

India Health Policy & Systems Research Fellowship

JANURAY 2023 | PROGRESS UPDATE

indiahpsrfellowships.org

info@indiahpsrfellowships.org

@HPSRIndia

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 phase and mentorship for conducting a HPSR study.

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

Policy engagement session: India HPSR fellows' interaction with Dr Manohar Agnani Addl. Secretary MoHFW, India



SUMMARY: COHORT 2022 SYNTHESIS SESSION 13-14 DEC' 2022

01

UNDERSTANDING POLICY PRIORITIES & RESEARCH FOR HEALTH SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

Dr Agnani shared the means by which government articulates its policies, navigating political priorities, collaborations with researchers for designing health schemes. He highlighted the importance of evidence informed policy with practical examples.

02

STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS & INTEGRATING ETHICS INTO RESEARCH

Discussions focused on challenges of integrating equity lens & principle of bioethics throughout the research cycle. Emphasis was also on assessing importance of stakeholder priorities in research, and how this influences modifications to policy content.

03

REFINING FELLOWS' HPSR PROPOSALS

Fellows received faculty & peer feedback to refine their research problem, research question and analysed the problem using an HPSR lens. An overview of the fellows' performance during the online phase was shared.

[Know more](#)

PROGRAM STRUCTURE



Cohort 2021 launched in January 2021, has 15 fellows currently completing their research.

Cohort 2022 launched in April 2022, has 19 fellows who will begin their research.



FELLOW'S SPOTLIGHT



Ankita Mukherjee, M.Phil PhD
Qualitative Researcher,
George Institute India

Mentor: Dr. Rajani Ved,
Director of Health -India Office,
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

My research explores the barriers and facilitators that impact the integration of mental health in India's comprehensive primary healthcare programme, being implemented through the Health and Wellness Centers. The study is being carried out in Haryana using primarily qualitative methods. While a mixed method study with facility survey was planned earlier, the plan had to be changed due to difficulty in accessing data. While HPSR does not have methods or tools that are uniquely its own, it does provide a lens to ask the right questions and analytical framework for making sense of the findings. In my research I conceptualize the health system as a complex adaptive system(CAS) and enquire into 'health system software' and 'health system hardware' that may impact integration of mental health services. HPSR lens has helped me frame questions that I may not have done earlier. My analysis will draw on understanding of health systems as CAS and characteristics of systems (systems thinking) to make sense of the findings.

My mentor with a wealth of knowledge and expertise in health systems and policy making was instrumental in bringing focus to my research. She provided me with practical guidance and support. I wish to continue this mentorship journey beyond the fellowship period.



Dr Antony Stanley, Research Scholar
AMCHSS, SCTIMST.

Mentor: Dr Jeemon Panniyammakal
Associate Professor
AMCHSS, SCTIMST.

I used both qualitative and quantitative research methods to understand the most cost-effective renal replacement therapy option among hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis. The perspectives for the analysis are disaggregated societal and health system perspectives, which is a key take away from the HPSR fellowship. The qualitative method allows me to explore the determinants of treatment choices of end-stage renal disease patients. I believe this lens helped me to ensure to explore factors that enable the patient to adhere to a particular program and behavior, which is necessary for the policy and program design.

My mentor has been very supportive for my development as a researcher especially when I struggled to clarify some research methods and align them with policy importance.