

## Fortnightly Digest by



(Digest 11)

Warm greetings!

We have been going through the most difficult times in India. There is a grief of personal losses and much deeper pain having to witness the devastations caused by the pandemic and more so by inefficient policy and political environment. We haven't witnessed possibly over decades such a massive damage to human dignity arising of apathy of the political class. Extreme alienation of marginalized communities by an elitist approach to digital technologies by introducing them in the basket of tools to respond to the pandemic is possibly for the first of its kind. The recent COVID-19 vaccine policy announced by the Government of India is yet another example of 'what not to do'. Overall, by design, the response to the pandemic has not only been inadequate and inefficient but also seem to be ill-informed and disregarding science and ethics.

We, in collaboration with other like-minded groups, have initiated campaign aimed at equitable COVID-19 health care resources with focus on COVID-19 vaccines. Oxfam India and Forum for Medical Ethics Society (FMES) had submitted a letter endorsed by over 600 prominent activists, doctors and citizens to the Prime Minister on May 17th 2021. Oxfam India and FMES welcomes Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to procure 75% of vaccines in India and provide them free of cost to the [states](#). This latest decision is in line with the demands of the People's Vaccine Alliance in India which submitted the letter.

We have also filed a petition 'We Demand Access to Health Care for All' supported by 1500+ colleagues, friends, concerned citizens and groups/organization. HEaL Institute, FMES, Internet Freedom Foundation, RethinkAadhaar, and Swathanthra Malayalam Computing joined hands to raise the issue arising of making Aadhaar mandatory for people of India to access COVID-19 health care resources and demanded inclusive policy environment.

We shall keep updating you on this front as it evolves.

**Newsletter Spotlight**

## **IJME Theme Issue**

### **Double Standards Redux: The Ethics of Future Covid-19 Vaccine Research**

#### **Social Research Ethics | UGC-SWAYAM MOOCS**

## **HEaL Institute - IJME IJME Blog**

**Blog 27 | HEaL Institute & IJME – Covid-19 Insights | June 10, 2021 | [Oxfam India and Forum for Medical Ethics Society welcome PMs announcements for partial free vaccines; highlights need for more inclusive vaccine policy](#) | FMES and Oxfam India**

**Blog 26 | HEaL Institute & IJME – Covid-19 Insights | June 7, 2021 | [Open letter calling for a global ban on biometric recognition technologies that enable mass and discriminatory surveillance](#) | Access Now, Amnesty International, European Digital Rights (EDRi), Human Rights Watch, Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF), and Instituto Brasileiro de Defesa do Consumidor (IDEC).**

**Blog 25 | HEaL Institute & IJME – Covid-19 Insights | May 25, 2021 | [Letter to PMO on Collective demand for a people's vaccine in India](#) | FMES and Oxfam India**

**[Read more](#)**

## **Online First from IJME**

June 14, 2021 | **[Cosmetic surgical procedures on the vulva and vagina – an overview](#)** | **[Rajesh Panicker, Thunga Pandurangan](#)** | Rajesh Panicker, Thunga Pandurangan

June 8, 2021 | **[Against reductive explanations for human conditions](#)** | KS Jacob

June 5, 2021 | **[Commercialisation of healthcare in India: Covid 19 and beyond](#)** | Bijoya Roy

June 2, 2021 | **[Challenges in the governance of biomedical and health research after publication of the New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules, 2019](#)** | Yashashri Shetty, Vishal Kripashankar Singh

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## **Forthcoming webinars**

### **being hosted by local and global peer community**

June 15, 2021 | **[Bahujan Economists | Struggle without state: Livelihoods in Lockdown, at 6.30pm](#)**

June 15, 2021 | **[IMPRI | Gendered Impact of the Catastrophic Second Wave of COVID-19 Pandemic: Way Forward towards Combating the Third Wave in India](#)** | Prof Vibhuti Patel, Dr Swati Rane, Ms Poonam Kathuria, Ms Seema Kulkarni, Ms Renu Khanna, Dr Swarna

Rajagopalan, Dr Soma K. Parthasarathy

June 30, 2021 | WAITRO | Round Table on Intellectual Property: Vaccines and Patents

**[Read more](#)**

**[HEaL Institute](#), [IJME](#), [FMES](#)**

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