

## The Advanced Studies in Public Health Programme



*Mrs. Kumudini Devi, Founder & Hony. Secy of Sivananda Rehabilitation Home, inaugurating the APH programme on 16th January, 2003. Standing besides her are Dr. C.K. George, APH Programme Co-ordinator, Dr. Hrishikesh, Chairman, IHS and Dr. Prasanta Mahapatra, Director, IHS.*

## The APH Programme

The Certificate of Advanced Studies in Public Health programme aims to equip students with essential public health competencies in such areas as research methods, policy analysis and management. The curriculum promotes an interdisciplinary and comprehensive approach to issues related to health, development and provision of health services. The programme is designed to provide multiple opportunities for students to practice public health skills and foster critical thinking about issues addressed by them. Students will be drawn from a broad range of medical, allied health, technical, humanities, physical and social science disciplines.

The programme strives for the following:

- Provide comprehensive education in the core functions and disciplines of public health
- Incorporate a social-ecologic systems approach which identifies and intervenes in conditions that influence health and disease, e.g. Poverty, inequalities in health status, and lack of access to health care
- Develop problem-based and problem-focussed curricula drawn from issues, research, and practice relevant to the region
- Integrate theory and practice through community level experiences throughout the curriculum
- Create manpower with interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary skills for public health research, policy analysis and management.

## General Approach to the Curriculum

The Certificate of Advanced Studies in Public Health is a full time, three year programme. The first two years consist of four semesters of coursework and two periods of field placement. The curriculum of the programme is designed to provide in depth study in a specific concentration in combination with a breadth of study of basic public health concepts. All students are required to complete a minimum of 120 credits of course work. The third year is devoted to a stipendiary internship and guided on the job training in appropriate public health institutions.

The programme is organized around two career oriented concentrations;

- **Health System Research**
- **Health and Social Work**

## Preparatory Courses

The teaching methodology adopted at IHS requires that the student be proficient in basic mathematics, personal computing, and academic and business communication. The entrance examination to the programme tests the knowledge and skills of students in each of these subjects. Students otherwise qualified to take the programme but requiring improvements in personal computing and academic and business communication will be provisionally admitted. They are required to take the appropriate preparatory courses, in the first two weeks of the programme. These courses are not graded, but their successful completion is a prerequisite for continuing with the programme.

Course No.	Course Title	Credits
PHG 101	Academic and Business Communication	None
PHG 102	Personal Computing	None

## Public Health Core Courses

These courses introduces students to basic concepts and tools in public health. They provide the necessary background for the more advanced courses in each concentration. Students, irrespective of the concentration chosen by them, must successfully complete the following set of public health core courses.

Course No.	Course Title	Credits
PHG 100	Numeracy, Basic Mathematics and Statistics	5
PHC 201	Comparative Study of Health Care Systems	5
PHC 202	Introduction to Demography	5
PHC 203	Introductory Biostatistics	5
PHC 204	Principles of Epidemiology	5
PHC 206	Programme Evaluation and Assessment in Health Care	5
PHC 207	Ethical Basis of Health Care	5
PHC 208	Introduction to Health Sciences	5
PHC 209	Social Sciences for Public Health	5
PHC 210	Independent Study on History of Medicine	5
PHC 211	Field Work	15
PHC 300	Comparative Study of Medical systems	5
PHC 301	Epidemiological Transition: Disease Causation Across Time and Culture	5
PHC 302	Dissertation	10
PHC 303	Field Work/Study Tour	10

## Concentration Courses

In addition to the common core curriculum, the students must choose a second tier of required courses within one of the two concentrations offered by the Institute. Each concentration offers specialty courses, allowing students to develop skills in areas of relevance to their career goals. Beyond the programme and concentration requirements, students are encouraged to consult with faculty advisors to choose a topic for independent study, best suited to their needs.

The objectives and required cluster of courses for each concentration is described below

## Health Systems Research

Health Systems Research is research that seeks to improve the quality, organization and financing of health care systems. It complements basic science and clinical research which seek to increase knowledge of the causes and treatment of disease in individuals. This concentration provides students with a broad knowledge and understanding of the concepts and methods used in studying health systems and equips them with the necessary skills to carry out policy research, social science research and programme impact evaluation within health care systems.

### Objectives:

By the end of the programme, students will be able to:

- demonstrate advanced knowledge of different quantitative and qualitative research methodologies used in public health research;
- understand the strengths and weaknesses of different study designs;
- identify, assess and synthesize evidence from research literature;
- select and apply appropriate, ethical and feasible study designs to answer questions in health systems research;
- show competence, both written and verbal, in communicating research evidence, and
- understand the relationship between research evidence and policy/practice.

## Health and Social Work

Demographic and economic transformations have altered the contours of the society in developing countries like India and have blurred the traditional boundaries between health and social care. In this changing milieu, health care professionals need to acquire new skills and capacities to meet the challenge of managing restructured public health services. This concentration offers students the opportunity to reflect on current and future public health practice from a multidisciplinary perspective and to gain the knowledge and skills that will enhance practice within new structures.

### Objectives:

By the end of the programme, students will be able to:

- demonstrate advanced knowledge of the health and social work systems available for prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation;
- understand the impact of socioeconomic, racial, cultural, geographical, and financial factors on health service delivery and utilization;
- understand the technical and legal issues related to service delivery to the population-at-risk and implications of legislation and policy on program funding, planning and development, and patterns of service delivery;
- identify inequities in access to and quality of health care for vulnerable populations and consider various options for addressing these inequities.
- communicate effectively to constituencies both within and outside the health system organization structure.
- research, implement and evaluate changes in health and social care practice; and
- develop a leadership perspective and decision making skills.

### Employment prospects for APH graduates.

- A. Public Sector: Community Health Officer, Public Health Programme Officers in District Health Office, planning and development functions in State Directorate of Health. Note that current recruitment rules of most state government do not provide for a qualification like that of the IHS-APH. We expect that the excellence, performance, and outlook of our graduates will create the necessary space for them in the public health sector.
- B. Non profit and voluntary health organisations: The health and social work track graduates will be ideally suited to manage grass roots community health programs, hospitals and health maintenance organisations. Besides, availability of a pool of health care management talent in the nonprofit sector will make the nonprofit healthcare institutions more sustainable.
- C. Some graduates may find employment in private for profit, corporate health care institutions, general health insurance schemes, health care consulting firms, diagnostic service providers and various down stream upstream industries linked to health care. Some graduates would find employment in social security organisations dealing with health care coverage.
- D. The research track graduates will be ideally suited for Health system research institutions, biomedical research organisations, health policy and management consultancy organisations, Health planning organisations etc.

**Director, IHS**

## Curriculum

### Public Health Core Requirements (90 Credits)

Course No.	Course Title	Credits
PHG 100	Numeracy, Basic Mathematics and Statistics	5
PHC 201	Comparative Study of Health Care Systems	5
PHC 202	Introduction to Demography	5
PHC 203	Introductory Biostatistics	5
PHC 204	Principles of Epidemiology	5
PHC 206	Programme Evaluation and Assessment in Health Care	5
PHC 207	Ethical Basis of Health Care	5
PHC 208	Introduction to Health Sciences	5
PHC 209	Social Sciences for Public Health	5
PHC 210	Independent Study on History of Medicine	5
PHC 211	Field Work	15
PHC 300	Comparative Study of Medical systems	5
PHC 301	Epidemiological Transition: Disease Causation Across Time and Culture	5
PHC 302	Dissertation	10
PHC 303	Field Work/Study Tour	10

### Health and Social Work Concentration Requirements (30 Credits)

Course No.	Course Title	Credits
HSW 301	Health, Sickness and Disease in a Community	5
HSW 302	Good Governance for Good Health	5
HSW 303	Management of Nonprofit Organizations	5
HSW 304	Hospital Administration	5
HSW 305	Financing of Health Care	5
HSW 306	Health Care Professionals and Organizational Behaviour	5
HSW 307	Public Health Engineering	5

### Health System Research Concentration Requirements (30 Credits)

Course No.	Course Title	Credits
HSR 301	Survey Research Methods	5
HSR 302	Qualitative Research Methods	5
HSR 303	Statistical Reasoning in Public Health	5
HSR 304	Demographic Methods and Mortality Analysis	5
HSR 305	Using Evidence in Health and Social Care	5
HSR 306	Health Status Measurement	5

**Note:**

- 1) Students with health science background are required to take the PHC 209 course. Other students are required to take the PHC 208 course.
- 2) Health and Social Work track students can opt for either HSW 301 or HSW 307 courses.
- 3) Summer Period between first and second semester and third and fourth semester is dedicated to Field work.
- 4) Independent study/Dissertation will be taken up during the Summer Period.