

# India Health Policy & Systems Research Fellowship

NOVEMBER 2022 | PROGRESS UPDATE

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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 phase and mentorship for conducting a HPSR study. Nineteen fellows are part of Cohort 2022.

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.

## FELLOW'S SPOTLIGHT



**Ponnambily Chandy, Assistant Professor**  
College of Nursing, Sathyabama Institute of Science & Technology  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

**Mentor: Bart Criel, Professor Emeritus**  
Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp, Belgium.

I used a systems thinking lens to identify determinants of nurse turnover in rural Primary Health Centers (PHC) in Tamil Nadu. I conducted a systematic literature review; a qualitative inquiry; with a focus to get research into policy and practice (GRIPP). In-depth interviews and focus group discussions at macro, meso, and micro levels of health system were carried out.

Using conceptual and relational content analysis, tipping points synergistic interactions, and policy responses were identified. The current research design was used as a case-study to develop the Health Systemic Determinants Research Framework (HSDR) for early-career HPSR researchers and documented in a methodological paper.

The fellowship has changed my life for good. The faculty and mentoring program have inspired me to work harder and produce results creatively. My mentorship journey with Bart Criel has been of an indescribable value, his encouragements have been of great help in completing the fellowship and in my professional development.



**Anuj Ghanekar, Social Anthropologist**  
Surat, Gujrat, India

**Mentor: Greg Armstrong, Senior Research Fellow**  
Melbourne School of Population and Global Health  
**Local guidance : Vikas Desai, Technical Director, UHCRCE**



I studied "health vulnerability of urban adolescents" and "adolescent responsiveness of Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (National Adolescent Health Programme) in real life setting of the UPHC using flexible research design with the case study method.

This was conceptualised using the system's characteristics like the history of adolescents' health programs, boundaries of the urban primary health centre (UPHC) as a system and interconnections with its sub-systems, the mechanisms for feedback, non-linear pathways. RKSK "7C" strategy framework was used to analyse data. The health department of municipal cooperation was involved during all phases of the research study.

The faculty and mentorship program was very effective to help me retain the HPSR lens in the study. The mentor ensured that the data collection and analysis did not deviate from the posed research question and objectives.