India Health Policy & Systems Research Fellowship

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Completion of jury panel presentations

Cohort 2022 fellows refined & developed health policy & systems research proposals. These proposals were reviewed by a panel comprising the core faculty Bruno Marchal, Devaki Nambiar, Dorothy Lall, N Devadasan, Prashanth NS, Rakhal Gaitonde, Sumit Kane and external HPSR experts Asha George (Professor, UWC), Bart Criel (Professor, ITM), Kerry Scott (Associate, JHU), Mathew George (Professor, CUK), Pragati Hebbar (Faculty, IPH), Rama Baru (Professor, JNU), Ritu Priya (Professor, JNU), Seye Abimbola (Associate Professor, USYD), Upendra Bhojani (Director, IPH). Fellows selected by the panel will move to the mentoring & implementation phase.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- **O1 ONLINE**
  - Introduction to key HPSR concepts (6 months)
  - Coaching
  - Training

- **O2 FACE TO FACE**
  - Deepening understanding of key facets of HPSR (2 weeks)
  - Focus
  - Goal

- **O3 MENTORSHIP & RESEARCH IMPLEMENTATION**
  - Mentoring relationship; Implementation of HPSR study (12 months)
  - Growth
  - Advice

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.
My research aims to study and understand the barriers and facilitators of care-seeking in hypertensive disorders of pregnancy in the primary-level health system. I am employing different methods to understand these, including stakeholder interviews and facility assessments. The methods I use are applications of insights gained from the HPSR fellowship journey. This has opened newer learning opportunities for me, and I want to continue on the health policy and systems research path.

My mentorship journey under the guidance of Dr Kadam has been highly enriching. He is a very reassuring, upbeat guide. He is always available and very supportive.

My research explores the current status of palliative care services for cancer patients in Odisha. I used both qualitative and quantitative research methods to understand the availability and quality of services in the health system perspective. My learnings from the India HPSR fellowship program and using a health system lens helped in analysing, understanding the barriers in accessing the quality of services at the palliative care centre in Odisha from the patient perspective.

My mentor has been very supportive of my research work. He has been instrumental in providing clarity and direction to my research problem.