

I am currently a Professor of Public Policy with the Center for Public Policy at IIM Bangalore (IIMB). I am also the Chairperson of the Post-Graduate Program in Public Policy and Management, a one-year diploma program for government officers in public policy roles. While I am an economist by training, I have been interested in how the application context informs policy challenges. Starting from my job at NIPFP, through my PhD, and numerous projects at IIMB I have always been fascinated at how the specific context of a policy problem challenges existing methods and shapes ideas for advancement. I have been applying context based quantitative and qualitative methods in understanding health and policy processes in low-middle income countries. Being at IIM Bangalore has allowed me to see both the policy and business side of these problems.

My research around social insurance in Karnataka, child health outcomes in urban India and understanding financial risk implications of insurance present some ideas I have published. Most recently, as a Commissioner on the Lancet Citizen's Commission on Re-imagining Healthcare in India, I have been keen on understanding how universal health coverage can be measured at the sub-national level. Apart from contributing to several book projects, my peer-reviewed research has been accepted at prestigious publications such as the *Journal of Health Economics*, *American Journal of Public Health*, *Indian Journal of Medical Research*, *The Lancet*, *BMJ*, and *Plos Medicine*. Our recent work on understanding antibiotic overprescriptions for childhood diarrhea is forthcoming at *Science*.

Starting from the Sydney IHEA conference, I have presented several papers at different IHEA Congresses. It's a wonderful ecosystem for learning, building networks and seeing what doctoral students of the day are working on. I have attended several special interest group meetings, reviewed papers and found kindred spirits in early-career, mid-career, and established scholars at IHEA. In this sense, for me, IHEA has always been a coming together of the field in a wonderful way and seeing how it is dealing with some of the evolving challenges. It was very insightful to hear the plenary talk at the last IHEA conference around the Climate Change and Health Economics interphase.

Southern, Central and Western Asia constitute a significant portion of the world, with very different health challenges that stem from low-income, and mixed health systems syndrome, with a difficulty in dealing with rapidly changing health needs. It also presents spaces of innovation, in experiments at national and subnational levels, in organizational innovation and dealing with complexities of scaling large population needs. I am keen to see how one can bring the study of these interesting phenomena within the fold of IHEA, particularly through contributions of doctoral and early career colleagues.