

Fortnightly Digest by



Digest 33



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).

Newsletter Spotlight 1

[Witness Seminar Reports](#)

We are pleased to mention that we e-released proceedings of the two witness seminars on Wed, May 25, 2022.

As part of the project “[Engagement of Communities in research in Tuberculosis and Mental Health](#) (Eco-researchTM)”, supported by the WHO-TDR, the HEaL Institute of FMES has partnered with the Centre for Nutrition Studies, Yenepoya (Deemed to be University), Mangalore for its [RATIONS](#) study and DLR Prerna, Darjeeling for its [TeaLeaf](#) intervention to document community and stakeholders engagement practices and learnings. Under the Eco-researchTM, we organised two witness seminars — “[Tracing the historical trajectory of community engagement in TB related public health interventions in India](#)” and “[Community engagement and Patient-centered care in TB related public health interventions in India: perspectives of survivors, champions and community-based organizations](#)” —in October and December 2021, respectively. These witness seminars provide insight into India’s TB programme, communities, patients and their families by experts having extensive knowledge

and experience in TB domain.

Please do consider exploring the two reports with wealth of insights in to the TB program of India from perspective of diverse stakeholders.



**Proceedings Report of
A Witness Seminar on**

**Tracing the historical trajectory of
community engagement in TB-related
public health interventions in India**

Held on Thursday, October 21, 2021

**Co-organised by
HEaL Institute, FMES; and
CNS, YDU**

**Editors:
Sunita Sheel Bandewar, Anant Bhan,
Parimala S and Sharanya Sreekumar**

March 2022

**Supported by
The UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/
WHO Special Programme for Research
and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR)**

[Grant Number: P21-00344]





Proceedings Report of

A Witness Seminar on



Community engagement and patient-centred care in TB-Related public health interventions in India: perspectives of survivors, champions and community-based organisations



Held on Saturday, December 18, 2021

Co-organised by
HEaL Institute, FMES; and
CNS, YDU



Supported by

**The UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/
WHO Special Programme for Research and
Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR)**

[Grant Number: P21-00344]



These reports have been possible because a number of colleagues and friends agreed to present their views as ‘witnesses’ at the two seminars. We like to express our gratitude to them.

Witness seminar – 1 | Speakers and chairs



Dr Beena Thomas
Head of the Department of Social and Behavioral Research, National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis



Ms Blessina Kumar
CEO, Global Coalition of TB Activists



Dr Nerges Mistry
Director and Trustee of The Foundation for Medical Research (FMR), Mumbai



Dr Kuldeep Singh Sachdeva
Regional Director, The Union South-East Asia, The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease.



Ms Leena Menghaney
Lawyer and Regional Head (South Asia), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)



Dr Debabar B
Chair of the Center for Social Medicine Community Health School of Social INU, New Delhi



Dr Muniyandi Malaisamy
Scientist 'D' and HOD, Department of Health Economics, ICMR-NIRT, Chennai



Dr Rohit Sarin,
Consultant (TB & RD), National Institute of TB & Respiratory Diseases, New Delhi



Dr Sunil Kaul,
Managing Trustee of the Ant (The Action North East Trust), an NGO based in rural Bodoland in Assam



Dr Thelma Narayan
Director, Academics and health policy action, Society for Community Health Awareness, Research and Action (SOCHARA)



Dr Vineet Chadha,
Advisor in Public Health at National Tuberculosis Institute (NTI), Bangalore

Witness Seminar –2 | Speakers and chairs



Dr Amita Pitre
Lead Specialist, Gender Justice at Oxfam India



Dr Anupama Srinivasan
Director, Resource Group for Education and Advocacy for Community Health (REACH)



Ms Bijayalaxmi Rautaray
Secretary of Sahayog, an NGO advocacy for TB patients' treatment.



Mr Chapal Mehra
Director at Pi Consulting, Delhi



Mr Ganesh Acharya
Tuberculosis champion and Delhi Network of Positive People (DNP+) activist.



Adv Veena Jaha
Proprietor of Courtyard Attorneys



Mr Khageshwar Kumar,
TB champion and FLRATIONS trial, Jharkhand



Ms Mridula Das,
TB champion, Baksa district, Assam



Nandita Venkatesan
Journalist, TEDx speaker & TB champion



Ms Prabha Mahesh,
Counsellor, Project Director, ALERT India



Mr Prashant Sharma,
TB Champion, Sikkim



Ms Rupa Kumari,
TB champion, FI, RATION Trial, Jharkhand

E-release of proceedings of witness seminar reports

A [virtual event](#) was organised to release these witness seminar reports on Wednesday, May 25, 2022. The panelists for the event included eminent personalities from the field of public health, TB and bioethics.



While talking about the WHO-TDR's initiative in community engagement in implementation science, **Dr Michael Mihut**, Head, Programme Innovation and Management (PIM) WHO-TDR Geneva, Switzerland said,

“Thank you very much also for including in your research the marginalised communities and the vulnerable populations; these are our focus groups in TDR as we move towards ‘not leaving anyone behind’ approach. This goes across our research, our capacity strengthening operations and our community engagement.”

Dr Manan Ganguli of Ekta Niketan TB Centre, Deoghar, Jharkhand, while discussing about the witness seminar report 1, said

“In a community, when we are talking about appropriate holistic community-based TB intervention, we have to have patient centric intervention. Patient centric and people centric —

to me, 'patient centric' is an intervention; and 'people centric' is more of an approach or strategy. ..."

While talking about the witness seminar report 2, **Dr Jim Lavery**, Conrad N. Hilton Chair in Global Health Ethics Professor, Emory University, Atlanta, USA said,

"It seems to me that this witness seminar report reflects a sort of human infrastructure of care for people living with TB. These engagement activities themselves are really aimed at reaching people in need of care and support. They are not gratuitous; they are really purposeful engagements and the relationships that are established through these engagements really seemed to be a kind of living interface or a potential interface with the health system, certainly lots of observations about the health system."

Santosh Kumar Giri, Secretary & Exe Director, Kolkata Rista gave special remarks on TB programme in India and marginalized communities, and said,

"The report is really helping us to reach the unreached population.... we are mentioning the marginalised community that is very important. But I think it is supposed to be clearer about 'who these marginalised communities are?' — are they from any Dalit community, caste community, religious community or from the gender or sexual minority community — which is very important."

While speaking of the implementation of the TB programme in India and its connection with the proceedings, **Dr Asha Frederick**, Additional Director of Medical & Rural Health Services, Tamil Nadu said,

"As a state TB officer and as an implementation person in the state of Tamil Nadu, I would like to once again thank you for the release of this reports. So, as an implementer it gives me lot of insights into how and where I can shape some of the implementations of this national TB elimination programme — the services that are being offered to the patient from side of the government."



We hope you will find these proceedings insightful.

Newsletter Spotlight 3

[Vikram Patel writes: Murder in Madhya Pradesh — I am Bhanwarlal](#)



I AM BHANWARLAL

VIKRAM PATEL

[Dr Vikram Patel](#), **Editorial Board member of IJME**, in an article published in [The Indian Express](#) writes about the murder of an elderly man named Bhanwarlal Jain, who was mercilessly beaten on the suspicion of being a Muslim and was asked for the proof of his religion. The elderly man was mentally challenged and was “unable to grasp the nature of the evil he was confronting”. Dr Patel adds that “Such a violence is a symptom of a society that needs to heal.”

Newsletter Spotlight 4

[Medicine & Ethics Go Viral: Virtual exhibition](#)



Video interviews of more than 20 bioethicists and experts from health care ethics around the world were conducted for the project “Medicine & Ethics Go Viral”, led by [Dr. Silke Schicktanz](#) (Department of Medical Ethics and History of Medicine, University Medical Center Goettingen), **a member of the Editorial Board of IJME**. Global and local ethical concerns related to COVID-19 such as scarce resources in clinical settings and intensive care units, social isolation and mental health problems, and various such topics were raised by these interviewees.

A collection of 20 such videos feature in an online exhibition at <http://www.ethicsgoviral.com/>. Visitors of the online exhibition can also actively participate by sharing a photo of an object that they personally associate with the pandemic combined with a short explanation of why they chose the particular object.

Online First from IJME

Ansari, S. (2022). [The meaning of being acknowledged in a manuscript](#). *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*, 19 May 2022.

Cordeiro-rodrigues, I. (2022). [Public health and Christian theism in Africa: An approach to](#)

[evil and religious belief in the afterlife.](#) *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*, 25 May 2020

Govindraj, I., Santhosh, S., Sunish, S., Gopalakrishnan, A., Chandy, S., Oommen, V., Fx, M. (2022). [Effectiveness of teaching medical ethics to medical students on an online platform: An analysis of students' perceptions and feedback.](#) *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*, 20 May, 2022

Jindal, M. (2022). [Delivering care with competence on the Covid-19 frontline.](#) *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*, 27 May, 2022

Macklin, R. (2022). [Abortion laws in the United States: Turning the calendar back 50 years?.](#) *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*, 01 June, 2022

Mishra, A., Naik, B., Pandey, S., Agarwal, N. (2022). [Covid-19: Catalyst for a comprehensive law to combat potential pandemics in India.](#) *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*, 04 June, 2022

Announcement from the local and global peer community

Forthcoming conferences and webinar

[Global Forum on Bioethics in Research 2022: call for applications open \(deadline 17 June\)](#) | The Global Forum on Bioethics in Research (GFBR) | November 2022

[2022 INS Annual Meeting | Theme: Bringing Neuroethics to Life Throughout Patient Care, Research, and Policy](#) | International Neuroethics Society | November 2-4, 2022

Concluded conferences and webinar

[Medical Ethics Talk 6/6: "Research Within the Bounds of Reasonable Risk: The Integrative Approach"](#) | International Bioethics | 6 June 2022

[Towards building on LGBTQ+ inclusive medical practice](#) | HPQI, BVDTUMC, GSI | 4 June 2022

[Understanding Women in Sex Work: A first step towards inclusion in palliative care services](#) | Indian Association of Palliative care, Uttara Karnataka Mahila Okkoota and SAMRAKSHA, | 2 June 2022 | 5 – 6.15 pm

[The Ethical Considerations in the Research Conducted During Armed Conflicts](#) | Dr. Ghaiath Hussein | 1 Jun, 2022 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

[Complex vulnerabilities and research in health inequity in crisis contexts](#) | Jennifer Liang | Health Equity Network India (HENI) | May 27, 2022

[Misdiagnosis: Global Mental Health, Social Determinants of Health & Beyond](#) | SAMVAD | 30 May, 2022 | 7.00 to 8.15 pm

[Understanding the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission: Its Mission, Components, and Challenges](#) | Lancet Citizen's Commission | 24 May, 2022

News articles and Blogs on bioethics

[Citizen's Report on Year Three of the NDA II Government 2021-22 : Promises & Reality](#) | Wada Na Todo Abhiyan



Along with other essentials such as education, agriculture, livelihoods, inequality, nutrition, the [Citizens Governance Review 2021-22](#) by **Wada Na Todo Abhiyan** reviews public health policies and governance during the COVID-19 pandemic. The report brings to fore how the healthcare system faces neglect and suggests that the current privatisation and profiteering approach need to be replaced by “a non-commercial, transparent, accountable and people centric approach” to deliver public-oriented services.

[Field Notes from a 'PoSH Trainer'](#) | Soumya Thakur | The India Forum | May 31, 2022

[Participation in Play: Demonstrating a Practicable Approach to People's Participation in the Context of Policymaking during COVID-19](#) | Alternative Law Forum, Society for Informal Education and Development Studies, and Fields of View

[The Right to Health – Illustrated Court Rulings](#) | Centre for Health Equity, Law & Policy

Upcoming bioethics courses

[eCourse in Research Ethics \(eLearning\) offered by Indian Institute of Public Health, PHFI](#)

Course Duration: 3 months

Last date for online application: July 10, 2022

Course Commencement: August 2022

Capacity strengthening in bioethics and its sub-fields: Enquires for short-duration intensive training program

Please write to us on fmesmumbai@gmail.com and 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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