



## Rural Women's Social Education Centre (RUWSEC)

### Public Health Ethics WriteShop

Theme: Ethics of Community Health Work

Dates: 7-9 April 2022

Venue: Chennai – Place to be decided

#### **About the Theme:**

Community health workers are the backbone of the public health system in India. The Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM), Anganwadi Workers (AWW), Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) and other frontline health workers take primary health care to every nook and corner of the country. During their community health work, they come across several issues of ethics and professionalism. They make benefit-risk judgments, consider the autonomy of the community members, respect their privacy, confidentiality, handle several conflicts of interest and balance justice and equity issues. They do all this with very little formal training on ethics and professionalism.

#### **About the WriteShop:**

There isn't much literature and scholarship on the ethics of community health work, especially the way the community health workers handle matters of ethics and professionalism as part of their work. There is a need to develop reflection on ethics and professionalism in community health work and to generate literature in this field. RUWSEC is organizing a WriteShop to generate scholarship on ethics and professionalism in community health work. The main objective of the WriteShop is to help scholars and researchers convert their ideas, research work and case studies into manuscripts that are ready for publication. This WriteShop is part of a project funded by the Thakur Foundation, to study ethics and professionalism among community health workers during the delivery of community health work.

## **About RUWSEC:**

Rural Women's Social Education Centre (RUWSEC) is a grassroots voluntary organization in the Chengalpet district of Tamil Nadu. The organization was founded by a group of dalit women in the Tirukazhukundram block of Chengalpet district 40 years ago to advance adult education and organically evolved into a health and rights organization. It focuses on sexual and reproductive health and rights of women. It is grounded in the community and has several years of community health work experience.

## **Who should participate in this WriteShop?**

This WriteShop is targeted at researchers and scholars working in Public Health, Community Medicine, Bioethics, Law, Social Work or Sociology who have an interest in writing a manuscript for publication on the theme of "ethics of community health work".

## **What can be written in this WriteShop?**

Researchers and scholars can choose to write

- Research papers based on theoretical or empirical research
- Scoping reviews or narrative reviews
- Case Studies
- Commentaries
- Ethical Analytical Articles

## **How to apply to this WriteShop?**

Those who are interested in participating in this WriteShop must submit the following for screening

- Current curriculum vitae (to be uploaded as an MS word document/PDF)
- Proposal of manuscript in not more than 300 words indicating the type of paper and the broad objectives of the paper.
- Covering letter describing their interest in participating in the WriteShop and why they think they are suitable for this WriteShop

These details along with a recent passport size photograph must be provided through this GoogleForms link <https://forms.gle/9p34zEL68egkzpF18>

## What does the WriteShop fellowship include?

The WriteShop fellowship offered by RUWSEC, funded by Thakur Foundation, includes:

- Registration for a three-day WriteShop in Chennai\*
- Travel reimbursement on producing original tickets of three-tier AC coach train or sleeper AC coach bus tickets to Chennai from the hometown of the participant.\*
- WriteShop kit\*
- Shared accommodation at the WriteShop venue\*
- Breakfast, Lunch, and refreshments on all days of the WriteShop\*
- Through a competitive process, the best 5 of the 10 manuscripts that emerge from the WriteShop will be awarded a fellowship of Rs. 15,000 each.
- Payment of article processing charges for publication of the manuscripts in the Indian Journal of Medical Ethics.

*\*based on prevailing pandemic conditions the WriteShop may be conducted virtually if required in which case the logistics components of the fellowship may not apply.*

## Process of Selection

The submitted proposals and applications will be reviewed by a panel of experts. The best 10 proposals will be selected, and the researchers/scholars invited to participate in the WriteShop. There may be an online interview of shortlisted candidates if the panel feels the need for it. Decision will be made based on quality of the proposed manuscript, feasibility of successfully writing a manuscript in a 3-month timeline.

## WriteShop Agenda

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| <b>07.04.2022 Morning Session</b>  | <b>07.04.2022 Afternoon Session</b>  |
| Introduction and Ice break<br>Introduction to Public Health Ethics<br>Ethics of Community Health Work              | Allocation of mentor<br>Meeting and discussion with mentor<br>about topic of selected writing work |
| <b>08.04.2022 Morning Session</b>  | <b>08.04.2022 Afternoon Session</b>  |
| How to write a scoping review<br>How to write a case study and<br>discussion<br>How to write an ethical commentary | Meeting and discussion with mentor<br>about content of manuscript                                  |
| <b>09.04.2022 Morning Session</b>  | <b>09.04.2022 Afternoon Session</b>  |
| Presentation of proposals<br>Meeting with mentor one-on-one<br>Review of proposals and comments                    | Meeting and discussion with mentor<br>about steps forward  |

## Post WriteShop processes

During the WriteShop each scholar will be allotted a mentor with whom they can work closely to develop the manuscript. After the WriteShop the scholars are required to commit some part of their time to work on the proposals and develop

them into manuscripts in consultation with their allotted mentors. They must complete the manuscript and submit it by 31 July 2022. A panel of judges constituted by the Indian Journal of Medical Ethics and RUWSEC will evaluate the submitted manuscripts and select the best 5 for publication as a theme issue in the IJME. They will go through a rigorous peer review process and after modifications, they will be published in the IJME in the Oct-Dec 2022 theme issue. The other 5 manuscripts may be submitted to the IJME or any journal that the scholar prefers with appropriate acknowledgements to the WriteShop training.

### **About IJME:**

The IJME will be approached for the selection of best manuscripts and for peer review and publications. The Indian Journal of Medical Ethics, published by the Forum for Medical Ethics Society, is a multi-disciplinary academic journal providing a platform for publication of original material and discussion on all aspects of healthcare ethics and the humanities, relevant to and/or from the perspective of India and other developing countries. All material submitted for publication in the journal, go through a rigorous system of internal and external peer review by experts, and revisions when needed, before receiving approval for publication. In addition to PubMed, IJME is also indexed in a few other international databases, such as SCOPUS.

### **Timelines:**

**Application Opens:** 20 Jan 2022

**Application Closes:** 28 Feb 2022

**Scrutiny of Applications and Announcement of Selected Scholars:**  
15 March 2022

**WriteShop:** 7-9 April 2022

**Last date for submission of completed manuscripts:** 31 July 2022

**Review of submitted manuscripts and announcement of Top 5 manuscripts for peer review and publication in IJME:** 31 August 2022

**Peer review process in IJME:** 01 September 2022 to 31 September 2022

**Preparation of final theme issue in IJME:** Oct - Dec 2022

### **For any further information contact:**

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