

# IIPHG NEWSLETTER

Volume: I

Issue: I

Period: July-Sept 2024

Issue release Oct 2024



## From the Director's Desk

Dear students, faculties, well-wishers and friends of IIPHG, I am happy to re-launch IIPHG Newsletter and welcome you all to the sixth issue of the newsletter. As we continue to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of public health, I am proud to witness the remarkable contributions of our faculty, staff, and students. Our faculty members have excelled in research, publishing studies in top-tier journals. Our students have showcased their talent and dedication through participation in events, competitions, publication, and internships. Our unwavering commitment to research, education, and community engagement has positioned IIPHG as a leading institution in public health and hospital administration.

This newsletter presents initiatives of IIPHG stakeholders. Enjoy reading, and may this issue inspire you to explore new horizons.

Warm regards,

Prof. Deepak Saxena



## Editorial

### Advisors

Prof. Deepak Saxena - Director, IIPHG

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Dr. Tapasvi Puwar - Professor, IIPHG

Dr. Somen Saha - Professor and Dean, Research & Training, IIPHG

Dr. Mahaveer Golechcha - Professor, IIPHG

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**A PROUD MOMENT FOR IIPH Gandhinagar !**

**TOP 2% CITED SCHOLARS 2023**

Career & Single-Year Contribution



Dr. Dileep Mavalankar



Dr. Deepak B. Saxena



Dr. Mahaveer Golechcha



Dr. Apurvakumar Pandya

Congratulations to our Esteemed Faculty Members  
Dr. Dileep Mavalankar | Dr. Deepak B. Saxena | Dr. Mahaveer Golechha |  
Dr. Apurvakumar Pandya

for being recognized in  
Stanford's list of top 2% Scientists  
for their outstanding contribution to World's research.

## Highlights

### Bihar Health Minister Visits IIPHG to Deliberate on Health and Nutrition Initiatives



IIPHG had the honor of hosting Shri Mangal Pandey, the Health Minister of Bihar, on 29th August 2024. During his visit, he explored the institute's significant contributions to improving health and nutrition in Gujarat and across India. He engaged with IIPHG's leadership and researchers, learning about the institute's ongoing efforts to tackle health challenges and enhance nutrition outcomes in communities nationwide.

### Advancing HTA at IIPHG: From Regional Resource Centre to Resource Hub



IIPHG is proud to announce that the Regional Resource Centre for Health Technology Assessment (HTA-RRC) led by Prof. Somen Saha has been upgraded to a Resource Hub under the Grant-in-Aid Scheme of the Department of Health Research (DHR), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. The HTA-RRC was established in April 2018 at IIPHG with an objective to develop safe, effective health policies that are patient- and population-focused, as well as cost-effective. Gujarat Technical Advisory Committee on HTA guides HTA initiatives and, is chaired by Commissioner of Health, GoG and co-chaired by the Mission Director, National Health Mission Gujarat. Four Additional Directors from H&FW Department are ex-officio members. The Principal Investigator from IIPHG HTA-RRC serves as the Member Secretary.

### IIPHG showcases Ni-kshay Setu App



Dr. Harsh Shah presented Ni-kshay Setu Application : a digital solution providing support to health care providers in decision-making and transforming knowledge to empowerment at a workshop in New Delhi on July 19, 2024, supported by USAID, hosted by World Health Partners.

### SEAOHUN 2024 International Conference



Dr. S. Yasobant, co-lead, COHERD, was honored to represent One Health Network of India (OHNI), a unique initiative by COHERD, IIPHG, at the South-East Asia One Health University Network (SEAOHUN) partner meet held at Chaing Mai, Thailand, on 17 September 2024.



## Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme



IIPHG is pleased to announce an upcoming course “Strategic Approaches for Health Technology Assessment”, under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. The course is facilitated by the Resource Hub for Health Technology Assessment of IIPHG led by Prof. Somen Saha and open for countries where India has diplomatic relations. The course aims to foster collaboration among decision-makers, exchange insights and contribute to international healthcare initiatives.

### Course Dates

1st Batch: December 2, 2024 – December 15, 2024 (14 days)

2nd Batch: February 10, 2025 – February 23, 2025 (14 days)

### Commencement of New Programmes (Academic Year 2024)

- Masters of Public Health - Public Health Nutrition (MPH - PHN) (Full-time)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Hospital Administration (PhD - HA) (Full-time & Part-time)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health (PhD - PH) (Part-time)

## Celebrating a Year of Impact: NCDArc Hosts Its First Collaboration Forum

IIPHG's NCDArc recently marked its first anniversary by hosting the “NCDArc Collaboration Forum 2024,” gathering global health experts and dedicated stakeholders to address Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). Esteemed participants included representatives from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of Bristol, WHO, ICMR, and the Gujarat State Health and Family Department. Additionally, practitioners from Singapore, along with leaders from DBT, UNICEF, and Gujarat Biotechnology University (GBU), joined with clinicians and other professionals in NCD prevention. The Forum emphasized the importance of cross-disciplinary collaboration in combating NCDs, building partnerships, and creating innovative solutions to improve community health.



## 8th World One Health Congress (WOHC, Cape Town)



Dr. S. Yasobant joined global leaders as a co-panelist in the panel "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: Innovating One Health Policy & Governance for Global & Local Action" at the 8th World One Health Congress (WOHC) held at Cape Town, South Africa.

## Public Health Retreat 2024



IIPHG had the privilege of hosting 45 Postgraduate students in Preventive and Social Medicine (PSM) from various medical colleges across Gujarat, along with three faculty members, as part of the Public Health Retreat 2024 organized by the IAPSM Gujarat Chapter.

## Workshop on Innovation and Creativity for Entrepreneurial Management



IIPHG hosted an engaging workshop on Innovation and Creativity at NIDHI TBI, led by Mr. Mahendra Chaudhary (CEO - NIDHI TBI) as part of our academic intervention in promoting entrepreneurship management. The session was conducted by Karmjitsinh Bihola, who shared valuable insights on fostering creative thinking and innovative problem-solving among participants.



## CoEN at IIPHG Advances Public Health Nutrition in Gujarat with Project Tushti

Center of Excellence in Nutrition (CoEN) at IIPHG led by Prof. Somen Saha is working to improve public health nutrition in Gujarat with the support of Nayara Energy's Project Tushti.

- Training: 494 Child Development Project Officers (CDPO) & Mukhya Sevikas (MS) & 1,457 frontline workers. Compiled Good and Replicable Practices of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) of Gujarat state. Regional Convergence
- Workshop (10 September 2024), was held in Vadodara with 110 participants from 17 ministries to strengthen collaboration during POSHAN MAAH.



Convergence Workshop



Construction of CoEN Building

As a part of CoEN, AATMA (Acceleration Aspirational Block Monitoring Approach) initiative was introduced to enhance data accuracy and skill development for Anganwadi workers and MS in Sayla, Santalpur, and Tharad blocks and it involved cross-verifying health data for 5,470 children, revealing discrepancies in height and weight measurements. The initiative's success led to further expansion with "Mission June" and an upcoming "Mission Zone."

The construction of the CoEN building is on track and expected to finish by June 2025.



## Session on "Innovating for a Climate-Positive Future"



IIPHG hosted Ms. Ankita Vijayvargiya for an insightful session on "Innovating for a Climate-Positive Future," engaging students and startups at our center. She explored the connection between public healthcare and climate, highlighting the often-overlooked impacts of climate on health and stressing the crucial role of addressing climate challenges.

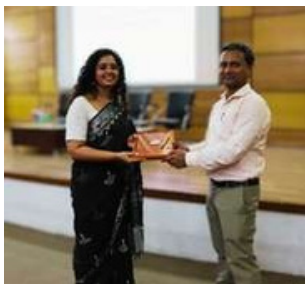
## 'Sathi' with IIPHG



IIPHG is excited to announce the launch of the "Sathi" Mentoring Program under the IPSI project led by Dr. Anish Sinha and Dr. Tapasvi Puwar, aimed at improving primary healthcare service quality in Bhavnagar District.

This innovative program will support Subcenter teams through mentorship by AYUSH Medical Officers and Nursing Tutors. The official launch, held on September 3, 2024, was chaired by Dr. Chandramanikumar, Chief District Health Officer of Bhavnagar.

## Celebrating POSHAN MAAH



IIPHG celebrated Poshan Maah on 25 September 2024 with inspiring events. Ms. Amy Joseph, Child Development Project Officer from Devgadhbhariya, shared insights on ICDS's role in improving nutrition in tribal blocks. The e-Poster and Reel-Making Competitions highlighted student creativity. Congratulations to Mudita Adaniya and Deepali Lulla for securing 1st place in their respective.



## State-Level Workshop on Breastfeeding Support



IIPHG, through the Centre of Excellence in Nutrition, hosted a state-level workshop titled "Closing the Gap: Breastfeeding Support for All" on August 3, 2024, in celebration of World Breastfeeding Week. Supported by the Women and Child Development Department, ICDS Gujarat, and Nayara Energy, the workshop engaged 75 Mukhya Sevikas from across Gujarat. The event focused on improving breastfeeding support and raising awareness about its importance, with the goal of ensuring accessible breastfeeding support for all mothers and infants. The session focused on practical challenges in breastfeeding support, offering hands-on training and nutritional insights. Expert speakers, Dr. Shruti Kantawala of M.S. University and Dr. Sagar Panchal of ICDS Ahmedabad, shared valuable knowledge to enhance Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices.

## Workshop on Emotional Resilience and Mental Well-Being



IIPHG, in collaboration with the Indian Psychiatric Society, organized a workshop on emotional resilience and mental well-being which was led by Dr. Apurvakumar Pandya. Experts Dr. Himanshu Desai, Dr. Khyati Mehtalia, and Dr. Deepti Bhatt discussed digital deaddiction, emotional intelligence, and positive lifestyles. The event featured a student-led skit and concluded with information on the Tele Manas helpline.

## Workshop on Sustainable Environmental Practices in Healthcare

IIPHG, through the Centre for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (QUALIPS) and the Centre for One Health, Education, Research, and Development (COHERD) led by Dr. S. Yasobant, in collaboration with CAHO, organized a pre-conference workshop for SAKCON on August 28, 2024 focusing on integrating sustainable environmental practices into healthcare facilities to enhance patient care and create greener, healthier, patient-centered environments.



## Capacity Building of Medical Officers at Uttar Pradesh



IIPHG, in partnership with Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the State Institute of Health and Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh, is enhancing Medical Officer competencies through targeted public health courses and decentralized training, strengthening healthcare outcomes across the state.

## Enhancing Rural Healthcare Access Across Gujarat

COHERD at IIPHG evaluated Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) across five Gujarat districts, conducting 25 interviews with Apollo Hospitals and GMDC staff to identify challenges and gather service delivery insights. They also collected data from beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, and interviewed 17 UN Mehta staff to assess healthcare access and improvement strategies.



## Training for Veterinary Women Health Professionals (WVHPs) and Women Farmers (WFs)



Prof. Deepak Saxena and Dr. S. Yasobant trained total of 42 women veterinarians in Gujarat were trained as master trainers in biosafety, PPE use, sample collection, One Health surveillance, disease reporting, and outbreak response. These professionals also trained 201 women farmers in One Health & Biosecurity, enhancing their network through community engagement.

## Infant and young child feeding practice (IYCF) Training for Anganwadi workers

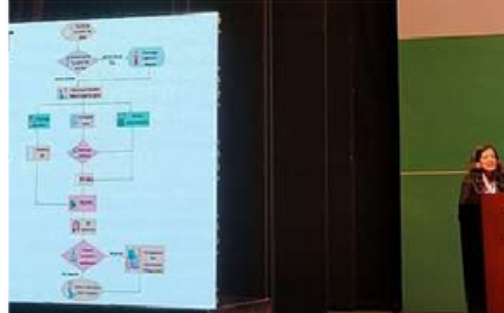
IIPHG conducted a 3-day IYCF training for 255 Anganwadi workers in Ahmedabad Rural District, covering breastfeeding, maternal diet, and supplementary feeding. Using role-plays and discussions, the training equipped participants with skills to support mothers during the critical first 1,000 days.





## Extracurricular Activities

### Students of IIPHG Shines at SAKCON



IIPHG proudly shares recent achievements at SAKCON'24 held on August 31, 2024, at NMIMS, Mumbai. Dr. Aishwarya Chauhan, a 3rd semester MHA student, won 3rd place in the poster presentation. Additionally, a team of 5 MHA students (Prancy Bais, Dr. Rashmi Katariya, Zeel Kelawala, Dr. Twarita Kawale, and Avantika), mentored by Dr. Medha Wadhwa, won runner-up and a cash prize of INR 15,000 for their QI project in the Qualtech Competition by QIMPRO Foundation. Congratulations to all!

### Induction programme at IIPHG

IIPHG conducted induction programme for new entrants of MPH, MPH-Public Health Nutrition and MHA programme to orient students to the course, committee, faculties and staff and understand the code of conduct.



### Field Practice Area

IIPHG has adopted Alampur village as Field Practice Area. Students will be allotted approximately 4 families each and engaged in conducting family study and other initiatives.



### Inauguration of New Medical Care Center to Enhance Campus Healthcare



IIPHG inaugurated new Medical Care Center aiming to enhance healthcare support and promote well-being within our campus community. The health center is led by Dr. Smita Rani.

## Viksit Bharat: A Day of Reflection and Celebration at IIPHG



IIPHG celebrated August 15, 2024, honoring India's 78th Independence Day with a vibrant event featuring flag hoisting, cultural performances, and inspiring speeches on women's empowerment. Together, we celebrated freedom and reflected on our commitment to a "Viksit Bharat"!

## Haathi Ghoda Paalkhi, Jay Kanhaiyaa Laal Ki



IIPHG on August 26, 2023, came alive with the vibrant celebration of Janmashtami, beautifully organized by the ever-enthusiastic Student Welfare Committee (SWC), the celebrations brought the entire IIPHG family together.



## Freshers' Cosplay Carnival Lights Up IIPHG!



IIPHG on August 7, 2024, welcomed its newest students with a dazzling "Cosplay Carnival" Freshers' party! From creative costumes to thrilling performances and a fierce talent show, the event celebrated imagination and camaraderie. Congratulations to all winners for making it unforgettable!



## Candle March for Justice



IIPHG in solidarity with the Kolkata warrior, the Student Welfare Committee organized a candle march on August 15, 2024. Starting at 6:30 PM, around 100 students held posters and lit candles, led by seniors from the Masters of Public Health and Masters of Health Administration.



## e-Poster Winners! - Patient Safety



IIPHG is excited to announce the winners of our E-Poster Competition! A heartfelt thank you to all the participants for their creativity, dedication, and outstanding contributions. Dr. Deepali Lulla has emerged as the winner, followed by Dr. Manasi Wakankar as the 1st runner-up and Dr. Aishwarya Chauhan as the 2nd runner-up. Congratulations to all for their fantastic work!



# Publications



Shah, H., Patel, J., Rai, S., Sinha, A., Saxena, D., & Panchal, S. (2024). Bridging the Gap: A Strategic Approach to Upscale Knowledge Among Diverse Healthcare Providers for Effective Tuberculosis Management in Gujarat, India. *Cureus*, 16(1).



Patel, J., Sen, A., Rai, S., Shah, H., & Desai, N. (2024). Tuberculosis Preventive Treatment (TPT) in India: A Qualitative Review. *Preventive Medicine: Research & Reviews*, 1(6), 298-304.

## Effect of lay counselling on mental health and TB treatment outcomes: an experience from Gujarat state, India

Deepthi Bhatt, Apurvakumar Pandya, Vibha Salaliya, Ajay Chauhan, Rutu Trivedi, Siddharth Chowdhury, Amar Shah, Prachi Shukla, Panraj Nimavat, Chandra Shekhar Joshi and Vivakanand Pandey

**Abstract**  
**Purpose:** Depression and anxiety are the most common comorbidities in TB patients, adversely impacting TB treatment outcomes. The purpose of this study is to assess the effect of lay counselling in reducing symptoms of depression and anxiety and TB treatment compliance.  
**Design/methodology/approach:** The study used a pre-post interventional research design. Patients were screened for depression and anxiety. All symptomatic TB patients were followed up and offered four to six or more lay counselling sessions whenever necessary. The authors assessed changes in depression and anxiety symptoms before lay counselling intervention and after four to six counselling sessions or the completion of TB treatment, whichever occurred first.  
**Findings:** Approximately 62% TB patients were screened for symptoms of depression and anxiety. The mean age was 36.7 ± 14.7 years. Total 25.9% patients were symptomatic. About 99.6% were provided lay counselling and received at least one to two follow-up sessions, while two patients who

Bhatt, D., Pandya, A., Salaliya, V., Chauhan, A., Trivedi, R., Chowdhury, S., Shah, A., Shukla, P., Nimavat, P., Joshi, C.S. and Pandey, V. (2024), "Effect of lay counselling on mental health and TB treatment outcomes: an experience from Gujarat state, India", *Mental Health and Social Inclusion*, Vol. ahead-of-print No. ahead-of-print. <https://doi.org/10.1108/MHSI-06-2024-0095>

## Discover Public Health

Research

### Prioritisation of emerging and epidemic-prone diseases and risk factors in India's three western states using the One Health Risk and Disease (OHRAD) prioritisation tool

Sandul Yasobant<sup>1,2,3</sup>, K. Shruti Lekha<sup>1</sup>, Shalee Patil<sup>1</sup>, Priya Bhavsar<sup>1</sup>, Ravina Tadi<sup>1</sup>, Krupali Patel<sup>4</sup>, Timo Falkenberg<sup>5</sup>, Walter Bruchhausen<sup>1</sup>, Deepak Saxena<sup>1,2</sup>

Received: 15 February 2024 / Accepted: 16 July 2024  
 Published online: 24 July 2024  
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#### Abstract

**Background:** There have been numerous outbreaks of infectious diseases to date, and out of them, six events have been declared as Public Health Emergencies of International Concern by the World Health Organization (WHO). The outbreaks have been unprecedented, and the sudden anxiety associated with these makes the situation more complicated. Prioritisation of diseases has been a common process in public health, and it is important to identify infectious diseases that are important for human health. In addition, a One Health approach requires taking also animal origin and related risk factors for infectious diseases into account.

**Methods:** State-level co-creation workshops were conducted in Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra, the three western states of India. One Health Risk and Disease (OHRAD) prioritisation tool was used to prioritise emerging and epidemic-prone diseases and their risk factors.

**Results:** The risk factors and diseases were studied using the OHRAD tool, and the ranks were obtained. Avian flu by A/H5N1, A/H7N9, and A/H9N2, swine flu by A/H1N1, A/H1N2 and A/H3N2, dengue, rabies, leptospirosis, bovine tuberculosis, salmonellosis, chikungunya, soil-transmitted helminths, and brucellosis were some of the 10 diseases prioritised in all the three western states of the country. Similarly, the presence of mosquito breeding sites near houses or work-places, open defecation, poor hand hygiene, poor personal hygiene, reluctance to follow disease prevention measures and improper carcass disposal were prioritised as the risk factors for diseases in all three states.

**Conclusion:** The emerging and epidemic-prone diseases and risk factors that are prioritised reflect state-specific scenarios and the gravity of the situation concerning risk factors for disease outbreaks. This can help in allocating resources and increasing efforts in the prevention and control of these diseases.

**Keywords:** One Health · Disease prioritisation · Risk prioritisation

Yasobant S, Lekha KS, Patil S. et al. Prioritisation of emerging and epidemic-prone diseases and risk factors in India's three western states using the One Health Risk and Disease (OHRAD) prioritisation tool. *Discov Public Health*, 2024; 21: 29. (DOI: 10.1186/s12982-024-00152-7)



Ganasva, P., Yasobant, S., Patel, K., & Saxena, D. (2024). One Health risk perception among the urban vulnerable dwellers of Gujarat, India: A cross-sectional assessment. *One Health Bulletin*, 10-4103. (10.4103/ohbl.ohbl\_7\_24)



## Coming up Next...

One-month long Training of Coal India's Medical Officers will be held at IIPHG from 14th October to 25th October 2024 and 11th November to 23rd November 2024. The training is led by Dr. Medha Wadhwa and Dr. Apurvakumar Pandya.

Five-day residential training of Faculty members of Government Nursing Colleagues from Madhya Pradesh will held from 18-22, November 2024. The training is led by Dr. Medha Wadhwa, Dr. Apurvakumar Pandya and Dr. Shabana Khan.

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**ACIES 2024**  
7th Annual Conclave of Public Health & Hospital Administration  
on  
*Synergy towards Resilient Healthcare System*  
2024  
Jointly in Observation of  
**31st Annual State Conference of Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine-GC**  
&  
**13th Annual Conference of Indian Public Health Association-GC**

### ACIES REGISTRATION

Registration	Student Delegates	Other Delegates
Early Bird Registration (Latest by 10th October)	₹ 2,500	₹ 5,000
Registration after 10th October - 25th November 2024	₹ 3,000	₹ 5,500
On the spot registration	₹ 3,500	₹ 3,500

- \* Registration fees will include conference kit, breakfast, lunch, Hi-tea and dinner.
- \* Accommodation to be arranged by participants. IIPHG can share discounted shared hostel type accommodation within Gandhinagar/Ahmedabad.

[Click here to Register](#)



## Contribute to IIPHG Newsletter

We invite everyone to contribute to our next newsletter. Brief details of any new project or publication, achievement, or opportunities are welcome from Faculties, Students, Alumni and our Stakeholders. Send your feedback/contribution to [newsletter@iiphg.org](mailto:newsletter@iiphg.org)