Report

India HPSR Fellowship Program - Cohort 2022 Inaugural & Face to Face Training Session

4 – 7 April 2022

Contact

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

Disclaimer

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. 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.

Launched in January 2021, the fellowship trains 20 fellows every year. The inauguration and an introductory Face-to-Face training for Cohort 2022 was 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 of inauguration here.

The face to face training session was organised for an in-person interaction with peers and faculty to introduce the fellowship program & HPSR concepts to be taught in the subsequent months. Sessions were facilitated by **Devaki Nambiar, Dorothy Lall, N Devadasan, Prashanth NS, Rakhal Gaitonde & Sumit Kane**.
Training focussed on introduction to systems and policies along with an overview of HPSR. Over the four-day period, fellows worked on identifying, articulating problems in HPSR and were introduced to types of research questions as well as concept of systems thinking. The workshop focussed on refining problems and fellows' proposed research questions. 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).

Proceedings

- **Rajeev Sadanandan**, CEO HSTP welcomed dignitaries and Cohort 2022 fellows. He emphasized the importance and goal of the fellowship to generate demand for evidence, policy and practice and build capacity for research. **K Rahul S Reddy**, National Coordinator HSTP, provided an overview of HSTP's work portfolio highlighting key areas of work undertaken till date. **N Devadasan**, Chairman, Academic Committee, India HPSR Fellowship program, shared the learning outcomes, structure, selection criteria and details underlining the need for creating a pool of health policy and systems researchers for a thriving HPSR ecosystem in India.

- **Vinod K Paul**, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, in his inaugural address opined that currently, evidence on how and who to deliver healthcare is weak and this needs to be addressed. Policymakers need evidence from health policy and systems research for policy making, revising programs and practice in the field. India HPSR fellowship trains health professionals ushering them to contribute to India's growth story. He also stressed on the need to create a stronger and expansive cohort of researchers in health systems and policy with an eye on implementation and real change on ground level to generate high quality evidence by bringing together professionals from various disciplines.

> **Evidence driven HPSR approach is vital for effective policy development & addressing health system requirements.**

- **Abdul Ghaffar**, Executive Director, WHO Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, in his inaugural remarks, highlighted that HPSR has always stressed upon the critical role of people in any system and the need for creating linkages among peers and policy decision-makers is central to HPSR. As historical emphasis on bio-medical research is not sufficient to create health and well-being for all, he also urged the fellows to treat this opportunity to learn not only HPSR skills but also grow networks, engage with policymakers, understand policy and their impact on health systems.

> **Ensuring support for undertaking policy relevant research in collaboration with decision makers is a critical part of tackling global inequities.**

- **Rajesh Kumar,** Technical Advisor HSTP, in his concluding remarks highlighted that despite challenges of the pandemic, interest generated by the fellowship program is encouraging and HSTP is happy to be contributing to developing the HPSR ecosystem in India. He also thanked all stakeholders and partners who are supporting the development and operations of the fellowship.

- The 4-day training program introduced fellows to the concepts of health system, policy and its analysis, locating oneself in the ecosystem to frame more meaningful research questions. Other considerations included ethical and equity perspectives. Typology of research questions, what characterizes HPSR as well as applying the health systems thinking lens to the research questions was discussed. The fellows articulated and presented their problem statements along with proposed research questions and on the final day, they worked together to modify their identified research questions incorporating the learnings.

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 workshop provided the opportunity for second cohort of India HPSR fellows to interact with peers & faculty as they begin their journey in the area of Health Policy & Systems Research. By the end of this session, the fellows developed insights in foundational concepts of HPSR as well as identifying and articulating their proposed research questions using an HPSR lens. Fellows will now move to online phase of the program, where they will be trained on the various aspects of conducting a health policy & systems research.

Agenda
The Imperial, New Delhi
4 - 7 April 2022

DATE	SESSION 1 9:00 to 10:30		SESSION 2 11:00 to 12:30		SESSION 3 13:30 to 15:00		SESSION 4 15:30 to 17:00
MON 04.04.22	**Inaugural Session – Vinod K Paul, Member (NITI Aayog) Abdul Ghaffar, Executive Director, WHO Alliance**	T E A	**Icebreaking session Overview, Objectives & Structure of Fellowship Program –** *N Devadasan & Shilpa John*	L U N C H	**What is a system? What is a policy?** *– N Devadasan & Rakhal Gaitonde/Dorothy Lall*	T E A	**Overview of HPSR What is HPSR? HPSR Glossary** *Dorothy Lall & Sumit Kane*
TUES 05.04.22	**Recap – 15 mts What characterizes HPSR? Discuss- field building paper Identifying and articulating problems in HPSR** *Prashanth NS*		**Articulating the problem Presentations by fellows of their Problem - peer and faculty feedback** *– Dorothy Lall & N Devadasan*		**Framing research questions - considerations including ethical and equity perspective. Coherent with problem statements –** *Devaki Nambiar*		**Group work on re-articulating the HPSR problem (1 hour) & Presentation (30 min)** *Dorothy Lall, N Devadasan & Sumit Kane*
WED 06.04.22	**Recap – 15 mts (exercise on statement Vs question) –** *N Devadasan Sumit Kane & Dorothy Lall* **Exercise** • **Group work on refining the problem statement and research question** • **Research questions in HPSR**		**Typology of research questions (30 mins)** *Prashanth NS/Dorothy Lall* **Articulating their RQ – group work (30 mins) Presentation of group work (30 mins) - Peer and faculty feedback** *Prashanth NS/Dorothy Lall/N Devadasan*		**Applying health system definition and systems thinking in research questions** *Prepare questions for next session* *- Prashanth NS*		**HPSR Webinar Health Systems Thinking** *Lucy Gilson*
THURS 07.04.22	**Recap What is a clear and specific research question? Introduction to LMS - Q and A** *Harish/ Yogin* **Making the most of the LMS** *Shilpa John*		**Group work on refining the problem statement and research question.** *N Devadasan & Shilpa John*		**Presentations by fellows- peer and faculty feedback** Dorothy/Devaki/Prashanth/Rakhal/ Sumit/Deva/Shilpa/Rakesh/Rajeev		**Closing and Remarks** *Rajesh Kumar & Rajeev Sadanandan*

Participants

S. No	Name	Organization
	Fellows	
1	Arohi Chauhan	Public Health Foundation of India
2	Bevin Vinay Kumar C	Institute for Economic Growth
3	Divya CS	Health Action by People
4	Giridara Gopal Parameswaran	Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics and Policy (CDDEP)
5	Jacob Islary	Assam Don Bosco University, Assam
6	Kalaiselvi S	All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Nagpur
7	Kuhika Seth	International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
8	Manjula Bahuguna	Society for Nutrition, Education and Health Action
9	Meghashish Sharma	Jhpiego
10	Mitasha Singh	ESIC Medical College and Hospital, Faridabad
11	Nafis Faizi	Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, AMU
12	Pankaj Kumar Tiwari	Jan Swasthya Sahyog
13	Prasanna Thirunavukkarasu	All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jodhpur
14	Preetam Mahajan	JIPMER
15	Radha Rao Valaulikar	Piramal Swasthya Management and Research Institute
16	Sandul Yasobant	Indian Institute of Public Health Gandhinagar (IIPHG)
17	Shweta Marathe	SATHI
18	Sunil Kumar Panigrahi	Dr Vasantrao Pawar Medical College Hospital & Research Centre
19	Trusty Khumukcham	Health Services, Manipur
20	Yuvaraj Krishnamoorthy	ESIC Medical College & PGIMSR, K.K.Nagar
	Faculty	
20	N Devadasan	Chair, Academic Committee, India HPSR Fellowship program
21	Dorothy Lall	Christian Medical College, Vellore
22	Sumit Kane	Nossal Institute of Global Health
23	Prashanth NS	Institute of Public Health Bengaluru
24	Rakhal Gaitonde	Achutha Menon Centre for Health Systems Studies
25	Devaki Nambiar	The George Institute for Global Health India
	Facilitators	
29	Rajeev Sadanandan	Health Systems Transformation Platform
30	Rajesh Kumar	Health Systems Transformation Platform
31	Shilpa John	Health Systems Transformation Platform
32	Rahul S Reddy Kadarpeta	Health Systems Transformation Platform
33	Sridhar Guduthur	Health Systems Transformation Platform
34	Diwakar Gautam	Health Systems Transformation Platform
35	Peter Parekattil	Health Systems Transformation Platform
36	M Rugma	Health Systems Transformation Platform
37	Prince Mehdiratta	Health Systems Transformation Platform
38	Baiju Paul	Health Systems Transformation Platform

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