



Infosys Fellowships in Public Health

An initiative by Infosys Foundation and PHFI
to build public health leadership
for non-profit organizations in India

2021

**PUBLIC HEALTH FOUNDATION OF INDIA
INDIAN INSTITUTES OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DELHI NCR, GANDHINAGAR, HYDERABAD**

■ From Vice-President's Desk



At the very outset, on behalf of Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), the Infosys Fellows and on my personal behalf, I wish to convey our sincere thanks and gratitude to the Infosys Foundation for supporting the Infosys fellowships in Public Health. The leadership from Professor K Srinath Reddy, President, PHFI, Professor Dileep Mavalankar, Director, IIPH-Gandhinagar and Professor GVS Murthy, Director, IIPH-Hyderabad was very helpful in advancing this program. Furthermore, I would also like to acknowledge with much appreciation the crucial role of our Faculty who mentored the Infosys Fellows during their successful journey especially during the initial phase. I also acknowledge the important contributions of my colleague Ms Kalpana Swamy in coordination of all the activities of the fellowship program. The role of collaborating NGOs was useful especially with the implementation and coordination of the Infosys fellowship.

This fellowship program has been successfully running since 2016. Twenty-two students pursuing the Master of Public Health (MPH) Program at three Indian Institutes of Public Health (IIPHS) at Gandhinagar, Hyderabad and Delhi have been supported to pursue their master's program followed by placement support for two years at identified NGOs working in the area of public health. The fellows support these NGOs in designing and implementing their activities. We are happy that six fellows have successfully completed their fellowship in August 2020 and the remaining fellows are currently undergoing their placements and will complete their fellowships in the latter half of 2021.

For the Infosys fellows, this has been a unique and a life changing experience. Besides the fee waiver for the academic program, they have had an opportunity to gain hands-on experience through working in real-life community settings at the identified NGOs who are doing excellent work in public health. All this has been possible due to the generous contribution of Infosys Foundation through the grant support to PHFI and the constant support we have received from the team at Infosys Foundation. We are immensely grateful to the Infosys Foundation and the partner NGOs. The Infosys Fellows will remain ever indebted for this life-altering opportunity provided to them through this fellowship grant.

Professor Sanjay Zodpey
Vice President–Academics, Public Health Foundation of India

■ Background

India has a large network of voluntary organisations working in the realm of **health and education with rural and urban communities**. The networks among Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and their proximity to the community, places them in a unique position to work on priority issues affecting and impacting community health.

However, while the NGO space is guided by noble principles, their expansion and service delivery components can be enhanced by recruiting formally trained **Master of Public Health (MPH) graduates** who can be an asset for NGOs working in public health. More specifically, MPH graduates can help NGOs prepare and write research grants, streamline activities, design appropriate health promotion material and participate in monitoring and evaluation activities of the non-governmental organisations.

In a unique initiative, the **Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI)** supported by the **Infosys Foundation** announced the institution of **INFOSYS Fellowships in Public Health** for Indian Students pursuing Master of Public Health (MPH) at the Indian Institutes of Public Health (IIPHS), institutions of higher learning established by PHFI.

■ About the Infosys Fellowships in Public Health

In the year 2016, **INFOSYS Foundation** in association with Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) instituted Public Health fellowships called '**INFOSYS Fellowships in Public Health**'.

The objective of these fellowships was to **identify and train a cohort of Master of Public Health (MPH) graduates** at the Indian Institutes of Public Health (IIPHS), to meaningfully engage with non-governmental organizations working to improve population health. This capacity building initiative was not only aimed at strengthening and bringing value to activities of the non-governmental organizations where these trained graduates were placed, but also to contribute towards community development.

The fellowship followed a rigorous selection process to provide an opportunity for meritorious students to apply their knowledge and gain hands-on field experience in public health through placement in a reputed organization working in the field of public health in India.

■ Selection Process for Identifying NGOs

NGOs were selected through invitation of Expression of Interest titled “For Submission of Technical Proposal by NGOs for the Placement of Masters of Public Health (MPH) Graduates of Indian Institutes of Public Health (IIPH), New Delhi, Gandhinagar & Hyderabad”.

The responses received from the NGOs were scrutinized on the basis of agreed criterion and a shortlist was drawn up after ensuring that the NGOs have understood the terms and conditions as mentioned in the Expression of Interest and commit to abide by the same.

Through this process, the following nine NGOs working in the field of Public Health were identified:



Child in Need Institute (CINI)
24 Parganas, West Bengal, India

It is a registered national level voluntary organization working with deprived community since 1974 in West Bengal. CINI has received twice the national award for child welfare-1985 and 2004 for its contributions to child welfare. Its mission is sustainable development in the domains of health, nutrition, education and protection for children, adolescents and women in need. The organization developed a convergence model known as “Child and Woman Friendly Community”. CINI has also undergone a methodological shift in its policy and action by adopting a human right based approach in the development work that it carries out among poor Indian communities. CINI acts as a facilitator in engaging local development actors - the community, service providers and elected representatives - in a process aimed to strengthen good governance with and for children and women. It has involved its staff in all levels in developing a child friendly community approach as a way to implement all of its programs.



Janaseva Foundation
Pune, Maharashtra, India

The foundation is working in the field of health since 29 years in Maharashtra. It has its own rural hospital, eye hospital and is running National Health Mission Project of MoHFW, Government of India (GoI). It runs ANM course for last 12 years recognized by Indian Nursing Council and also conducting Geriatric Care Training in collaboration with TISS, Mumbai. United Nations Organization has given Janaseva Foundation Special Consultative Status. Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, GOI recommended the foundation to have a regional resource training centre. GOI has conferred Janaseva with Service NGO status and is recognized by Social Welfare and Justice Department for Mobile Medical services for Senior Citizens in 35 villages.



Karuna Trust Bangalore, Karnataka, India

The Trust was registered in 1986 with its initial priority concentrated on Leprosy in Karnataka. The vision of the Trust is based on the core teachings of Swami Vivekananda: Man making and Nation Building. The Mission is to develop a service-minded team that enables holistic development of marginalized community through innovative replicable models with a passion for excellence. Broad area of specialization of projects implemented are: Public Private Partnership to manage PHCs or implement specific health Programs, School Health Programs, Maternal and Child Health Focus, Tribal Health Focus, Non Communicable disease focus, Urban Health Focus & Integrating Technology into existing system.



Lok Swasthya SEWA Trust Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India

The trust has been working for the informal women workers and their families since 2005 in Ahmedabad. The primary work areas are healthcare, childcare, insurance and nutrition. Under health care, the trust takes up the following activities: Primary Health care services, Tuberculosis-Urban Slum Scheme, Occupational Health of Informal Workers, Empowering young women and girls, orientation of community leaders of local level committees, Training of Traditional Birth Attendants, Training of Adolescent Boys and Girls, SEWA Shakti Kendras or Empowerment Centres, Sankalit Program or integrated approach.



MAHAN Trust Wardha, Maharashtra, India

It is a non-government organization established in 1998 to improve healthcare in Melghat region, Maharashtra which is a hilly forest area, having most of the tribals. Most of them are farmers/laborers living hard life below poverty line in huts. Key areas of work are community based management of severely malnourished children, mortality control program for economically productive age group, home based child care program, blindness control program, MAHAN Mahatma Gandhi tribal hospital, UMANG, counsellor program, tracking community mortality due to respiratory syncytial virus and policy changes due to MAHAN. It has received public health champion award by WHO.



Piramal Foundation Hyderabad, Telangana, India

The society is registered in 2007 in Hyderabad with the vision to transform the health ecosystems through high impact solutions, thought leaderships and partnerships. The short term goals in this regard are to create replicable and scalable models to address the persistent problem of infant mortality and maternal mortality and the emerging problem of non-communicable diseases (especially diabetes and hypertension). Main area of work include: Remote Health Advisory and Intervention Services (RHAIS), Community Outreach Programs (COP) and Telemedicine (TM).



Public Health Training Institute-Deepak Foundation, Vadodara, Gujarat, India

A registered civil society was set up in 1982 in Vadodara with the objective of providing maternal and child health services to the industrial workers and local rural communities living near Gujarat Industrial Corporation Area. An ISO 9001:2008 certified organization undertakes implementation, training, research and evaluation projects by involving local women, network of national and international CSOs, research, academic institutions and through PPP initiatives. The core area of interventions are Maternal and Child Health Care services, pre-school education, livelihood promotion, preventive, promotive and occupational health services through hospitals and mobile health units, capacity building and skill promotion supported with evidence based research and evaluations. Health & Nutrition Research, Clinical Services, Livelihood Division, Training and Capacity Building & Information Management and Communication are the major areas of the foundation.



Society for Education Welfare and Action-Rural (SEWA Rural) Jhagadia, Dist Bharuch, Gujarat, India

It is a voluntary, development oriented institution working for the past 36 years for the improvement of people in their health and other fields in the rural and tribal area of Jhagadia in South Gujarat. Various activities are 100 Bed Kasturba Hospital, Community Health Project, Health Training Centre, Comprehensive Eye Care Programme, Community based Rehabilitation Programs, Rural Technical Training Centre & Sharda Mahila Vikas Society.



Society for Education, Action and Research in Community Health, Gadchiroli, Maharashtra, India

SEARCH is an organization of international repute, which provides healthcare to the rural and tribal people in Gadchiroli district empowers the communities to take care of their own health and conducts high-quality research to shape the local, national and global health policies. SEARCH has now been working among the rural and tribal poor and marginalized for over 30 years, reaching out to 134 villages. SEARCH works together with the community to find relevant solutions to rural health problems. They have developed a bond with the community based on trust and equity.

**Geographical location of the
selected for the Placement of
Master of Public Health (MPH)
Graduates of Indian Institutes of
Public Health (IIPH)
New Delhi, Gandhinagar & Hyderabad**

Lok Swasthya SEWA Trust,
Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India

Society for Education
Welfare and Action-
Rural (SEWA Rural),
Jhagadia, Dist Bharuch,
Gujarat, India

Public Health Training
Institute - Deepak
Foundation, Vadodra
Gujarat, India

Janasava Foundation, Pune,
Maharashtra, India

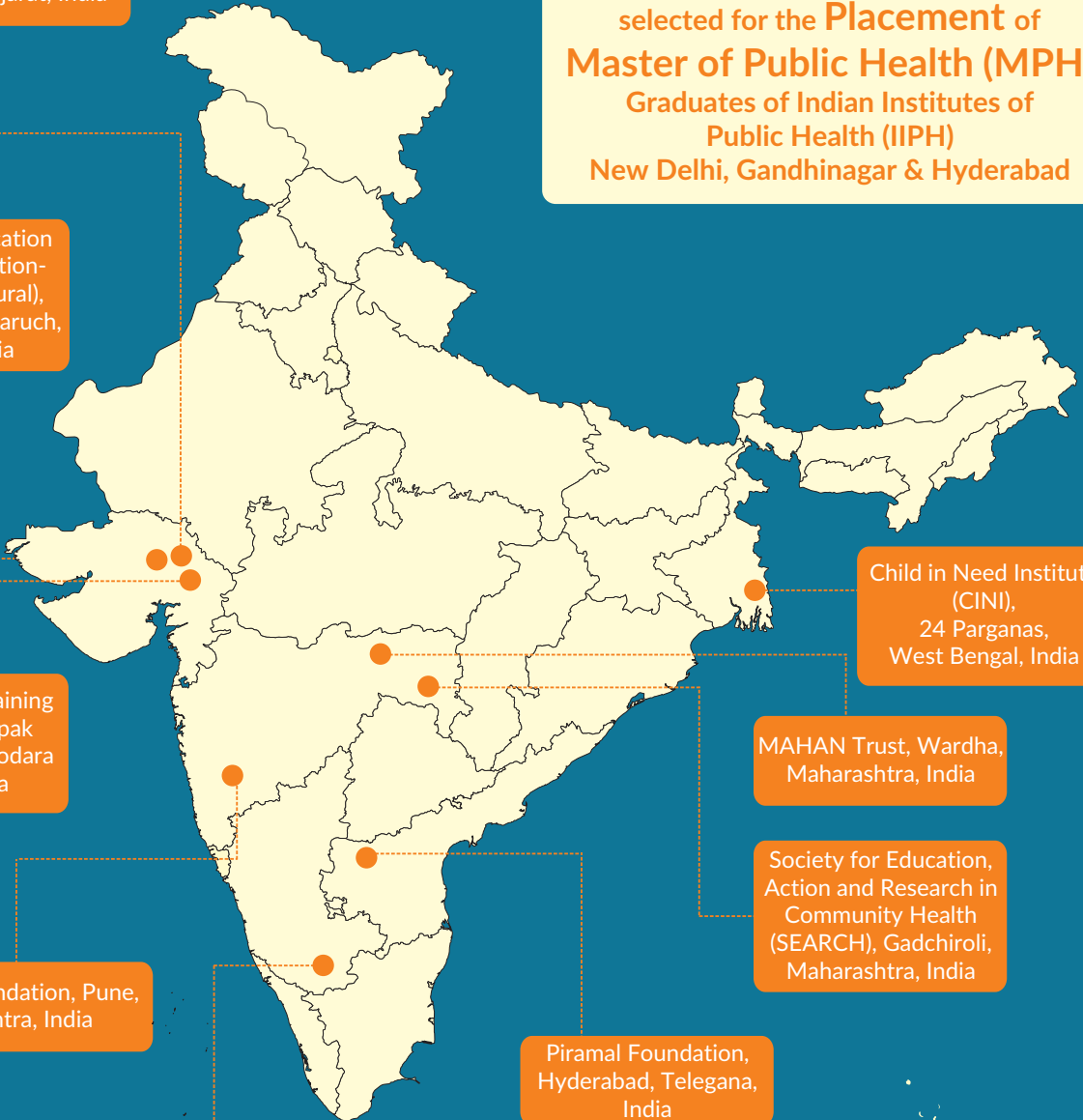
Karuna Trust, Bagalore,
Karnataka, India

Piramal Foundation,
Hyderabad, Telegana,
India

Child in Need Institute
(CINI),
24 Parganas,
West Bengal, India

MAHAN Trust, Wardha,
Maharashtra, India

Society for Education,
Action and Research in
Community Health
(SEARCH), Gadchiroli,
Maharashtra, India



■ The Fellowship

The Infosys Fellowships, 25 in number were open to the students (Indian Nationals) of MPH Program at the Indian Institutes of Public Health (IIPHS) at Delhi, Gandhinagar and Hyderabad where the MPH Program is being offered. The students selected for the fellowships were called '**Infosys Fellows**' and were entitled to: (i) Tuition fee waiver for the entire MPH Program for 2 years at the IIPH and (ii) after completion of the MPH program, placement in the identified NGO working for public health in India for a period of two years with salary support of INR 50,000/- per month in the first year and INR 55,000/- in the second year.

Out of the 25 fellowships, 10 fellowships were to be utilized for the students of MPH batch 2016-18 at the IIPH Delhi, Gandhinagar and Hyderabad and the remaining 15 were to be utilized for students of next MPH batch of 2017-19 batch.

INFOSYS Fellowships comprised of following two phases:



PHASE 1

In the first phase the provisionally selected Infosys Fellows were expected to undergo the MPH Training in one of the Indian Institutes of Public Health (IIPHS) at Gandhinagar, Delhi and Hyderabad and complete the MPH Program successfully after fulfilling all requirements of the course. **During this Phase, the Infosys Fellow was entitled to avail full Tuition Fee waiver for the MPH Program.**



PHASE 2

In the second phase, after successfully completing the MPH Program at the respective IIPH (Phase 1), the selected Infosys Fellow had to undergo a two-year field placement with one of the identified NGOs. During this Phase, the INFOSYS Fellow received a handsome monthly stipend towards their services rendered to the NGOs from PHFI.

Completion of both the Phases (1 & 2) was mandatory to avail the Fellowship.

■ Double Helix of an Infosys Fellow

PHASE 1

MPH Training

PHASE 2

Field Placement

Critical Thinking

Operational Research

Scientific Attitude

Cultural & Social Sensitivity

Ethics & Accountability

Leadership & Mentorship

Professional Excellence

Lifelong Learner

Critical Reflection

Interdisciplinary Approach

Teamwork

Cultural & Social awareness

Awareness of self-identity

Social responsibility

Population Needs


Engaging with communities

List of Infosys Fellowships in Public Health beneficiaries (2016-17)

Selected INFOSYS Fellows	Fellowship Period	IIPHs	NGO Assigned after Matching Exercise
 Sonali Randhawa	2016-20	IIPH-Delhi	Piramal Foundation, Hyderabad (Fellowship Completed)
 Akanksha Shukla	2016-21	IIPH-Delhi	Janaseva Foundation, Pune PSMRI (Piramal Swasthya)
 Shubh Aastha Sharma	2016-20	IIPH-Delhi	SEARCH, Gadchiroli, Maharashtra (Fellowship Completed)
 Sandeep Soni	2016-20	IIPH-Delhi	Deepak Foundation, Vadodara, Gujarat (Fellowship Completed)
 Nagma Nigar Shah	2016-20	IIPH-Gandhinagar	Child in Need Institute, 24 Parganas, West Bengal (Fellowship Completed)

Selected INFOSYS Fellows	Fellowship Period	IIPHs	NGO Assigned after Matching Exercise
 Preeti Bhandari	2016-20	IIPH-Gandhinagar	SEWA Rural, Bharuch, Gujarat (Fellowship Completed)
 Divya Sharma	2016-20	IIPH-Gandhinagar	LSST, Ahmedabad (Fellowship Completed)
 Manas Sharma	2016-19	IIPH-Gandhinagar	Karuna Trust - withdrawn
 Thella Ramesh	2016-18	IIPH-Hyderabad	Withdrawn
 Anusha Pilli	2016-18	IIPH-Hyderabad	Withdrawn

List of Infosys Fellowships in Public Health beneficiaries (2017-18)

Name of Infosys Fellow	Year of Award	IIPHS	NGO assigned for placement
 Sandhya AP	2017-21	IIPH-Hyderabad	Karuna Trust, Bangalore
 R Vaishali	2017-21	IIPH-Hyderabad	Karuna Trust, Bangalore
 Shriyuta A Bajpai	2017-21	IIPH-Hyderabad	Janaseva Foundation/SEARCH Gadchiroli, Maharashtra
 Shailaja Shah	2017-21	IIPH-Gandhinagar	LSST, Ahmedabad
 Ajith J S	2017-21	IIPH-Gandhinagar	SEWA Rural, Distt. Bharuch, Gujarat - withdrawn to join as Senior Program Officer in Immunization and eVIN, under UNDP, in J&K
 Dhanashree Apsingekar	2017-21	IIPH-Gandhinagar	LSST, Ahmedabad

Name of Infosys Fellow	Year of Award	IIPHs	NGO assigned for placement
 Mohit Sood	2017-21	IIPH-Gandhinagar	Deepak Foundation, Vadodara
 Archana Ashok	2017-21	IIPH-Delhi	Karuna Trust, Bangalore
 Sana Ansari	2017-21	IIPH-Delhi	LSST, Ahmedabad
 Priya Lodhi	2017-21	IIPH-Delhi	Piramal Swasthya
 Pratiksha Kashyap	2017-21	IIPH-Delhi	Piramal Swasthya
 Pankaj Patel	2017-21	IIPH-Delhi	Deepak Foundation, Vadodara

Name of Infosys Fellow	Year of Award	IIPHS	NGO assigned for placement
 <p>Chandrashekhar Bohara</p>	2017-21	IIPH-Delhi	MAHAN Trust, Wardha Karuna Trust
 <p>Neha Satoiya</p>	2017-21	IIPH-Gandhinagar	SEWA – Rural
 <p>Surabhi Bhardwaj</p>	2017-21	IIPH-Delhi	Janaseva Foundation
 <p>Ritesh Kumar</p>	2017-20	IIPH-Gandhinagar	SEARCH, Gadchiroli, Maharashtra – withdrawn to join as Government Dental Officer selected through Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission
 <p>Apoorva Singh Chauhan</p>	2017-20	IIPH-Gandhinagar	SEWA Rural, Distt. Bharuch, Gujarat withdrawn to join as Surveillance Medical Officer, Country Office WHO
 <p>Edara Samuel</p>	2017-19	IIPH-Hyderabad	Withdrawn

■ Infosys Fellowship Awardee Testimonials

Dr Sonali Randhawa, Piramal Foundation, Hyderabad

“I am Dentist by my professional training and a public health graduate from IIPH-Delhi. I was fortunate enough to be accepted for PHFI – Infosys Fellowship during the course of my MPH degree. The Infosys Fellowship has given me a good platform to critically analyse public health literature, create innovative solutions and present views clearly to a range of audiences. The fellowship’s main benefit came in form of covering my full tuition fees and making it easier for fresh public health graduates to learn from one of the best in the public health area. I am thankful of the Infosys and Public Health Foundation of India for designing this program and giving students an opportunity and confidence to work in the field of public health”.



Dr Preeti Bhandari, SEWA Rural, Bharuch, Gujarat

“This Fellowship has proved to be a true source of empowerment where we need not bother about any other thing except to focus on our purpose and give our best with full confidence and this fact itself has given us all the benefits. I am feeling short of words to express my sense of gratitude and ownership which I feel. I am totally obliged and would remain grateful for my entire life towards the Almighty, my family, my mentor & teachers, my friends and all the respectful members of IIPH-Gandhinagar, PHFI, Infosys Foundation and SEWA Rural for providing me such an opportunity and further enhancing my motivation towards Public Health profession. Recently I have been selected as a Project Coordinator for Airborne Infection Control Project at National AIDS Research Institute-ICMR, Pune”.



Dr Vaishali Ravichandran, Karuna Trust, Bangalore

“I have joined Karuna Trust as an Infosys Fellow and have been posted as Program Manager at Karuna Trust. I have been successful in receiving grants from several CSR partners. Apart from learning about the management and workflow of Primary Health Centers in the rural and urban areas, the work at Karuna Trust has also equipped me with multi-tasking skills. Karuna Trust has worked extensively in diagnosis, triage, treatment and referral of



COVID-19 cases at Primary Care level across all its PHCs. I have had an opportunity to be a part of the fight against COVID-19 pandemic and it has been a rich learning experience. I am very thankful to Infosys Foundation for providing me with such an opportunity to work in an organization which is a pioneer in public health. This enriching experience has made me look into various sectors in healthcare and continue working in public health in future”.

Dr Pankaj Patel, Deepak Foundation, Vadodara

“I am working as a Project Coordinator (Public Health) at the Deepak Foundation in Jharkhand. I am looking after the Implementation of health projects and its coordination with government and local agencies under Public Private Partnership. In April 2020 I was assigned as a Nodal Officer for a 40 bedded Dedicated COVID Care Hospital by district administration. I am planning to work in the field of project implementation in future”.



Ms Dhanashree Apsingekar, LSST, Ahmedabad

“Since the day I have joined this organization, it’s a rollercoaster ride of varied experiences. I entered the field of public health with my background of engineering education, IIPH-Gandhinagar helped me develop an insightful approach towards health research and health care sector whereas LSST helped me with the practical and applied learning about public health. Major highlight of my experience at LSST was Field immersion, as the opportunities of field work, exposure and community learning we got from LSST was excellent. During our initial learning phase, we were immersed in field work at urban slums of Ahmedabad city and rural areas of Ahmedabad district where LSST has worked since decades. My work involved a lot of supervision and monitoring of field level staff and grassroot workers along with linkages and coordination with local government functionaries. It was a challenging yet great learning experience”.



Mr Mohit Sood, Deepak Foundation, Vadodara

“At Deepak Foundation, I was placed in the department Public Health Nutrition & Clinical services (PHN-CS) in Vadodara, Gujarat. I am working across different health implementation projects which included-Tuberculosis project in 21 districts of Madhya Pradesh, De-addiction project in Hyderabad, Telangana, operationalization of CEmONC Jabugam in Chhota Udepur, Gujarat, Palliative care project-Karuna and operationalization of help desk projects in tertiary medical colleges of Vadodara, Gujarat. My role is not only limited to implementation of projects but also to bring new projects in the organization by writing project proposals/concept notes as per organization’s requirement, filling, responding to request for proposals (RFPs) and expression of interest (EOI) on behalf of the organization. The key skill that I gained is fund raising. Also, I am responsible for formulating budgets for new projects. The exposure I gained during starting point of my career will go a long way in shaping my career as a successful public health professional”.



■ Employer's / Supervisor's Speak

“The Infosys Fellows were engaged in diverse public health projects implemented by the Foundation. The involvement of the Fellows has significantly improved the quality of our deliverables”

- Archana Joshi, Deepak Foundation

“The Infosys Fellowship Program has bridged this gap by matching young public health professionals from reputed institutions with practitioners of Public Health. This has opened opportunities to Fellows to enhance their skills through accelerated and experiential learning”

- Dr H Sudarshan, Secretary, Karuna Trust

“We thank the Infosys Fellowship, PHFI and all involved for sending Infosys Fellows to SEWA Rural. From our experience, we can convey that the fellowship is meeting its twin objectives of helping the hosting organizations as well the fellow. We hope the fellowship flourishes for years to come”

- Dr Pankaj Shah, SEWA Rural

“Infosys Fellowship is a bold attempt to encourage and facilitate the young public health graduates (MPH) moving into field and joining the public health action. The Young graduate recipients of the Fellowship immersed themselves into the field programs of SEARCH in remote and tribal Gadchiroli. In this way our programs and Fellows, both benefitted”

- Dr Abhay Bang, SEARCH

“We are thankful to the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and the Infosys Foundation for extending support to organization like ours through Infosys Fellows. We hope that the Fellows' work experience will help them set a solid foundation for a bright future ahead in the service of the communities”

- Piramal Swasthya

■ Gratitude messages for Mrs Sudha Murty (Chairperson - Infosys Foundation, India) from Infosys Fellows

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for this fellowship, as this immediately opened a pathway to put public health learning into practice. The fellowship has given me a good platform to critically analyze public health literature, create innovative solutions and present views clearly to a range of audiences. The fellowship's main benefit came in form of covering my full tuition fees and making it easier for fresh public health graduates to learn from one of the best institutions. I am thankful to the INFOSYS Foundation and PHFI for designing this program and giving students opportunity and confidence to work and gain experiential knowledge in the public health field.

- **Dr. Sonali Randhawa (Infosys Fellow)**, Piramal Swasthya, Hyderabad, Telangana

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After joining in July 2016, I was selected for the Infosys Fellowship, which covered my two years of fees and two years of placement in an NGO to learn more about the field at the grassroots level. At Deepak Foundation, I am looking after the Implementation & Research projects in three states (Gujarat, Jharkhand & Madhya Pradesh) under Public Private Partnership. It is a very good learning experience for a new public health graduate like me. I am very much grateful to Infosys for such a wonderful fellowship, which is consisting of two years of tuition fees and two years of job. I have gained wonderful experience after getting Infosys Fellowship.

- **Dr. Sandeep Soni (Infosys Fellow)**, Deepak Foundation, Vadodara, Gujarat

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After graduation, I got a splendid learning opportunity to work as a Scientist: B in RMRC (ICMR), Port Blair under T.B Tribal project ongoing in Nicobar Island. Field experience was such a valuable learning tool which influenced me to view public health from a different lens and the challenges of that position provided me an opportunity to understand various Health problems faced by tribal population. Additionally, I also felt a paramount personal responsibility to do something unique and commendable in the field of Public health. Infosys fellowship provides me an opportunity to work with NGO's, bringing a lot of responsibilities which furthermore helps me to gain knowledge through which I could immensely contribute in the field of Public Health. Moreover, it will also help me to open the folded or unseen pages in the field of public health which would possibly improve the health status of people.

- **Dr. Shubh Astha Sharma (Infosys Fellow)**, SEARCH, Gadchiroli, Maharashtra

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