

# **Action for Equitable Health Systems – Advancing Universal Comprehensive Primary Health Care in Pandemic Times**

An Introduction:

By Sundar

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# An International Peoples Health University (IPHU) Course:

- **Organised by**
  - **Peoples Health Movement:**
    - **The Thematic Circle on Equitable Health Systems,**
    - **the South-East Asia and Pacific (SEAP) , South Asia and India Regions of the PHM**
  - ***In collaboration with* NHSO , Thailand & Community Partners International**

The IPHU is a programme of regular education and capacity building that PHMs organize for young professionals who are already engaged, or seek to contribute to advocacy for health rights, promoting health for all goals and strengthening public health systems. As of now over 50 IPHU sessions have been held over the last 15 years, almost all of which are in LMICs

# Background to current IPHU

- Global Health Crisis due to pandemic- lessons learnt; Building back better.
- Worsening health inequities and pressures to privatize further.
- Questions of how Health for all, comprehensive primary health care, and legislating right to health are key strategies that require our understanding and support
- Learning from Thailand- and other positive examples in how the above has been approached
- Inadequacy of current regimes of access to technology and digitization of health and the alternatives required.
- Need to link the right to health and the rights of healthcare workers
- Urgent need to strengthen networking and build capacity in PHM and its allies to intervene- at national, regional and global levels.

# The programme: Hybrid- online and on-site

## **1. Online:** 4 sessions: 2 hours each

- On Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. - from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm UTC

## **2. On-Site Sessions in Bangkok, Thailand: Venue: TK Palace Hotel and Convention , Bangkok,**

- From December 6<sup>th</sup> Tuesday morning 8.30 am to December 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday 4.30 pm ( Thailand time) .
  - including Field visits on December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **3. Post-Training Follow up :** Two sessions : Three months apart. March 1<sup>st</sup> week, June 1<sup>st</sup> week

# Who are the participants?

## **Participants:**

- 40 to 45 participants from 12 countries of Bangladesh (4) , Cambodia (2), Indonesia (4) , India (7), Myanmar (4), Nepal (3), Pakistan (3), Papua New Guinea(4), Philippines(4), Sri Lanka (5), Thailand (3) & Timor Leste (2).
- Participants are multidisciplinary backgrounds and selected through an open process with priority given to those already engaged in advocacy and change.

## **Resource persons/facilitators:**

- From Region & on site: Abhay Shukla, Dhananjay, Sulakshana, Sundar, Tasnim, Manuj, -
- From PHM Thailand- Giten, Tom Traill,
- From NHSO/Thai Government
- Online- Lauren Parameour + moderators -Roman Vega, Paul Laris, Hani Serag,

# Objectives-1

## Understanding equitable health systems

1. Pandemic response of different countries
2. Equitable health systems & Critical political economy of health and healthcare
3. Social and environmental determinants of health and health policies
4. Health care reforms & Universal health coverage and their effect on health equity.
5. Positive examples wrt to Right to health & Community based health service

# Objectives- Capacity Building for Change

1. Doing equity sensitive health systems analysis of national health systems for progress towards universal health care and build a common understanding post covid transformation of health systems.
2. How does civil society influence policy ? How do PHMs aim to make a difference ?
3. How do we build networks and movements- How do we make effective campaigns for health for All

# Curriculum -1 : Core Concepts:

- Equity and Health
- Social Determinants of Health and their Intersectionality
- Essential features of Equitable Health Systems
- Political Economy of Health and Health Care
- Right to Health -
- Peoples Health Movements
- Peoples Health Movements – strategic Plan.



# Curriculum -2

- The impact of Covid crisis, the governments' response to it and how the above aspects come into play will be a cross cutting theme across all the above themes.
- Deeper understanding of primary health care and community based healthcare
- Deeper understanding of the changing policies and politics around primary healthcare, role of the government & role of markets
- Understanding and addressing health workforce issues in the region
- Private Health Sector: engagement, regulations, patient's rights
- Equitable access to Medicines and other essential technologies of health .
- Issues in digitisation of healthcare

# Curriculum- 3

- Understanding of the Thailand healthcare systems with relevance to
  - How do nations progress towards Universal Health Care/Strengthening public health services
  - How do nations progress towards the Right to Health:.
- Learn about community based health experiences of relevance to the IPHU theme.
- Movement building approaches within varying democratic spaces.
- Influencing national and global policy- and PHMs theories of change and strategic plan.

# Come prepared.....

- Passport
- Visa as required
- Other visa related papers- hotel reservation, bank balance, credit card, dollars etc.
- Covid vaccination details/certificate
- If on medication- bring your medicines and the prescription, health insurance as applicable.
- If possible- bring along a laptop/notebook/tablet- in which you could comfortably read a soft copy. Smart phone too is OK..

# Come prepared...

- With knowledge of your country's health systems, and road-maps to universal care & equity concerns,
- With Understanding of your country's response to covid 19
- For Sharing what PHM or other civil society organizations are active- and the nature of their interventions.
- For sharing some best practices/learnings/case studies of both government action and of PHM action.
  - Useful to bring relevant materials along- preferably soft copies, Useful to discuss with PHM activists in your country,
  - All the above are desirables but not essential- would help you to participate better. IN case you are not able to get the above information come anyway.
  - Will be following up the learning with more learning and interventions when you get back- preferably with the help of mentors.

- Details of program- day to day would be circulated today.

Thank You.