

India Health Policy & Systems Research Fellowship

Progress Update February 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. **Know more here**

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.

"The reading material and discussions during the course are helping me comprehend the messy, complex nature of health systems and health policy."



Harsha Joshi | Fellow 2021
India Primary Health Care Initiative Project, New Delhi



"I have learned how to discuss politely in a forum on a particular health issue and try to conclude by taking into account other's views as well."

Deepak Behera | Fellow 2021
Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal

"HPSR fellowship format has a strong component of peer engagement helpful in appreciating the wide variation of local contexts that exist in India."



Anupama Sanjeev | Fellow 2021
Ramaiah Public Policy Centre, Bengaluru

Completion of Module on Introduction to Health Policy and the Policy Process

This month fellows were familiarized with complexities of health policy development and policy process frameworks. Dimensions of policy triangle (content, context, processes & actors) were explored with a focus on its dynamic understanding using concepts such as "multi-level problem" & "policy as translation of belief". Recognising the power play and involvement of multi-level & street-level bureaucracy in the policy process was introduced. To aid learning, discussions & assignments anchored around:

- A documentary on battling AIDS crisis in Africa highlighting the role of pharmaceutical companies in supplying affordable drugs and a case study on introduction of free antiretroviral therapy in India. These dealt with issues such as political will, activism, role of civil society organisations, international discourse etc. which influence decision-making during policy process.
- Exemplars of public policy in action in India such as evolution of the ASHA programme, Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, the Universal Health Coverage discourse, implementation of Dakshata programme aimed at empowering providers for improving maternal & newborn health etc.



"We hope that the content and discussions in this course shall be a good foundation in terms of seeking to understand, explain and perhaps even modulate the complexities in undertaking health policy and systems research."

Prashanth NS, Assistant Director
Institute of Public Health Bengaluru



"Discussion of various perspectives on health performance and of frameworks made fellows aware how their health care organization function and how it fits within the larger Indian health system."

Bruno Marchal, Professor
Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp