

India Health Policy & Systems Research Fellowship

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Progress Update



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.



"This fellowship helped bring clarity on stakeholder roles in policy making and systemic issues that I have been trying to understand for long."

Jithesh Veetilakath | Fellow 2021
Assistant Director (Health Services)
Malappuram



"The sessions provide a positive and emotional environment to talk, discuss, suggest, present & debate issues. The openness of faculty to share their concerns and appreciation encourages us to reflect."

Mintu Moni Sarma | Fellow 2021
Programme in Charge
The Ant, Guwahati



"Fellowship's expert lectures and peer- discussions allow to view and deconstruct concepts from multiple perspectives."

Sapna Mishra | Fellow 2021
PhD Student, Sree Chitra Tirunal
Institute of Medical Sciences &
Technology, Trivandrum

Completion of module on formulating Research Design

The module introduced research methods & approaches by linking these to the complexities, social construction as well as contextual changing nature of HPSR. Focus was on economic evaluation, social epidemiology and health inequity analysis, evidence synthesis, implementation research, participatory action research and theory-driven inquiry. The strengths & weaknesses of these approaches, with due attention to ethics & scientific rigour of using these approaches was delved into. Mixed nature of health systems, "how to" choose appropriate methods for a particular research question and determining its relevance was emphasized.

Interactions & discussions revolved around dependencies while moving from a research question to research design. This also included length of research study, role of funding partners & stakeholders, ensuring how power & control over the process rests with participants, obstacles in achieving community participation, addressing researcher biases, unpacking the politics of evaluation etc. Fellows were encouraged to be aware of researcher's own theoretical framework, how it is perceived as affecting the data & explanations that they seek to address.



Dorothy Lall, Faculty,
Institute of Public
Health Bengaluru

"It's been wonderful to see the course evolve in response to the individual journeys of the fellows. This module on methods in HPSR has taken the conversation on complexity in health systems forward with introduction to methods that embrace complexity."



Sumit Kane,
Associate Professor
Nossal Institute for
Global Health

"It is a delight to see the remarkable progress we have all made in India HPSR Fellowship program. This is an exciting journey of working collaboratively, learning together, supporting the development of HPSR and the next generation of HPSR researchers in India."

