



SEARCH

Society for Education, Action and
Research in Community Health



SEARCH- IAPSM Post Doctoral Fellowship

An initiative by
Society for Education, Action and Research in Community Health [SEARCH]
and
Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine [IAPSM]

to develop Public Health Leaders



**At: Shodhgram, Post: Chatgaon, Taluka: Dhanora, Dist: Gadchiroli
Maharashtra, India. Pin Code: 442605**

<https://searchforhealth.ngo/>

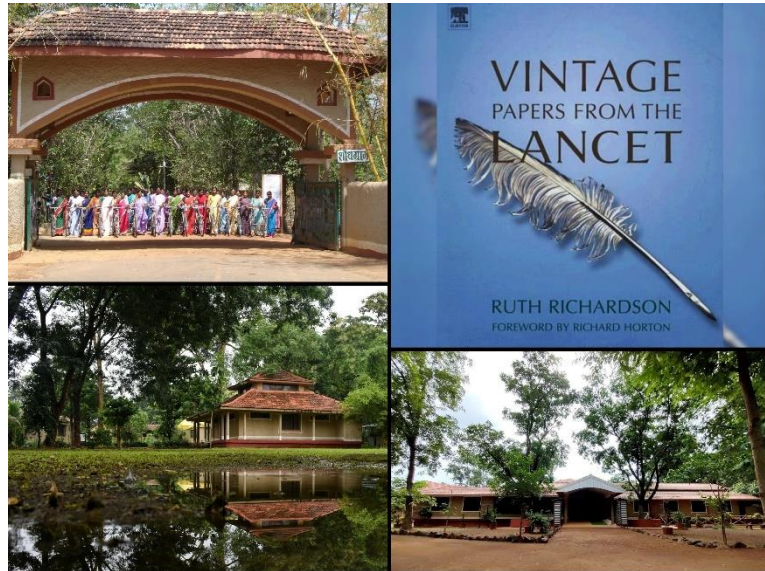
Background:

Community Health or Public health expertise is crucial for improving the well-being of communities in India. The lack of access to quality healthcare in rural areas not only leads to a higher prevalence of diseases but also results in preventable deaths and a significant economic burden. By implementing tailored public health programs, facilitating education and awareness, and leveraging technology, experts can ensure equitable healthcare access and empower rural populations to lead healthier lives.

Working at the field level allows young professionals to apply their theoretical knowledge in a real-world context, leading to a deeper understanding of the complexities involved in addressing public health issues at the community level. It not only enhances their practical skills and knowledge but also prepares them to be effective public health practitioners capable of making a meaningful impact on the health of communities.

About SEARCH:

Society for Education, Action, and Research in Community Health (SEARCH) is an internationally renowned organization working to improve the lives of rural and tribal communities in the Gadchiroli district in Maharashtra since 1986. Gadchiroli is one of the most impoverished districts in India, with tribals constituting 40% of its population. The poverty, illiteracy, and remoteness add to the enormous healthcare challenges in this region.



Dr Rani and Dr. Abhay Bang, who were deeply moved by the dire health and healthcare circumstances in rural India, set up SEARCH in 1986. Their dedication to living among the people and serving them is a testament to their commitment to the cause.

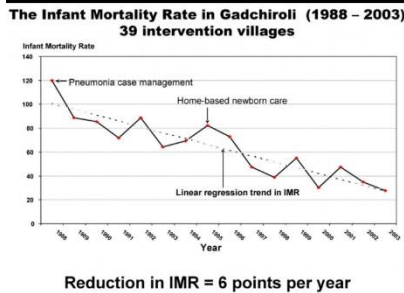
“Our vision is to realize Arogya Swaraj: People’s Health in People’s Hands. Empowering individuals and communities to take charge of their own health, and thereby, help them achieve freedom from disease as well as dependence.”
– Dr. Abhay Bang, Founder, SEARCH

SEARCH has been working among the rural and tribal poor and marginalized for over 30 years, reaching out to 1500 villages. We deeply value the role of the community in finding relevant solutions to rural and tribal health problems. Our bond with the community, based on trust and equity, is central to our pursuit of the four pillars of our work; viz, SERVICE to prevent and treat health problems, EDUCATION to impart knowledge on health. Original RESEARCH to further this knowledge. Shaping

POLICY to disseminate our methods. SEARCH, today, is recognized as a global leader among public health institutions.

Major of the services provided at SEARCH in the community:

- SEARCH runs a variety of programs including a hospital and two mobile medical units performing 70,000+ patient consultations & 600+ surgeries annually.
- Population laboratory of 1,00,000 rural and tribal population living in 269 villages where community-based service delivery & health education are conducted.
- Identifying the healthcare priorities of people & developing scalable solutions using rigorous research methods.
- Imparting life skills and sex education to adolescents, a dedicated mental health program.
- Muktipath — a district-wide alcohol-tobacco control & awareness program.
- NIRMAN - a youth initiative to nurture young social changemakers, and policy advocacy to impact populations at scale.



Major Research and Policy Contributions of SEARCH:

1. A community-based study of gynecological problems in rural areas of Gadchiroli in 1988 became the first study in the world focusing on women's health beyond maternity care. Working at the grassroots level with tribal women, a change was brought about in the global policy in Cairo (1994) – From Population Control to Women's Reproductive Health, thus setting a great example of "Think locally, act globally."
2. SEARCH achieved a reduction of pneumonia-specific case fatality through diagnosis and treatment of pneumonia in <5 children by trained Community Health Workers, as per diagnosis and treatment protocol developed by SEARCH published in the Lancet (1990). The IMR reduced from 121 to 79 (1990), thus becoming major evidence for shaping the global ARI control program in 77 countries (1992).
3. Our pioneering approach of training a village health worker to provide Home-based Newborn and Child Care (HBNCC) at home has reduced infant mortality to 30 from the baseline of 121 and earned global recognition. The Lancet celebrated this approach as the Vintage Paper, a testament to its effectiveness and potential to change newborn care policy in several developing countries.

4. Today, HBNCC is a global initiative endorsed by WHO, UNICEF, USAID, and Gates Foundation and supported by Johns Hopkins University and Save the Children. The government of India has made HBNC a part of ASHA training, enabling 800,000 village women in India to provide HBNC services and promising a significant reduction in infant mortality.
5. SEARCH has brought attention to child death as a human rights issue, exposing the under-reporting of child deaths in Maharashtra through a study in 13 sites. This survey was later published in 2006 with a foreword from the then Registrar General of India, highlighting the issue of under-reporting as a nationwide phenomenon.
6. An organization's survey in 2015 showed that the district spent about 340 crores on alcohol and tobacco. In response, a state-level task force has been formed in Maharashtra to enforce a ban on alcohol and tobacco and raise awareness about their harmful effects. The unprecedented Government Resolution was passed on January 4, 2016.
7. Under the Chairmanship of Dr Abhay Bang, the Expert Committee on Tribal Health brought out India's First Comprehensive Report on Tribal Health in India.

Founded by Padma Shri Dr. Abhay Bang and Dr. Rani Bang, SEARCH's work has resulted in change in national and international health policies and has won many accolades including WHO Public Health Champion, TIME Global Health Heroes, MacArthur Foundation Award for Most Effective Institutions, Gold Medal of ICMR and National Award for Women's Development.

SEARCH is recognised by the Directorate of Medical Education, Maharashtra as a centre for the completion of Post MBBS and Post MD compulsory bonds for the state of Maharashtra.

About the Community Health Care & Research [CHCR] Fellowship:

- The Community Health Care & Research [CHCR] Fellowship is an opportunity for young community medicine professionals to work at the grassroots level allows young professionals to apply their theoretical knowledge in a real-world context, leading to a deeper understanding of the complexities involved in addressing public health issues at the community level.
- It will be awarded to young and bright M. Ds in Community Medicine [SPM or PSM] who have the passion to work in the field to further develop their abilities by way of actual field research, health problem-solving, and program development.
- Two fellowships will be awarded every year, each for a period of two years [extendable to the third year]. Those M.D.s from the State of Maharashtra can apply for their post-MD compulsory bond services within the fellowships.
- Roles and Responsibilities of the fellow are
 - i. Fellow will work on various community health problems and programs in Gadchiroli.
 - ii. These works include epidemiologic measurements in the community, qualitative and quantitative studies, data analysis, intervention

development, and field trials, community healthcare program implementation, scientific writing, and publishing.

- At the end of the two [or three] years, the Fellow shall receive
 1. A Fellowship certificate jointly given by SEARCH and IAPSM.
 2. Extensive and enriching exposure to public health activities.
 3. Experience, competence, and confidence as a public health leader.
 4. Research publications.
 5. May be selected by SEARCH for sponsorship for further professional study in public health.
- Fellowship amount and other benefits totaling Rs 1,25,000 per month.
- Rules and criteria for selecting fellows:

The fellows will be selected from all over the country by way of a competitive process.

 - Eligibility Criteria:
 - M. D in Community Medicine or [SPM or PSM]
 - Freshers or those with experience of less than 3 years can apply.
 - Evaluation of applicants will be based on:
 - Score in MBBS and MD
 - Quality of MD thesis
 - Publications
 - Other academic achievements
 - Evidence of serious interest and work in the field
 - Willingness and ability to live and work in Gadchiroli
 - Recommendations of the HOD or Referees
 - Application Requirements:
 - Submission of a completed application form.
 - Personal statement or cover letter outlining motivation and goals.
 - Curriculum vitae (CV) or resume.
 - Letters of recommendation (typically 2).
 - Send the filled application form with the required documents to hr@searchforhealth.ngo
 - Interviews:
 - Interviews with shortlisted candidates will be conducted on the SEARCH campus.
 - The selection panel will be constituted by SEARCH and IAPSM [Two members from IAPSM, Two from SEARCH and Two External Members]
 - Joining:
 - Selected candidate is preferably expected to join within 2 months from the announcement of the candidacy failing which person in the waiting list will be given the choice.
 - Under special circumstances joining within 3 months can also be considered.

Living Environment in Shodhagram:

- Shodhgram is a lively community with more than 80 residential people and guests. Shodhgram is a lively community that celebrates major Indian and Maharashtrian festivals.
- We have separate hostel facilities for single men and women joining SEARCH. The accommodation is simple and traditionally designed with electricity and filtered water available 24 hours. Full bathroom facilities are available. For families, we have separate residential quarters provided based on the need.
- You can avail the benefits of community mess available at SEARCH.
- There is a library that has a wide range of resources and books available.
- Community, non-denominational prayers are held every evening in the prayer hall.
- On Tuesdays and Fridays, the whole community engages in “Shramadhan”.
- For the employees as well as their children, a variety of capacity-building, educational, and recreational activities are available on and off campus including journal clubs, guest lectures, field trips, book gifts, picnics, community cooking, the celebration of festivals, indoor and outdoor gym, courts for badminton, volleyball, and cricket, swimming, etc.
- Opportunities to meet and interact with eminent dignitaries and guests from various walks of life who come to visit SEARCH.
- SEARCH located in Shodhgram, is a completely safe zone, even during periods of political instability. SEARCH makes it a priority to ensure the safety of its community and guests.

For More Information about SEARCH visit: <https://searchforhealth.ngo/>
