LONGITUDINAL AGEING STUDY OF INDIA (LASI) The Six Week long state level training of Investigators for LASI Survey commenced from 12th March 2018 at International Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR), with participation of 36 field Investigators and 8 Health Investigators. Dr Sanjiv Kumar, Director IIHMR, Delhi addressed the field team and explained the importance of 5 core value of IIHMR i.e Quality, Accountability, Trust, Transparency and sharing knowledge and Information. Dr B. S. Singh, Associate Professor and Associate Research Dean, IIHMR Delhi, Dr Nitish Dogra Associate Professor IIHMR Delhi and Dr Sumesh Kumar, Assistant Professor IIHMR Delhi gave training to field investigators on different aspects of LASI Survey, whereas Dr Anandhi Ramachandran and Dr Pankaj Talreja gave CAPI and Bio-marker training to Investigators. Dr S.D. Gupta, Chairman IIHMR University gave a talk on Chronic Diseases among Elderly in India to Investigators, Dr Arindam Das, Associate Professor, IIHMR University, Dr Anoop Khanna, Professor IIHMR University and Dr Sandhya Gupta, Head, Dept of Mental Health Nursing College of Nursing, AIIMS, New Delhi gave talk on Health Economics and Development, Family, Social Network and Well-being of Older Adults and Welfare programs in India and Mental Health Issues among Elderly in India respectively. The LASI project is supported by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), NCD Division, Government of India, National Institute on Ageing (NIA)/National Institutes of Health (NIH), USA and The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), India

Management Development Program (MDP) on Health Information Management was organized at International Institute of Health Management Research, New Delhi from March 22-24, 2018. Several medical Doctors from Government Institutions attended this MDP. The program was designed with a focus on improving performance-based outcomes at different management levels. The main objectives of the course were to help participants gain a broader and more holistic understanding of Health Information Management, to gain insights into applications of ICT (Information and Communications Technologies) in healthcare organisations and hospitals and to understand the present shift of barriers in ICT usage in healthcare organizations. Key management issues with regards to leadership, accountability, team building were also discussed. The course saw lively and interactive discussions among resource persons and participants; course was successfully concluded with deliberations related to health policy, plans and implementation held even during the valediction. Overall rating of resource persons and feedback received for teaching was excellent. The Impact of training as per pre-test and post-test was very high. The average pre-test rating was 5.9 out of 10 while the post test was 9.6 out of 10.
The students pursuing Post Graduate Diploma in Hospital and Health Management (PGDHM), after a successful completion of the first year of their studies, are now undertaking Internship and Training for the summer months of April and May. Summer Training forms an integral part of the PGDHM program. For a period of eight weeks, students are placed as trainees, interns and mentees, in various Hospitals and Healthcare organizations, to gain invaluable practical exposure and hands on training in the Healthcare sector.

This year, out of total batch strength of 75 students, 42 students are undergoing summer training at various hospitals, both within and Outside Delhi NCR, such as the Fortis Group of hospitals, Max Group of Hospitals, Medanta Medcity, BLK Hospital, Sri Action Balaji Medical Institute, Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, Akash Hospital, Metro Hospital Faridabad, Medics Hospital, Lucknow, Shri Gangaram Hospital, among several others. 19 students are receiving their training from health Institutes and National Health Studies and Programmes such as SSRC, PHFI, Care India Bihar, Reach India, IPE Global, NHSRC, LASI Project (Under IIHMR Delhi), George Institute for Public Health. 14 students are undergoing trainings in Health Information Technology (IT) with IT departments of Hospitals like Rajeev Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre, Venkateswara Hospitals, Fortis group of hospitals etc. Before commencement of studies of second year, students will be presenting a Poster of their Summer Internship Assignments and learnings from 4th - 5th June 2018 at IIHMR Delhi Campus.

Dr Nishikant Bele, Prof Sanjiv Kumar and Prof Jigmi Singay co- Authored a paper -“Digitization of Hospital Services and Operations: A Conceptual Framework”, in the International Journal of Healthcare Education & Medical Informatics.


**ABSTRACT:** Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is revolutionizing many sectors but health sector is lagging in adopting ICT. In the manual system, much of the data is difficult to access and is not available in real time. There is lack of coordination between clinical service providers (doctor, nurse, patient and management) and other services such as pharmacy, procurement, laboratory and radiology. Digitization of hospital is vital in providing quality and cost-effective services to patients and improving support services. The increased digital adoption in the healthcare sector today has brought in major breakthroughs in information sharing, research, treatment methods, and communication models of the healthcare providers. However, the use of digitization in hospitals is not well understood and well structured. There is a need for common framework which will support all stakeholders of the hospital. This paper attempts to provide a framework for digitization of hospital operations and services.

**Prof. Suptendra Sarbadhikari**, Dean, IIHMR, Delhi, authored an original article for the Elets News Network (ENN) earlier this month, focused on the need for Electronic Health Records and the current challenges in the way of a smooth adoption and implementation of EHRs in our country. Read the complete article, ‘**EHR: A tool to deliver safer, better quality healthcare**’, here: http://ehealth.eletsonline.com/2018/03/ehr-a-tool-to-deliver-safer-better-quality-healthcare/

**Prof. Suptendra Sarbadhikari** posted an insightful blogpost on the need for an early setup of a National Digital Health Authority in India and the need for a Digital Health Strategy/Policy. Read this post, titled, “**How can Digital Health be Implemented as envisaged in the National Health Policy 2017?”**, here : http://supten.blogspot.in/2018/03/how-can-digital-health-be-implemented.html

**PGDHM STUDENT ACTIVITY UPDATE- MARCH 2018**
What was your career path that led you to your current position?

I was recruited through campus placement at Nielsen. This is my 10th year with Social Research Team of Nielsen. Initially, I was not sure whether I would like the Social Research Sector as a career. Throughout these years, I have learned a lot and started liking & convinced to consider as a sector where I want to be in. My interest in Data Analysis and Public Health led me to be in current position.

Could you describe your typical workday?

On a typical workday, I usually spend time on key tasks related to Proposal Development, Checking status of ongoing projects, Client Communication and Team Meetings. It also involves keeping a check on recent developments in the development sector.

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

One has to have interest in Social Research Subjects I.e. Research Methodology, Biostatistics, Project Management and Data Analysis. During learning phase one should get exposure on these subjects through course modules, if available or short courses on these subjects.

How do you see this field changing in the near future?

The social research involves data collection, data compilation, analysis and reporting. The technological advancement will have a major role to play in these tasks. The computerised data collection interface, automated data compilation and usage of geospatial tools for data collection monitoring will be the way forward.
Professor Sanjiv Kumar  
Director, IIHMR, Delhi  
Modules supervised: Strategic Management,  
Global Health

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

I have been associated with IIHMR since 1988 when I joined UNICEF in Jaipur. IIHMR was the only reputed technical organization doing high quality research and in-service training. IIHMR Jaipur provided technical support to UNICEF and Government of Rajasthan. Thanks to the support from IIHMR and hard work of government functionaries in Rajasthan, we achieved the goal of 80% immunization coverage by 1990! I formally joined IIHMR Delhi in 2011 as Professor of Public Health and Dean (Research and Training) for about a year and came back after completing my term as Executive Director in National Health Systems Resource Centre in April 2017. I have always admired IIHMR for its out of the box thinking and being a pioneer in bringing health management to the forefront in India and beyond.

Could you elaborate upon your Professional and Work Experience?

I have been a student of public health for more than four decades. My learning in public health started as an MBBS student at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi in 1971. I fondly remember the training I received in urban slums, dispensaries, Malviya Nagar Hospital in Delhi and PHCs in Dayalpur, Chhainsa and referral hospital in Ballabgarh in Haryana. I joined Indian Army from 1976 to 1982 which gave me hands on experience of providing preventive, promotive, and curative care to the troops and their families. The stint in army convinced me that public health has the potential of transforming health of Indian population. I joined MD in preventive and social medicine (PSM) at AIIMS to get more in-depth learning of public health. After two years of senior residency as Medical Officer in charge of Primary Health Centres, I joined as Lecturer at University College of Medicine Sciences teaching PSM and running health centres in periurban and slum areas. I moved on to UNICEF in 1989 and held progressively more responsible positions in Rajasthan, India, Iraq, Regional Office in Geneva for former Soviet and Central, Eastern Kenya, Malawi and Uganda Offices. Work in UNICEF gave me a good exposure to health systems across 28 countries outside India. In Geneva, I worked closely with WHO European Region and Headquarters. I also exposed me to health issues in European countries and functioning of WHO including WHO Executive Board and World Health Assembly. During my stay in Geneva I formally learned management and did MBA from University of Wales, UK. I took early retirement from UN and came back to India in 2011. Since then I have been in academics teaching leadership at INCLEN Institute of Global Health and IIHMR Delhi. I also provided leadership to a government technical advisory body, National Health Systems Resource Centre, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as its Executive Director. To summarize I have been a teacher and a programme manager, frequently moving from one to the other.
What you are most proud of?

I am proud of three things-

1. Ignited students who are doing an excellent work to improve health in India and beyond: I often meet my old students who have moved into very responsible positions in government, private, UN and international organizations. They tell me stories from my classes and animatedly talk about what I taught them and motivated them. My current students, when they achieve something, they proudly share it with me.

2. I often calculate how many deaths and ailments have been prevented through the work I contributed to across 29 countries including India.

3. Professionals who contributed to my learning which includes health workers, doctors in remote areas who provide care, my teachers, my students, my peers and my family. All of them taught me to be persistent, stand up when most would have given up, stick to my core values and lifelong learning.

What is the best thing about your job?

Most enjoyable part of my job is interacting with my bright students and young faculty who are always ready to learn new things and even challenge me to learn more. They are very motivated to change things around them for the better. I have never heard them say, “nothing works”.

What are some important attributes of a good instructor?

I will mention five attributes which I consider most important-

1. Respect students for what they know and do not know. Never ridicule them. I believe that Instructors are for students. If there are no students, there are no instructors.

2. Believes in life-long learning including from students. She continuously tries to learn more and more.

3. Good listeners, not for just verbal communication but also read body language.

4. Self-aware: Know what you know and do not know. Do not hesitate to accept it and come back to students after reading more, if you do not know something.

5. Be punctual and honour the commitments you make to the students. Remember, many of your students look at you as a ‘role model’

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

As I believe in lifelong learning, I have been undertaking several self-development activities. I do it in three ways; one, reading recently I have been reading about imparting measuring leadership skills, development and health, health in all policies and universal health coverage; two, undertaking formal online courses. There are many online courses available from reputed websites such as Corsera, Edx etc. recently I did a course on happiness; three, attend conferences and scientific workshops, seminars, and meetings. Most recent ones I attended covered Universal Health Coverage, Sustainable Development Goals. I am a life member of 12 professional bodies. Their journals, news letters and conferences help me in continuous learning.
What are your current research interests?

My current research interests include (i) implementation research, (ii) governance, accountability and leadership, (iii) evidence driven policy and decision making, (iv) addressing inequity in health and health in all policies.

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

I strongly believe that in life, one learns from failures more than from successes. Recently we had worked on and applied for a large project from a reputed international agency. We put in a very good proposal with senior management guiding at every step. The presentation was highly appreciated by the expert committee to which we presented it. We did not get it as another agency got it as they had quoted an unbelievably low price. Yes, we were disappointed and demoralized. We reflected on this as a team and agreed on what is summarized in ancient India wisdom, “Kurvanne wadikaraste maa faleshu kadachanna”. The process of working on something is equally if not more important than achieving result. We must put in our best at every step of the process as this is in your control and many other factors, which are not under your control affect the result.

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

These include (i) use of social media for professional work, (ii) Marketing through public speaking, (iii) On the job learning in event organization including Dwarka Health Run, Alumni Conference, Urban Health Conference etc, (iii) Leveraging partners to promote mutual interest such as training course with PHFI, INCLEN, MoUs with various organizations and (iv) motivating faculty and students towards IIHMR Vision, mission and core values.

A message for our readers

Success in our personal life comes from the urge of excelling in whatever you do. Your competition is only with you. One must try to better than oneself. Try to do better today from what you did yesterday and even better tomorrow. This will happen only if you are open to lifelong learning formally and informally. This will happen only if you are open to learning from everyone and any one.
**Casual smoking on the rise among city women, finds ASSOCHAM study**

HYDERABAD: A new survey released by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) on International Women's Day, 2018, revealed casual smoking to be on the rise among young working women, in India's major cities. Major factors cited include job stress, peer pressure and the 'cool factor', among others. Click here to read the full article

Source- Times of India. Date – March 9, 2018, Section – Healthcare, Author- ASSOCHAM D S RAWAT

**TPG-backed Manipal acquires Fortis Health, SRL Diagnostics**

NEW DELHI: In the largest ever takeover deal in the Indian health space, Fortis Healthcare (FHL) demerged its hospital business into Bengaluru-based Manipal Hospital Enterprises, which also acquired a controlling stake in its subsidiary, diagnostics company SRL, creating a $2.2-billion medical services entity. Click here to read the full article

Source- Times of India. Date – March 28, 2018, Section – Indian Business, Author- Prabhakar Sinha

**Indu Bhushan appointed CEO of ‘Ayushman Bharat’ Mission**

NEW DELHI: Indu Bhushan was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Centre’s ambitious Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission (ABNHOM). Click here to read the full article

Source- The Economic Times. Date – March 27, 2018, Section – Politics and nation.

**Parliamentary Panel Red-Flags Government's Ambitious Healthcare Scheme**

The Modi government has released less than half of the budgeted allocation for health insurance of poor families in fiscal 2017-18, even as it promised to step up coverage with the proposed launch of what is called the world's largest government healthcare programme. Click here to read the full article.

Source- The Economic Times. Date – March 13, 2018, Section – Economy, Author- IANS

**Public-Private Initiative Needed in Rural Healthcare**

Chief Minister Raman Singh on Monday said that Government and private sector should come together to provide better healthcare facilities to citizens especially in rural areas.

The Chief Minister expressed these thoughts while inaugurating the 17th annual convention of Association of Surgeons of India’s (ASI) Chhattisgarh Chapter here. On the occasion, veteran surgeons, who have been serving humanity for many years, were awarded lifetime achievement award. Click here to read the full article.

Source- The Pioneer. Date – March 06, 2018, Section – Health Politics
NOTE: The newsletter is open for inclusion of any information or advertisement; however, selection of information will be governed by the SYNAPSE Team, IIHMR, New Delhi
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