

# An Innovative MPH program in Southern India: Lessons, challenges and next steps

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**SREE CHITRA TIRUNAL INSTITUTE FOR  
MEDICAL SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY**

***TRIVANDRUM***

**INDIA**

# **SREE CHITRA TIRUNAL INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY** *(SCTIMST)*

- **INSTITUTION *of* NATIONAL IMPORTANCE**  
*Estd. by the INDIAN PARLIAMENT - 1981*
- **UNIVERSITY**
- **TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL *for* CARDIOVASCULAR,  
THORACIC & NEUROLOGICAL DISEASES**
- **CENTRE *for* HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGY R&D**
- **ACHUTHA MENON CENTRE *for* HEALTH  
SCIENCE STUDIES (AMCHSS)**

*The School of Public Health*

*1997*

# SREE CHITRA TIRUNAL INSTITUTE *for* MEDICAL SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY



**MEDICAL CENTRE  
FOR HEART & BRAIN DISEASES**



**BIOMEDICAL  
TECHNOLOGY WING**



**ACHUTHA MENON CENTRE FOR  
HEALTH SCIENCE STUDIES**

ACHUTHA MENON

CENTRE FOR HEALTH SCIENCE STUDIES

*The School of Public Health*

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

**TRAINING**

**RESEARCH**

**CONSULTANCY**

# ACHUTHA MENON CENTRE FOR HEALTH SCIENCE STUDIES (AMCHSS)

- COURSES : **DPH – MPH – MAE - PhD**  
**Short Courses**
- **FIRST INDIAN UNIVERSITY to OFFER MPH PROGRAMME**
- **THE ONLY MPH PROGRAMME RECOGNIZED *by the* MEDICAL COUNCIL of INDIA**
- **RECOGNIZED AS A ‘CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE’ for PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING by THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, *GOVERNMENT of INDIA.***

# MPH Programme OBJECTIVES

*To enable students to understand the principles and practice of public health through the development, integration and application of:*

- *Knowledge of the major disciplines of public health*
- *Skills which are required for the practice of public health*
- *The competencies needed to deal with the changing demands of public health*

# MPH Programme

- ***Duration: Four Semesters - Two years***
- ***Seats: 10 Indian & Five Overseas Students***
- ***Requirements: Graduation: Medical graduates (*Modern Medicine*), Dental graduates, Nursing, Pharmacy, Veterinary Sciences or equivalent***  
***Post graduation: Social Sciences, Nutrition or allied specialties***
- ***Fellowships: WHO Fellowships & Others***

# MPH Programme

- **Age: 40 years**
- ***Selection Procedure: Entrance Examination + Personal Interview***
- ***Course fees: For the ENTIRE COURSE***
  - **Indian Students : Rs.100,000 (Non-Sponsored)  
Rs.150,000 (Sponsored)**
  - **Overseas Students: US \$ 4000**



# COURSE MODULES & CREDITS: YEAR 1

•Basic Biostatistics	4
•Introduction to Epidemiology	3
•Health & Development	3
•Basic Health Economics	2
•Gender Issues in Health	2
•Ethics in Public Health	2
•Health Policy Analysis -1	2
•Health Care System in India	2
•Health and Environment	3
•Anthropological Perspectives in Health	1
•Health Management	4
•Quantitative Research Methods	2

## **COURSE MODULES & CREDITS: YEAR 2**

<b>•Qualitative Research Methods</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>•Chronic Disease Epidemiology</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>•Infectious Disease Epidemiology</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>•Intermediate Epidemiology</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>•Intermediate Biostatistics</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>•Health Policy Analysis 2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>•Public Health Technologies</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>•Dissertation</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>•Internship for two months</b>	<b>0</b>

# PHD Programme

- **Epidemiology**
- **Health Economics**
- **Health Policy**
- **Health Systems**
- **Gender Issues in Health**
- **Medical Anthropology**

# ***PhD Programme...***

## **Started in 2003**

- **Minimum three years residential programme**
- **Course Fee Rs 2000/year (<\$ 50)**
  
- **2003          One (Health Economics)**
  
- **2004          Five (Chronic Disease Epidemiology -3,  
Health Economics-1, Health Policy -1,**
  
- **2005          Health Systems Research - 1**
  
- **2007          Health Policy - 1**

# SHORT COURSES

- **Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases**
- **Ethical Issues in Health Research**
- **Gender & Medical Education**
- **Making Pregnancies Safer**

## **RESEARCH PROJECTS...**

- **TOBACCO CESSATION & CONTROL.**  
*Objective: To develop culturally appropriate cessation materials for tobacco cessation in India and Indonesia (NIH -University of Minnesota)*
- **Development of Cardiovascular Diseases Surveillance system for Indian Industrial Population (WHO)**
- **Small Grants Programme on Gender and Social Issues in Reproductive Health (Ford Foundation)**

# **RESEARCH PROJECTS...**

*(Contd)*

- **Research Training & Advocacy for Gender Sensitization of Medical Education and Capacity Building of Health Professionals for Reduction of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity (Macarthur Foundation)**
- **Stakeholders' perspectives of institutional review boards (IRBs) in India. Objective: To understand the various perceptions of appropriate review processes and their salience (NIH - Harvard University)**
- **Geo-coding of Habitats in Tsunami Affected Areas to Study Psychosocial Impacts (University of Southern California, USA)**

# CONSULTANCY

- PLANNING COMMISSION - *Government of India*
- GOVERNMENT of KERALA
- ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
- UNFPA
- WHO
- WORLD BANK ... *and Others*



- **FACULTY...**

***Core Faculty (7) supported by a panel of national and International visiting faculty from CDS, CMC Vellore, TISS, IIT Madras, HSPH, Johns Hopkins, UCLA & selected NGOs.***

**International Visiting faculty supported by MacArthur Foundation & WHO.**

# ADMISSION CALENDAR

- **Sale of Application Forms: September to the first week of October**
- **Short listing: October**
- **Selection: November**
- **Notification of joining: December**
- **Course commences: 1st January**

# Number of MPH graduates

Year	M	F	Total
1998	5	3	8
1999	5	1	6 (1)
2000	7	2	9
2001	6	2	8
2002	5	3	8
2003	8	5	13
2004	12	6	18
2005	10	8	18
2006	8	4	12
Total	66	34	100 (1)

# MPH graduates...

- **Physicians – 58, Dentists - 12, Social Science post graduates - 17, Nurses – 9, Veterinarians 4**
- **Accepted in positions of responsibility within Government Health Services (40%)**
- **Working with International Agencies (WHO/UNICEF) & NGOs. (31%)**
- **Taken up academic positions at AMCHSS and elsewhere (16%)**
- **Joined PhD Programmes in India and Abroad (5%)**
- **Migrated to foreign countries (8%)**

# MPH graduates - *Publications*

- Addictive Behaviors
- Bulletin of WHO
- BMJ
- Health Policy and Planning
- International Journal of Health Services
- Journal of Public Health Medicine
- Journal of Clinical Epidemiology
- Preventive Medicine
- Prevention and Control
- Reproductive Health Matters
- **Indian Heart Journal**
- **Indian Journal of Public Health**
- **Indian Paediatrics**
- **National Medical Journal of India**

## **PARTICIPATION *in* INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES**

- All the MPH graduates of the first three batches (23) participated in international conferences in Bangkok and presented their research work
- The Institute mobilized financial support from external agencies (Rockefeller Foundation, Ford Foundation, Wellcome Trust, MacArthur foundation) for this participation
- From batch 4 onwards securing financial support was left to the individual graduate.

## ***ELEMENTS of SUCCESS...***

- **Student Centred**
- **Field based training programme**
- **Computer and internet facilities**
- **Publication of research work**
- **Opportunity for presenting research work of students**
- **Career pathways of Graduates**
- **Helping Placements of Graduates**
- **Student Mentoring**
- **Committed and resourceful Faculty**
- **Autonomy**

# **CHALLENGES...**

- **CAREER PATHWAYS *for* MPH GRADUATES**
  - **Creating demand for public health education**
  - **Current students are looking for attractive assignments (WHO short term assignments)**
  - **Making Public health degree a required qualification at district level and above.**
  - **Equating Public Health Post graduation with other post graduate degrees in Medicine**
- **FACULTY RECRUITMENT**
- **FACULTY RETENTION**
- **FACULTY TRAINING**



# FUTURE PLANS

- **Increase both student and faculty strength**
- **Networking with other public health institutions such as the Public Health Foundation of India, BRAC School of Public Health etc**
- **Provide guidance for MPH programs in India and neighboring countries**

# THANK YOU

