

Fortnightly Digest by



Digest 31



Warm greetings!

We are pleased to bring you this fortnightly digest from the Health, Ethics and Law Institute (HEaL Institute) and the *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics* (IJME).

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## Newsletter Spotlight 1

### To mark the 30<sup>th</sup> year of FMES–IJME and to honour its colleagues, Amar Jesani and Meenakshi D’cruz !

The regular readers of this Digest and those associated with the IJME, by now know that IJME is in its 30th year. **Dr Sanjay Nagral**, Chairperson of FMES, and **Dr Abha Nagral** hosted a get together of FMES and IJME colleagues, associates and friends — past and present — on Sunday, May 1, 2022, at the Cricket Club of India, Mumbai, to celebrate the **30 years of the IJME**, and **Amar Jesani’s Global Ethics Award** from the International Association of Bioethics, and **to thank Meenakshi D’cruz**, our Editorial Coordinator, **for her service to the journal for 12 years** and to continue supporting the journal as a mentor colleague to the editorial office.

The event was attended by some of the founding members, and friends and well-wishers of FMES–IJME over the years. The event was also attended online on Zoom by friends who could not join us in person.

While speaking about the journal's foundation and progress over the year, **Dr Sunil K Pandya**, the founding editor of IJME, said,

*"...to my very very pleasant surprise, the newsletter which was entitled 'Medical Ethics' has now grown into a nationally and internationally reputed journal, and the credit for this goes to the successive editors, each of whom has advanced the journal using a variety of techniques..."*

**Dr Mala Ramanathan**, Working Editor of the IJME, in her talk on the "IJME since 2011", said,

*"Getting indexed was an achievement for all the hard work done by the editors, reviewers, contributors/authors, readers, well-wishers and a host of others whose contributions have made IJME what it is. But to have achieved it at that time, particularly for having being systematic about it over all the years with retrospective effect was like a bonus..."* **She added**, *"When we entered the second post millennium decade of 2011, we already had three National Bioethics Conferences behind us, with the first one in Mumbai, then in Bengaluru and then in Delhi. These National Conferences enabled those who were working in niche areas of bioethics to network with others from all walks of life — academics, clinicians, activists and those with a range of identities and affiliations, to forge common ground over the emerging ethical challenges in medical practice, use of technology in health care, public health practice and research and host of other issues."*

**Dr Sunita Bandewar**, Secretary General of FMES and Working Editor of the IJME, added,

*"I think sometimes the journal name is kind of becomes a misnomer because we have gone so much beyond medical ethics, and we are conceiving both health and bioethics in a wider context...taking into account not only social determinants of health but also the political determinants of health in the current context."*

While speaking on how a journal could succeed, **Dr Amar Jesani**, Editor of the IJME, said,

*"...the key to do that is to making it "collective", and make it collective in a real sense where everybody feels ownership of it; otherwise, we talk about collectivity in journal but it does not really translate into ownership by large number of people, and more the number of people take ownership, the stronger the journal becomes..."*

**Ms Meenakshi D'cruz**, Editorial Coordinator of IJME, while talking about her journey in IJME for last 12 years, added,

*"...people who provide services like page makers, the printers and all — they are all committed to the journal long before me, they have been supporters and very much involved in the journal and taking a very keen interest into it and...often put aside their commercial interest because of the way they identify with the journal."*

For our readers, here are some pictures taken during the event.



[View more pictures...](#)

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## Newsletter Spotlight 2

### Challenges to research integrity and rights

**IJME Vol VII (Cumulative Vol XXX) No 2 Apr-Jun 2022**

*The Indian Journal of Medical Ethics* brings to you the [second issue of its 30<sup>th</sup> year](#) with an editorial that focuses on analysing the responsibility of the National Medical Commission to uphold ethics and improve the ethical standards of the medical profession and practice, which its earlier avatar failed to do. With two other articles which look into challenges to research integrity and rights, one of the research articles studies the ethical dilemmas faced in research among survivors of suicide; while another determines the legitimacy of the journals by evaluating email solicitations received by authors. In a comment on Dementia, the authors try to analyse the layered issues of mental health in three Indian novels in English; while a case study illustrates the moral distress that can result when there are differences between

patients/surrogates and the healthcare team in their goals to address end-of-life issues. We also mourn the early loss of Dr Paul Farmer who spent his life serving the poorest as a doctor, educator, builder of institutions, and above all, as a humanist.

These and many other significant articles along with some reflections, poems, book reviews and letters are compiled together in our [April-June 2022 issue](#).

CELEBRATING 30TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

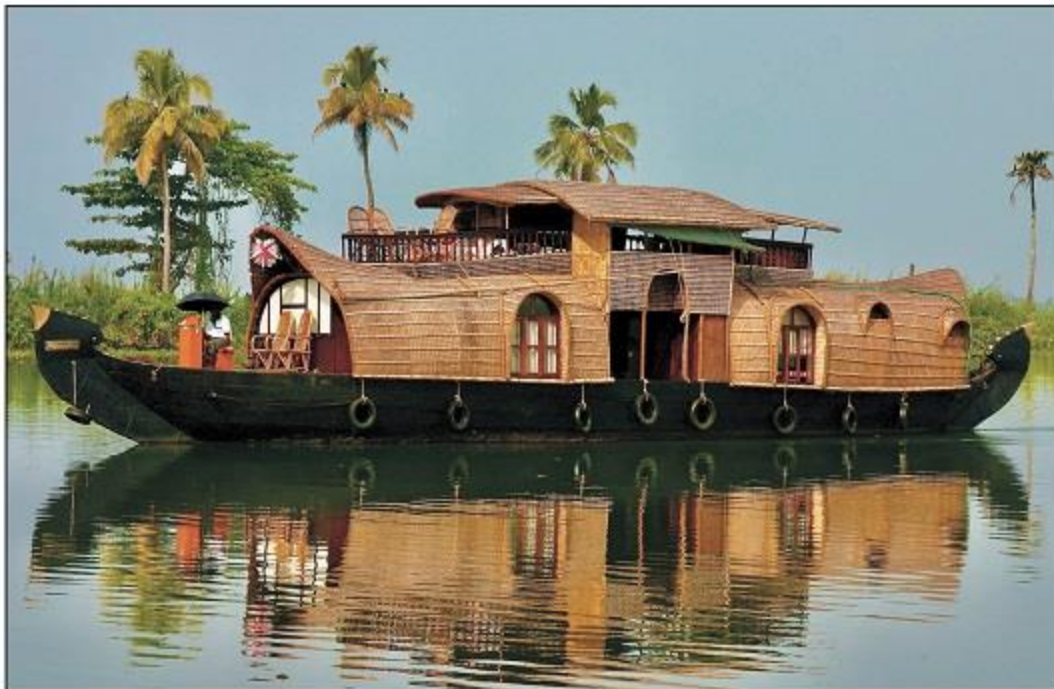
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ISSN 0975 - 5691 (online)



# INDIAN JOURNAL OF MEDICAL ETHICS

Vol VII (Cumulative Vol XXX) 2022 No 2



**ETHICS REGULATION BY NATIONAL MEDICAL COMMISSION: NO REASON FOR HOPE**

**Managing ethical dilemmas in suicide research**

**Loss of personhood in dementia: family a recuperative space?**

**Protocols, priorities and a postcard**

**Poem: Ethical distancing in the pandemic**

## Newsletter Spotlight 3

### Dissemination meeting of the report by TISS and FMES titled, *'Enhancing the Quality of Response of the Health Care System to Sexual Assault'*

You may remember that one of the newsletter spotlights of our previous fortnightly Digest focused on the report published by TISS and FMES on '[Enhancing the Quality of Response of the Health Care System to Sexual Assault](#)', which reported the findings of a comprehensive study of health care and medico-legal care for survivors of gender-based violence with special focus on domestic and sexual violence and identification of gaps in infrastructure and human resources.

This report was released through an online dissemination meeting held on Saturday, March 26, 2022. The recording of the meeting could be found [here](#). Prominent scholars namely, Prof Shalini Bharat, Dr Shireen Jejeebhoy, Vrinda Grover, Dr Avni Amin, comprised the panel to discuss the findings of the study and e-release the report. Their own works in spaces of law, research, gender issues, violence against women, and policy arenas made the discussion about study findings critically insightful.

**Dr Shireen Jejeebhoy**, Director at Aksha Centre for Equity and Wellbeing, in her opening remarks said,

*"I have skimmed the report and it is clear that there is not only no collaboration between the health system and law enforcement but also the response of the healthcare system to sexual assaults is plagued by multiple limitations. To name just a few that are mentioned in the report — hardly any facilities have separate rooms for examination, counselling is not universal, providers are not aware of their responsibilities in these cases, hardly any have SOPs, police requisition forms for medico-legal documentation still require the two-finger test, and it goes on. I was really shocked reading this report, it is really very sobering..."*

**Adv Vrinda Grover**, Advocate — Supreme Court, in her comments said,

*"Today we have from your study 'evidence' to show where the gaps in policy are, where gaps in knowledge are, which are actually alarmingly and disturbing, and what is it that the state needs to do...". She added, "... this report provides us with actually the nuts and bolts of what the state should do...where the money needs to be put where the mouth is..."*

# Enhancing the Quality of Response of the Health Care System to Sexual Assault

Dr Lakshmi Lingam, TISS, Mumbai  
Dr Sunita Bandewar, FMES, Pune  
Ms Sita Mamidipudi, Hyderabad

Funded by

Indian Council for Medical Research and  
the Department of Health Research,  
MoHFW, New Delhi, India

(Project Reference No. GIA/8/2014-DHR)

Tata Institute of Social Sciences  
Forum for Medical Ethics Society

Mumbai

6 April 2021





Tata Institute of Social Sciences  
&  
Forum for Medical Ethics Society



invite you for online report dissemination meeting

**'Enhancing the Quality of Health Care System Response to  
Sexual Assault: Study of Maharashtra and Telangana'**

on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022, 4 - 6 pm

Introductory Remarks



Prof Shalini Bharat,  
Director, TISS

Chairperson



Dr Shireen Jejeebhoy  
Director, Aksha,  
Mumbai

Discussants



Vrinda Grover,  
Advocate,  
Supreme Court



Dr Avni Amin,  
SRHR - VAW, WHO,  
Geneva



Report to be presented  
Prof Lakshmi Ling  
TISS, Mumbai



Dr Sunita Bandedkar  
FMES, Pune



Ms Sita Mamidipati  
UCLA, USA

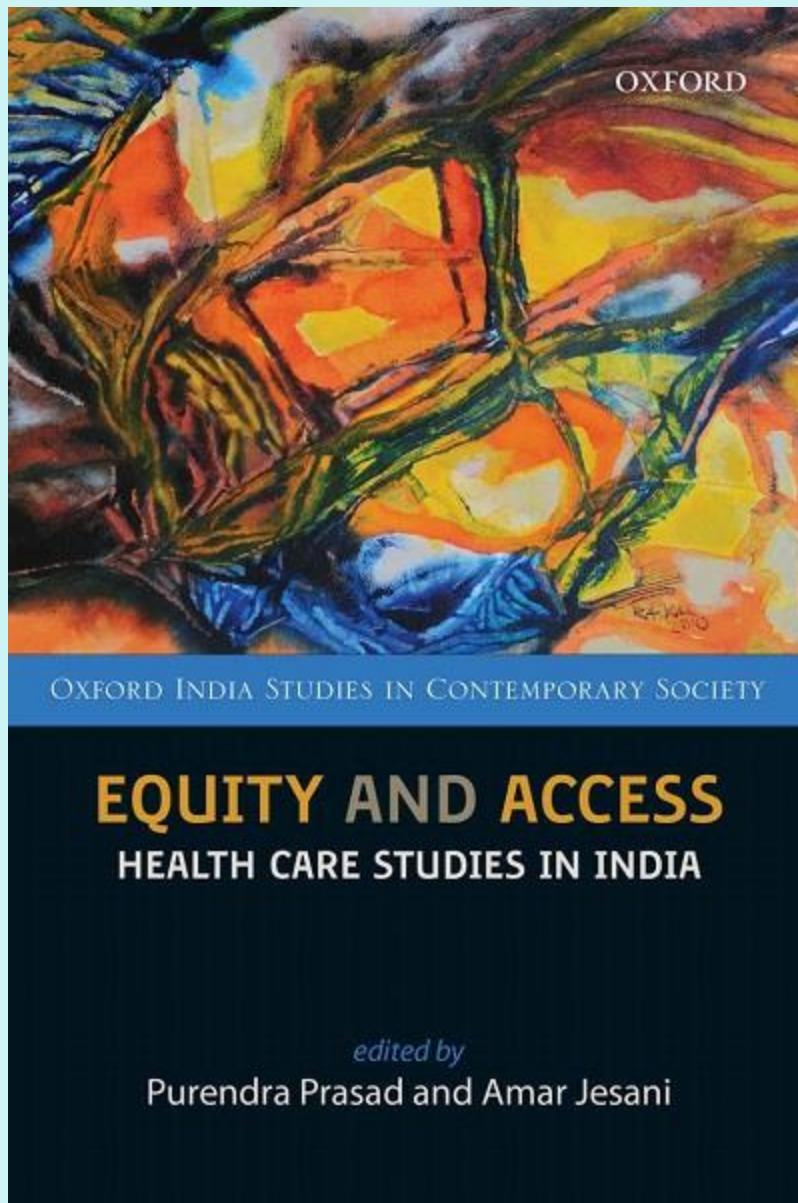
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## Newsletter Spotlight 4

### “Untangling the Labyrinth of Health Inequities in India” — a book review

Professor Indranil Mukhopadhyay gives a comprehensive review of the book “Equity and Access: Health Care Studies in India” edited by Purendra Prasad, Amar Jesani and Sujata Patel, which can be read [here](#)





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## **Announcement from the local and global peer community**

### **Open letter condemning the attacks on the right to food and nutrition by targeting the consumption and sale of meat in India**

A group of activists, doctors, nutritionists, parents, advocates, and researchers have written an open letter raising concern over the attacks on the food habits and nutrition rights of people, in the form of laws, bans and calls to boycott the sale and consumption of meat, which affects the health of those deprived of nutrition. The entire letter can be read [here](#).

The letter has received attention on different platforms, such as in **The Hindu on May 07, 2022** and can be read at [Open letter raises concern about 'irrational attacks on food habits and nutrition rights of citizens'](#).

The open letter that we published and highlighted in our previous Digest on '[increasing communalism and casteism in Karnataka which has deep implications for public health](#)' has also received attention on other platforms.

**Economic & Political Weekly** has published the letter in **Volume 57, Issue 19**, of their journal and can be read from [here](#).

### **Forthcoming conferences and webinar**

[Inclusion of Pregnant and Lactating Persons in Clinical Trials: A Workshop](#) | NASEM Health and Medicine | June 16 and 17, 2022

[Towards Ethical Guidance to Protect Healthy Volunteers in Biomedical Research](#) | First online regional seminar: focus on sub-Saharan Africa | May 24, 2022 | 11am -1pm (Central Africa Time)

[What Counts as Health Data? Actionability and Ignorance in Genomic Medicine](#) | Medical Ethics talk by Dr. Kellie Owens | May 23, 2022 | 12 to 1 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

[Governing Pandemics 101: International Sharing of Data & Samples; Development, Production & Access to Vaccines](#) | Geneva Graduate Institute and Global Health Centre | May 20, 2022 | 2 to 3.15 PM (CEST)

### **Resources and publications on bioethics**

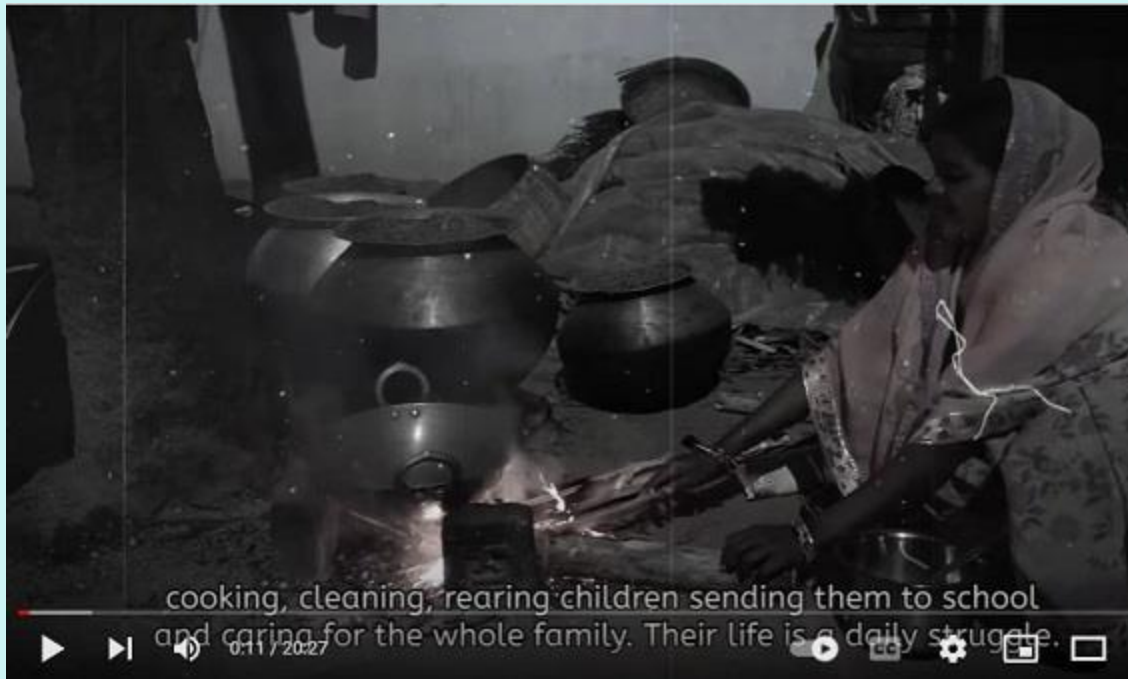
[Condemn the Increasing Communalism and Casteism in Karnataka](#) | Economic & Political Weekly | Vol. 57, Issue No. 19 | Sylvia Karpagam, Zuberah Tahseen, Vivek D'souza, Veena Shatrugna, Vandana Prasad, and others | May 07, 2022

[Leaked Supreme Court Opinion, Structural Sexism, and Our Moral Imagination](#) | The Hastings Center | Danielle Pacia and Beatrice Brown | May 04, 2022

[A Critical Moment in Bioethics: Reckoning with Anti-Black Racism through Intergenerational Dialogue](#) | The Hastings Center | March-April 2022 | Volume 52, Issue S1 | Eds. Faith E Fletcher, Keisha S Ray, Virginia A Brown, Patrick T Smith

[The private health sector in India from the lens of Dalits and Adivasis : Executive Summary](#) | Oxfam India | Nitin Jadhav and Anjela Taneja | April 28, 2022

[Janam Aur Jeevan – जनम और जीवन | A documentary on Women Health in India](#) | Anhad Films



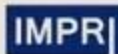
## Bioethics courses

[An Online Immersive Certificate Training Course “Perspectives on Gender Through Healthcare Lens”](#) | Centre for Ethics, Yenepoya and IMPRI | June 4, 11, and 18, 2022 (Three consecutive Saturdays) Time: 2:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. IST

#WebPolicyLearning



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IMPACT AND POLICY  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

प्रभाव एवं नीति अनुसंधान संस्थान

Center for Ethics (CFE), Yenepoya (deemed to be University), Mangalore, and  
Gender Impact Studies Center (GISC), IMPRI Impact and Policy Research Institute, New Delhi  
are organizing

An Online Immersive Certificate Training Course

## PERSPECTIVES ON GENDER THROUGH HEALTHCARE LENS

3 Consecutive Saturdays on Zoom | June 4, 11 and 18, 2022 | 2:30-6:00 PM IST

Learn from renowned experts and experienced professionals



Dr Vina Vaswani  
Director, Centre for Ethics,  
Yenepoya (deemed to be University)



Farhaad Yenepoya  
Pro-Chancellor, Yenepoya  
(deemed to be University)



Prof Vibhuti Patel  
Visiting Professor, IMPRI;  
Former Professor, TISS Mumbai



Dr Simi Mehta  
CEO and Editorial Director,  
IMPRI

Training Experts



Prof Mala  
Ramanathan



Brinelle  
D'Souza



Dr Padma  
Bhate-Deosthali



Sangeeta  
Rege



Dr Ketki  
Ranade



Dr Amar  
Jesani



Dr Aparna  
Joshi



Renu  
Khanna



Prof  
Ghanshyam

Course Fee: ₹ 1500 / USD 25

Details: <https://www.impriindia.com/event/gender-health>

### Opportunities in Bioethics

“Juvenile Justice India Updates” announces India’s first fellowship focusing on Juvenile Justice and Child Sexual Abuse titled as “Juvenile Justice India Fellowship”. Selected Fellow shall be placed for a period of six months with a practicing Child Rights Lawyer in Delhi. Purpose of this Fellowship is to nurture Child Rights Lawyers, Any Fresh Lawyer or first-generation lawyer with the upper age limit of 26 years may apply. Applicants from humble background and from non-metro cities and villages will be given preference. Interested lawyers may send a cover letter along with their CV to Advocate Sneha Singh at [adv.snehasingh@gmail.com](mailto:adv.snehasingh@gmail.com). Applications will be entertained only till 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

**Capacity strengthening in bioethics and its sub-fields: Enquires**

## for short-duration intensive training program

Please write to us on [fmesmumbai@gmail.com](mailto:fmesmumbai@gmail.com) and [admin@fmesinstitute.org](mailto:admin@fmesinstitute.org) with your enquiries for customized short-duration intensive training program in various sub-fields of bioethics. For over two decades, we have been organizing training program in bioethics sub-fields, amongst others, research ethics in social science research in health; public health ethics; clinical ethics, research ethics in public health research; implementation science and ethics, research ethics in mental health interventions; research ethics and digital technology-based health interventions; ethics of program monitoring and evaluations; and research ethics in research involving adolescents and children.

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## Advertise and help to sustain IJME

IJME welcomes advertisements for the print issue as well as the website. Two advertisement spaces on the website, in banner and box area, are available on the landing page and can be viewed at <https://ijme.in/>.

The guidelines, tariff details, and payment details are available [here](#).

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## **APPEAL FOR DONATION TO THE FORUM FOR MEDICAL ETHICS SOCIETY** **APPEAL TO PAY WHAT YOU CAN AFFORD FOR ACCESSING THE IJME and ITS DATABASE**

*Indian Journal of Medical Ethics (IJME)* is published by the **Forum for Medical Ethics Society (FMES)** since 1993. It is a **multi-disciplinary** journal of bioethics, healthcare ethics and humanities. It is also committed to maintaining editorial independence, from the publisher as well as by avoiding financial dependence that could create conflict of interest. In addition, we are striving to keep the IJME online free and open-access. Therefore, the IJME/FMES need support through donations and grants from individuals and non-profit foundations. ***Donations/grants are solicited only from Indian individuals and entities*** as Indian laws do not permit a journal to receive donations/grants from foreign sources.

However, foreign as well as Indian readers/authors may wish to support the journal by voluntary payment of a fee in the following manner:

- By paying or gifting subscriptions to the print or soft PDF copies of the journal;
- By paying a fee of any amount for full-text views or PDF download of any article from

the IJME website;

- By paying article processing charges of any amount on publication as affordable to the readers/authors.

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