A research study titled "SOCIAL DIAGNOSIS OF NEONATAL DEATHS IN HARYANA: THE IMPACT OF CONTEXTUAL FACTORS ON PATHWAYS OF SURVIVAL OF NEWBORNS" , funded by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), is being carried out at IIHMR, Delhi by Dr. Preetha G. S, Dr. B.S. Singh, & Dr. Sumant Swain.

The fall in neonatal mortality has not matched up to the more dramatic fall in infant and child mortality in the last two decades, world over and in India. Most of the neonatal deaths are due to preventable causes of prematurity, birth asphyxia or incidents during child birth and infections. The study which is being conducted in the state of Haryana is expected to provide critical information as to how the access and utilization of interventions for neonatal survival are guided by social, behavioral and the local health care delivery system factors. The objective of the study is to delineate the contextual factors which affected access and utilization of interventions for neonatal survival through social autopsy of neonatal deaths. The study is of 2-year duration starting from April 2017 and is being carried out in four districts of Haryana- two high infant mortality districts and two low infant mortality districts. A total of 350 neonatal deaths of the previous year from the four districts were extracted from the records of the district administration. The principal care takers of the deceased newborns were the primary respondents for the study. The study population also included the District Child Health Officer, pediatricians, obstetricians, medical officers, ANMs, ASHAs as well as members of the community. The technique of data collection was social autopsy. The social autopsy tool was a semi structured interview schedule and used a mix of open ended and closed ended questions regarding social, behavioral and health system factors which contributed to the death of the newborn. Data collection is currently ongoing. Using the conceptual framework of ‘Pathways to Survival’, the collected data will be analyzed and interpreted to capture the non-biological factors which acted as contributing factors to the death of the neonates and to evolve a framework of action points at different levels - community, health care centres and their interfaces, which would improve chances of neonatal survival.

Bhutan Medical and Health Council approached the training division, IIHMR, Delhi to organize a customized program on Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Healthcare Organization. Their basic objective was to learn about the various aspects of quality healthcare to be able to prepare the health institutions in Bhutan for accreditation on the pattern of NABH in India. The training contents were finalized in consultation with the officials from Bhutan Medical and Health Council. Five participants were sponsored to attend the training. The training programme discussed general concepts of quality and accreditation of institutions at National and International level. Issues related to Access, Assessment and Continuity of care, Care of Patient, Continuous Quality Improvement, Management of Medication, Hospital Infection Control, Information Management System, Leadership in Quality Human Resource Management, Patient Rights and Education, and Tools for quality improvement were discussed by learned faculty from IIHMR Delhi, AIIMS, Corporate hospitals and Quality Consultants. Daily feedback from participants, recapitations of previous days learning, and a field visit to Venkateshwar hospital, Dwarka, was a part of the training. Case studies and participants presentations provided a good platform to discuss and formulate the desired draft action plan for quality improvements and introduction of accreditation in Bhutan’s health system. The participants were highly appreciative about resource persons, interaction with stakeholders at IIHMR and the physical facilities. They desired that such program should be continued and imparted to more health officials from Bhutan.
The Post Graduate Diploma in Hospital and Health Management (PGDHM) at IIHMR, Delhi, has a focused component of research as part of its curriculum. Each student is required to undertake a three month long research project/study, in an area of their interest, complete a dissertation report and present their work to an experts’ panel to successfully receive their final degree. The PGDHM Batch 2016-18 students are undergoing the three month dissertation period, after which they will also present their work. As they also come close to the end of the second year of the PGDHM programme, each student is required to submit a thesis report outlining complete details of the research undertaken. The research topics span across a wide range of topics in health, from health systems functions, services, access and utilization, cost and economic analysis, to hospital services and department performance etc. The students have carried out their studies across various institutes and organisations and so far close to 60 dissertation reports have been been completed. Representative organisations include - Action Balaji Hospital, Sidqam Technologies, Aakash Health Care, Sanjeevani Hospital, India Health Link, Metro Hospital, Faridabad, DCDC Kidney Care, ZS Associates, Apollo Hospital, Octavo Solutions, NHSRC, NTT Data, Credihealth, Telerad Technologies, mHealth, CHRD, SAS, IMS Health, Care Bihar, Monilek Hospital, Credi Health, National Health Mission MP, Narayana Health, UNICEF, Apollo Hospital, Moolchand Medcity, Surbhi Hospital, Noida, IKS Health, JHPIEGO, among others.
What was your career path that led you to your current position?

The inclination to work for socially and economically marginalized sections of our society was a key driving force. I am a Commerce graduate from BHU, the very obvious career paths for me were MBA or CA however I was never convinced that I would be content in either of those roles 10 years down the line. Community service through public health management was the idea that clicked me and paved my way for IIHMR. In a batch of 60 students I was the only one who came from a non-medico or non-science background. My fellow students were amazed that what made me choose a course which was considered for students from science background.

Could you describe your typical workday?

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What educational preparation would you recommend for someone who wants to advance in this field?

This field requires a lot of soft skills when you are taught about Advocacy as a subject you can understand what it is but putting it to practice is different from just having theoretical knowledge. Consider case of music only theoretical knowledge of music won’t be able to make you a good singer. For succeeding in field of Advocacy practice on your people skills, written and verbal communication, try reading both Hindi and English language newspapers on a daily basis this will help you in having good command over both languages. Some senior officials and MPs are impressed when you use a good vocabulary of Hindi in your communication.
Dr. A. K. Khokhar
Professor & Dean- Training, IIHMR, Delhi


For how long have you been associated with the IIHMR family?

I have been associated with IIHMR since 1996 as a faculty for development of PGDHHM course at IIHMR Jaipur and since August 2012 as a visiting faculty, I have been working as Professor Hospital Management and Dean (Training) at IIHMR Delhi.

Could you elaborate upon your Professional and Work Experience?

Besides working in different positions in ESIC Medical services for 36 years, I have been teaching as visiting faculty at FMS, University of Delhi, and Institute of Management Studies, YMCA, New Delhi, for 24 years. I have also been a visiting faculty of NIHFW, SAIL and NTPC.

What you are most proud of?

Medical Superintendent at ESIC Model Hospital, Rajajinagar, Bangalore, I am proud of having set up Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, and Under Graduate Medical College in the history of ESIC, in a record.

What is the best thing about your job?

Having an experience of working in diverse conditions and position in different State during my Government service, Meeting and interaction with experienced officials (National and International), colleagues and young students.

What are some important attributes of a good instructor?

Having technical knowledge, practical experience and good communication skills

What professional development activities have you been involved with, over the past few years?

I have been involved in teaching, organising MDPs and customised training for working professionals in India and from neighbouring countries.
What are your current research interests?

‘Cost-Containment in Hospitals and Capacity Building amongst different healthcare organisation through Training Need Assessment.’

Describe a situation in which you did all the right things and were still unsuccessful. What did you learn?

In the recent past I have submitted proposals for various agencies on their request and interaction till finalisation, but still it did not materialize. I have learnt to be persistent in my work irrespective of the results.

What are some new skills you have acquired in the past one year?

Appreciation of Cross cultural sensitivities

A message for our readers

“Dream your dreams with eyes closed but live your dreams with eyes open”.
Fortis race heats up, 2 suitors raise offers

MUMBAI: The race to take over hospitals chain Fortis Healthcare witnessed hectic activity on Tuesday with two suitors raising their offer prices for the company. The Munjal and Dabur family offices' joint bid was increased up to Rs 176 per share, while the Malaysia-headquartered IHH Healthcare raised its price to Rs. 175 per share, the Gurgaon-based company informed the exchanges. Each of the bids is valid till May 15. [Click here to read the full article.]

Source- Times of India. Date – May 2, 2018, Section – Healthcare, Author-TNN

Delhi govt likely to announce policy to put a cap on hospitals' profits this week

Based on recommendations of an expert panel, the Delhi government is likely to come out with a policy this week to cap profit margins of city hospitals on drugs and devices, according to sources. [Click here to read the full article.]

Source- Economic Times. Date – May 06, 2018, Section – Indian Business, Author-PTI.

Himachal to introduce free heli-ambulance services

The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet on Thursday gave its nod to Helimission of Switzerland to introduce free heli-ambulance services for trekkers and tourists with the assistance of Lady Willingdon Hospital. [Click here to read the full article.]

Source- The Pioneer. Date -27 April, 2018, Section – Heath And Fitness, Author-IANS.

'Blue light' from leds may trigger breast, prostate cancer: researchers

Reigniting the debate over exposure to the "blue light" emitted by outdoor LED screens and heightened risk of cancer, an international team of researchers have concluded that there is a "strong link" between the two. [Click here to read the full article.]

Source- The Pioneer. Date -28 April, 2018, Section – Heath And Fitness, Author-IANS.

Ministry calls for time-bound execution of clean air plan

Amid green organisations voicing concern over the absence of pollution reduction targets, the Union Environment Ministry on Thursday called for time-bound implementation of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). [Click here to read the full article.]

Source- The Pioneer. Date -19 April, 2018, Section – Heath And Fitness, Author-IANS.