

# Report

## India HPSR Fellowship Program - Cohort 2022 Synthesis Session

13-14 December 2022



## Contact

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This report titled 'India HPSR Fellowship program Cohort 2022 - Synthesis Session' has been developed by Health Systems Transformation Platform (HSTP) and the partner(s) to share the summary of proceedings of this training session.

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*We are grateful for guidance and contribution of the HSTP Board, HSTP Management, faculty & experts who participated. We are grateful to Dr Manohar Agnani, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for sharing his valuable insights into policy making and engaging in a policy interface session with fellows of Cohort 2022. Special thanks to HSTP colleagues for their support – Rajeev Sadanandan, Sridhar Gudthur, Rahul Reddy K, Shilpa John, Aaliyah Ali Khan, Diwakar Gautam, Peter Parekattil, Baiju Paul & Prince Mehiratta.*

# Objectives

Health Systems Transformation Platform (HSTP) is a not-for-profit organization based in New Delhi, India. Our mission is to enable policymakers and researchers in the Indian health systems to generate and utilize evidence for improving health outcomes and financial protection. We work in the areas of health policy, service delivery, financing, and health policy and systems research in partnership with Indian & Global researchers/ institutions.

Anchored by HSTP, the India Health Policy Systems & Research (HPSR) Fellowships program aims to build capacity of mid-career public health professionals for strengthening health systems through evidence-based policymaking. Launched in January 2021, the fellowship trains 20 fellows every year. This blended training program is spread over a period of 18 months. Details [here](#). The fellowship is organized in collaboration with WHO Alliance for Health Systems and Policy Research, Institute of Public Health Bengaluru, Achutha Menon Centre for Health Systems Studies, The George Institute of Global Health - India, Nossal Institute of Global Health, Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp, & India Health Systems Collaborative.

Cohort 2022 commenced with inaugural & introductory face-to-face training held from 4-7 April 2022 at New Delhi. [Vinod K Paul](#), Member (Health) NITI Aayog and [Abdul Ghaffar](#), Executive Director, WHO Alliance for Health Policy & Systems Research were keynote speakers. Access video [here](#) & report [here](#).

**Synthesis Session** was organised (13-14 Dec 2022) for an in-person interaction with peers and faculty to synthesise the learnings from the program till date and reinforce HPSR concepts taught in the induction and online phase. Sessions were facilitated by [N Devadasan](#), [Devaki Nambiar](#), [Dorothy Lall](#), [Prashanth NS](#) & [Rakhal Gaitonde](#). An experience sharing session with Cohort 2021 fellows [Anuj Ghanekar](#), [Ankita Mukherjee](#), [Ponnambily Chandy](#) & [Tanu Anand](#) was also conducted.

The focus of the sessions was on guiding fellows to refine their research problem, research question and analyse the problem using a systems perspective. Fellows received comprehensive feedback from peers & faculty to help elaborate and refine their appropriate research design and methods. Over the two-days, fellows participated in sessions on integrating ethics into research, conducting stakeholder analysis and presenting their research proposal. This was organised through peer learning activities, group work, presentations, discussions, and lecture sessions by faculty. This report provides a summary of proceedings and learnings. (Detailed agenda is in page 5).

**Policy Engagement Session** was organized with [Dr Manohar Agnani](#) (Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare) where the fellows interacted to understand policy interface for evidence-based decision making in health. Dr Agnani detailed upon various means & processes by which government articulates its policies. Discussions revolved around navigating political priorities, intersectoral collaborations with research outputs, the genesis of various existing health schemes, leveraging academia & available resource into the policymaking process etc. The interaction highlighted importance of evidence-based research with practical examples & it's role in bringing about a change in policies & practices.

- **Experience sharing by Cohort 2021:** Training began with an interactive experience sharing session between the first and second Cohort. The panel comprising Anuj Ghanekar, Ankita Mukherjee, Ponnambily Chandy & Tanu Anand Cohort 2021 fellows shared their experience in the fellowship program as well as the mentoring journey. They highlighted key aspects of their HPSR study, various implementation challenges faced as well as how they anticipate using the HPSR lens in their future work. Queries from Cohort 2022 fellows revolved around overcoming challenges with permissions, managing timelines, appropriate planning for the implementation phase, ensuring quality of data collected and the evolving stages of research implementation.
- **Session on integrating ethics into research** highlighted the principles of bioethics (autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, justice, informed consent, privacy & confidentiality). It delved into aspects of equity and integrating the equity lens throughout the research cycle. Barriers & challenges to achieving this were also discussed.
- **Session on stakeholder analysis and the concept of power** explored the various sources, dimensions & expressions of power in the policy making process and while conducting an HPSR. Identifying stakeholder, assessing their power, interests, position and commitment were highlighted. Emphasis was on assessing the importance of the research problem to each stakeholder vis a vis their own priorities and how this would influence the shift/modifications to any policy content.
- **Activity – stakeholder prioritization matrix:** This activity was designed to internalize influence of various stakeholders within research. From their proposed research, each fellow mapped & categorized various stakeholder types (high and low influence challengers and champions) using a stakeholder prioritization matrix. They discussed aspects of how & why they perceived various actors in identified categories.
- **Presentation of research proposals:** The aim of the session was to receive comprehensive feedback on fellows' research proposals from both peer and faculty. Each fellow presented their complete proposal, including detailed timelines, budget & implementation plan. By the end of this session, the fellows refined their research problem, research question and analysed the problem using an HPSR lens.
- **Interaction on progress in Online Phase:** An interaction of fellows with course faculty was organized over the two days. Clarifications pertaining to respective subject modules were discussed in detail. The session concluded with an overview of the fellows' performance during the online phase and detailed feedback cum suggestions regarding the program based on their experience.

## Next Steps

Robust scientific research and evidence synthesis is fundamental to evidence-based policy making in India. At the core of this are the Indian researchers and policy makers. We value their contribution to current understanding of the Indian health systems. To enable transformation and lead the system on the path towards universal health coverage and achieving Sustainable Development Goals, India needs enhanced research capabilities especially in conducting health policy and systems research. HSTP's program on enhancing capabilities is committed to continue conducting activities in this direction.

This synthesis session provided an opportunity for second cohort of India HPSR fellows to interact with peers & faculty and receive comprehensive feedback on their HPSR studies. By the end of this session, the fellows refined their research problem, research question and analysed the problem using an HPSR lens. Fellows will make their final presentations to a jury panel in January 2023, thereafter which they proceed to the final mentorship & implementation phase of the program.

# Agenda

## ISID, New Delhi

### 13-14 December 2022

#### INDIA HPSR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: COHORT 2022 SYNTHESIS SESSION AGENDA (13-14 DECEMBER, 2022)

DATE	SESSION 1 9:00 to 10:00	SESSION 2 10:00 to 11:00	SESSION 3 11:30 to 12:30	SESSION 4 13:30 to 14:30	SESSION 5 14:30 to 15:30	SESSION 5 16:00 to 17:00
TUES 13.12.22	9 – 9:30 am Ice-breaking Shilpa John Aaliyah Ali Khan	Experience Sharing Session: Cohort 2021 Fellows  Ponnambily Chandy Anuj Ghanekar Ankita Mukherjee Tanu Anand  Moderated by Shilpa John	Ethics and Safeguarding in HPSR (Integrating Equity in HPSR)  Devaki Nambiar	(1:30 to 3 pm)  Stakeholder analysis  Rakhal Gaitonde Devaki Nambiar	(3 to 4 pm)  Interaction with Faculty  Devaki Nambiar N Devadasan Dorothy Lal Prashanth NS	Day 1 ends at 4.30 pm Proceed to IIC Annexe  Policy interface session with Dr Manohar Aganoni, Additional Secretary, MOHFW, GOI (18:00 Hrs Onwards @ IIC Annexe, Lodhi Road)
	9 – 9:30 am Welcome & Expectations from Cohort 2022 Rajeev Sadanandan	9:30 to 12:30 pm  Proposal Presentation by Fellows'  Peer and Faculty feedback	9:30 to 12:30 pm  Proposal Presentation by Fellows'  Peer and Faculty feedback	Energizer Session  Shilpa John Aaliyah Ali Khan	Interaction with HSTP Finance and Administration  Sridhar Guduthur Shilpa John	Closing Remarks  Rajeev Sadanandan N Devadasan

# Participants

S. No	Name	Organization
	<b>Fellows</b>	
1	Arohi Chauhan	Public Health Foundation of India
2	Divya CS	Navakeralam Karmapadhathi 2, Government of Kerala
3	Giridara Gopal Parameswaran	Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics and Policy (CDDEP)
4	Jacob Islary	St. Xavier's University, West Bengal
5	Kalaiselvi S	All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Nagpur
6	Kuhika Seth	International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
7	Manjula Bahuguna	Society for Nutrition, Education and Health Action
8	Meghashish Sharma	World Bank
9	Nafis Faizi	Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, AMU
10	Pankaj Kumar Tiwari	Jan Swasthya Sahyog
11	Prasanna Thirunavukkarasu	All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jodhpur
12	Preetam Mahajan	JIPMER
13	Radha Rao Valaulikar	Piramal Swasthya Management and Research Institute, Assam
14	Sandul Yasobant	Indian Institute of Public Health Gandhinagar (IIPHG)
15	Shweta Marathe	SATHI
16	Sunil Kumar Panigrahi	All India Institute of Medical Sciences Deoghar
17	Trusty Khumukcham	Health Services, Manipur
18	Yuvaraj Krishnamoorthy	ESIC Medical College & PGIMSR, K.K.Nagar
	<b>Faculty</b>	
19	Devaki Nambiar	The George Institute for Global Health India
20	Dorothy Lall	Christian Medical College, Vellore
21	N Devadasan	Course Director, India HPSR Fellowship program
22	Prashanth NS	Institute of Public Health Bengaluru
23	Rakhal Gaitonde	Achutha Menon Centre for Health Systems Studies
	<b>Facilitators</b>	
24	Rajeev Sadanandan	Health Systems Transformation Platform
25	Sridhar Guduthur	Health Systems Transformation Platform
29	Shilpa John	Health Systems Transformation Platform
30	Rahul S Reddy Kadarpetta	Health Systems Transformation Platform
31	Aaliyah Ali Khan	Health Systems Transformation Platform
32	Diwakar Gautam	Health Systems Transformation Platform
33	Peter Parekattil	Health Systems Transformation Platform
34	Prince Mehdiratta	Health Systems Transformation Platform
35	Baiju Paul	Health Systems Transformation Platform



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