha? What works in providing standard antenatal care at primary level health system for Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy?

Rekha Ravindran, Senior Research Officer, State Health Systems Resource Centre
Mentor: Dr Jagnoor Jagnoor, The George Institute of Global Health

Research: How well is the State Trauma Action Plan being implemented in Kerala, India?

Jithesh V, Asst Director, Kerala Health Services
Mentor: Dr Kerry Scott, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Research: What individual, community and health system factors underpin the Paniya community's low utilization of government health care services in Wayanad, Kerala?

Sapna Mishra, Independent Researcher
Mentor: Prof. Sivakami Muthusamy, School of Health Systems Studies, TISS

Research: Why adult workers processing e-waste in the unorganized e-waste sector and their family members in a municipal ward of Hyderabad are not taking COVID-19 vaccines?

Sunu Thomas, Independent Researcher
Mentor: Prof.Rama Baru, Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, JNU

Research: How infertility is constructed in the policy discourse in India?

Deepshikha Chettri, Senior Analyst, The Ballot House (UK)
Mentor: Prof. Asha George, School of Public Health, UWC

Research: What are the facilitators and barriers that influence the uptake of early initiation of breastfeeding (EIBF) among tribal women from an aspirational district of Rajasthan? Why do these facilitators and barriers exist?

Deepak Behera, Asst Professor, Manipal Academy of Higher Education
Mentor: Prof Sumit Kane, Nossal Institute for Global Health

Research: What are the services provided in a palliative care center in Odisha for Terminal cases of cancer patients?