

Basic Training on 'Ethics in Public Health Practice

*A short course for public health
practitioners and administrators*

September 22-26, 2014



BACKGROUND

The practice of public health calls for addressing ethical dilemmas at different stages, from research to policies and programmes. Therefore many of the ethical dilemmas of public policy concerning allocation of resources, the planning for an equitable access to health care, the evaluation of the outcomes of such planning, particularly the translation of policies into effective programmes that address ethical as well as rights issues form part of the ethics in public health practice. All of these need to be addressed in any public health ethics curriculum. This module aims to develop the skills to apply ethical reasoning into the practice of public health. It will enable participants to identify some of the ethical dilemmas in public health practice and facilitate ethically informed decisions with respect to policies and programmes.

The Organisers

The Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies (AMCHSS) has the experience of running a successful Master in Public Health (MPH) Programme since 1997. It has been recognised as a centre for excellence for public health training by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Government of India. The MPH programme of AMCHSS has a two credit module on 'Ethics in Public Health', of which this module on 'Ethics in Public Health Practice' contributes one credit.

FACULTY:

Raman Kutty V *Professor, AMCHSS, SCTIMST; Epidemiologist and Health Policy Expert with extensive experience in running community based studies on chronic diseases and has extensively published in the field of Bioethics.*

P Sankara Sarma *Professor, AMCHSS, SCTIMST; Biostatistician and Survey Research Expert with extensive experience working on many health research projects in the country and has publications in the area of empirical ethics*

Mala Ramanathan, *Additional Professor, AMCHSS, SCTIMST; Has undergone training in Bioethics at the Harvard School of Public Health and worked in the area of gender and bioethics and has taught and published in the area of Bioethics in India.*

Ravi Prasad Varma, *Assistant Professor, AMCHSS, SCTIMST. He is an epidemiologist with rich experience working with communities, organizing and undertaking studies, including outbreak investigations and surveillance.*

THE COURSE:

Objectives

1. To sensitise participants to the ethical issues that come up in the course of public health practice
2. To facilitate ethically informed decisions, policies and programmes
3. To equip participants with skills to advocate for ethical decision making

Topics Covered:

Ethical reasoning:

Theories and principles in the practice of public health; human rights, ethics and law

Ethical issues in resource allocation and programme management:

Ethical issues in resource allocation: setting priorities and the ethics of selecting criteria for setting priorities – efficiency vs equity (DALY vs QALY), bench marks of fairness, other criteria used for prioritising, etc

Ethical issues in programme management: issues of governance of public health programmes, surveillance and monitoring and evaluation, ethical issues in the management of chronic and infectious diseases management, particularly with reference to epidemics (quarantine/isolation issues), etc

Ethical issues in disaster management and mass based public health programmes

Ethical issues in disaster management: man made and natural disasters, ethics of triaging, ethics of surveillance in disaster situation, etc

Ethical issues in mass based public health programmes: ethics of managing public health programmes and the intended and unintended consequences of these interventions

Ethical issues in public health research to inform practice

Ethical issues in quantitative and qualitative research in public health – issues relating to appropriateness of method, its use, analysis and reporting.

Professional ethics for Public health practitioners

Developing empathy, resolving conflict of interest, issues of transparency and accountability, communication skills, consensus building, etc

WHO CAN APPLY?

About 10 seats are available for non-MPH candidates. External candidates who have completed undergraduate training in modern medicine/dentistry/nursing and working in research/teaching positions or social science researchers (MPhil/PhD) working or doing research in the area of health are eligible to apply.

HOW TO APPLY?

Candidates can apply by filing the attached application form with the endorsement from the Head of the Institution or PhD Guide.

Selected candidates will be informed of the selection by September 18, 2014. Selected candidates will have to pay a sum of Rs.2000/- by demand draft favouring 'The Director', SCTIMST payable at Thiruvananthapuram. Alternatively the same amount can be paid in cash at the cash collection counters of SCTIMST and the counterfoil submitted to the Secretary, AMCHSS. This course fees covers participation in the course and access to soft copies of reading materials. Certificates of participation will be given only to candidates who attend at least 9 of the 10 scheduled sessions.

DATES OF THE COURSE:

September 22-26, 2014(5 days)

VENUE:

AMCHSS Seminar Hall, III Floor,
AMCHSS Building, SCTIMST

LAST DATE FOR APPLYING:

Interested candidates may apply through proper channel (with approval from HOD/Guide/PI) by 16.00 hours, September 17, 2014 to:

Ms. Jayasree Neelakantan
UDC, AMCHSS Office, II Floor, AMCHSS
Building
SCTIMST
Email: amchss@sctimst.ac.in