



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



Project Name	Baatcheet
Project Duration	November 2022 - December 2024
Project PI/Lead	Dr Pattie Gonsalves
Project Location	Delhi, India

About the project:

Baatcheet is a two-year research programme (2022-2024) designed to develop, pilot and evaluate a peer-supported web-based storytelling intervention intended to reduce anxiety, depression and social disability among youth aged 16-24 years. The key components of Baatcheet include a library of personal mental health stories from young people, reflective tools to encourage learning and application of coping strategies, and brief guidance from a peer supporter (who we call “Baatcheet Buddy”).

Key achievements/outputs

- Implementation of partner MoUs with five partner institutions, including two higher secondary schools, one university, and one community-based organization (CBO) for the co-design study.
- Recruitment of our Young People’s Advisory Group (YPAG) comprising 11 advisors



Project Name	Outlive
Project Duration	2020 - 24
Project PI/Lead	Dr Pattie Gonsalves
Project Location	Delhi, Pune and Mumbai

About the project:

Outlive is a suicide prevention programme jointly implemented by the Centre for Mental Health Law & Policy, Sangath, and Quicksand Design Studio and is supported by Comic Relief, UK. Outlive addresses urban youth suicide in India by engaging young people aged 18-24, in particular youth with experiences related to suicide or self-harm, distress or mental health problems, and belonging to marginalized communities.

Outlive engages in diverse outreach efforts to connect with youth through the following activities:

- **Large hall sensitization sessions:** We reached 1465 youth through 17 sessions. These sessions featured multimedia presentations addressing self-care during mental distress & peer support during crises. Feedback (n=280) showed an increased understanding of suicide prevention (85.4%) & comfort in discussing it (81.5%).

- **Interactive workshops:** We reached 1612 youth through 32 sessions. Workshops challenged myths, discussed risk factors, shared support avenues, & showcased Outlive films. Pre & post-surveys were used to understand changes in knowledge, attitude, literacy of suicide, & help-seeking behaviour.
- **Community-based workshops:** We reached 335 youth through 13 awareness sessions These sessions aimed to foster help-seeking behaviour & understanding of suicide. Post-workshop (n=308) feedback indicated 82.1% improved understanding & 91.2% comfort in discussing suicide.
- **Public events:** We organized 8 public events, including a youth festival for World Suicide Prevention Day 2022, film discussions, & dissemination of Outlive materials at youth conferences, reaching 218 youth.
- **Multi-lingual posters:** Ten myth-dispelling posters were placed at 15 campuses.
- **Stories of Hope:** Publication of 13 blogs and videos capturing first-person youth experiences related to suicide prevention.
- Dissemination of suicide prevention resources on Instagram, reaching 751202 impressions on the platform.
- Our website (www.outlive.in) has received 7100 page views from the dissemination materials circulated in college events.



Project Name	Enhancing Mental Wellbeing in 24 Ashramshalas in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra
Project Duration	30 Months
Project PI/Lead	Prachi Khandeparkar
Project Location	Gadchiroli, Maharashtra

About the project:

The objectives of this project were to understand the mental health needs of the children in the Ashramshalas; develop an intervention promoting social, emotional, and mental health and wellbeing; and demonstrate the acceptability of the intervention content by key stakeholders and the feasibility of delivering the intervention through lay counsellors in the Ashramshalas. These activities are adapted and tailored based on the needs of each specific school environment and its students. The Tribal Development Department, HM and teachers are the major stakeholders in implementing the program within their schools. The program is acceptable and feasible to deliver in Ashramshalas. The program was running in 24 Ashramshalas.

Key achievements/outputs

- Implementation of the "Enhancing Mental Wellbeing" program in 24 Ashramshalas in Gadchiroli, Maharashtra.
- Contextualization of the SEHER intervention for Ashramshalas through intervention development workshops with stakeholders.
- Program delivered by 8 school health facilitators under the supervision of three supervisors.
- Total of 8000+ students covered through the duration of the program.
- Awareness generation activities at the school level to promote health and mental well-being in the school community and promotion of a supportive and inclusive environment for mental health discussions and initiatives.
- 563 school staff (teaching and non-teaching) sensitized on mental health issues through monthly meetings and regular workshops which focused on enhancing awareness and understanding of mental health among staff members.
- 1902 counselling sessions attended by students, with 566 students utilizing counselling services and 1336 follow-up sessions provided for students.
- Monthly competitions and quizzes held with themed focused to improve life skills, enhanced their leadership skills and encouraged the demonstration of their latent talents.
- Addressed 19 Panchayat/Village Child Protection Committees to promote mental health and well-being initiatives, aimed to strengthen mental health support systems within local communities.
- Disseminated the program milestones to the Tribal Development Department, funding agency and other relevant stakeholders

Project Name	School Mental Health Promotion Program
Project Duration	3 Years
Project PI/Lead	Prachi Khandeparkar
Project Location	Pune, Maharashtra

About the project:

The School Mental Health Promotion Program (SMHPP), is based on the WHO's framework of health-promoting schools. It aims to create an enabling environment within schools to promote health among all school community members, including students, teachers, staff, and parents. The program's goals are achieved through a combination of strategies delivered at three levels: Universal i.e. impacting the entire school community; Group or class level; and Individual. Our intervention theory is based on the premise that school climate is shaped by students' perceptions or experiences of the school's social environment, which encompasses safety (social, emotional, and physical), teaching and learning (academic climate), and relationships (community climate). All these factors are linked to effectively managing stress, which enhances mental well-being. These activities are adapted and tailored based on the needs of each specific school environment and its students. School management, teachers, and parents are the major stakeholders in implementing the program within their schools. The program is currently ongoing in 100+ schools (24-25 academic year)

Key achievements/outputs

- 43 government schools participated in the program for the academic years 2022-23.

- A total of 13000 students (classes 5-12) covered through the program.
- The program sensitised 720 teaching and non-teaching staff members towards mental health and stigma.
- 16 School Health Facilitators (SHFs) deliver the intervention, and are supervised by 4 supervisors.
- 3700+ individual counselling sessions conducted by school health facilitators, comprising 1250+ cases and 2450+ follow-ups.
- Engaged 2500+ parents through parent meetings and community sessions.
- Organized workshops for students on life skills such as reproductive and sexual health, study skills, and career planning.
- Workshops conducted for teachers and headmasters focusing on discipline practices, child-related laws, mental health literacy, and stress management, and self-care techniques to help educators manage stress and maintain their own well-being and provide referrals for counselling services.
- Organized quizzes and competitions based on monthly themes to promote the development of life skills, leadership and creativity.
- Conducted exhibitions in schools to showcase students' creative ideas on mental health awareness and stigma reduction.
- Increased passing percentage of students in all schools through the intervention.
- Annual orientation programs held to disseminate program progress to headmasters, education department, and funders for effective interactions and feedback.
- SMHPP program is adapted to meet the specific needs of schools and undergoes continuous evolution.



Project Name	ASPIRE
Project Duration	June 2019 to December 2023
Project PI/Lead	Gauri Divan, R Roy
Project Location	Telangana

About the project

ASPIRE has designed, implemented & evaluated a community based universal intervention promoting nurturing care in the first 1000 days of life, embedded within the ICDS. ASPIRE's video intervention 'Aalana Palana' is used by Anganwadi Workers to conduct counselling sessions with caregivers encouraging responsive and sensitive parenting practices.

Key achievements/outputs

- 11 videos commencing at pregnancy and going up to 5 years of child’s age have been developed in 2 languages (Telugu and Hindi).
- 30 Anganwadi teachers across three ICDS projects were trained on the delivery of Aalana Palana.
- The effectiveness of the intervention has been evaluated using a cohort design; data analysis and reporting is currently in process
- The project finding ended in December 2023 however UNICEF and the DWDCW have extended the use of the intervention across the state with emphasis on high focus districts of Telangana
- Aalana Palana has been mandated as one of the interventions to manage Severely Acute Malnutrition & Moderately Acute Malnutrition at the community level according to the Guidelines for Supplementary Nutrition Programme under ICDS Scheme in Telangana



Project Name	COMPASS
Project Duration	April-2018 to December-2024
Project PI/Lead	Gauri Divan
Project Location	Delhi

About the Project:

COMPASS is the largest trial of its kind for autism in any low- and middle-income country setting and the results generated will help in extending and expanding the support for families of young children with autism across other low-resource settings in the region. The trial is complete and has recruited 261 families from 2 tertiary centers (All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Maulana Azad Medical College associated Lok Nayak Hospital) in the national capital, Delhi.

The project aims to evaluate the effectiveness and costs associated with delivering the Parent mediated Autism communication intervention for Non-SpecialistS Plus (PASS Plus). This was delivered by a group of trained non specialist health workers with support and supervision from specialists.

Key Achievements/Outputs:

- Trained 4 psychologists to achieve competency in the PASS Plus intervention to support non-specialists
- 659 intervention sessions delivered by March 2023.
- 261 participants randomized into the COMPASS trial.
- 187 (72 %) end-line assessments completed.
- 94 (36%) follow-up assessments completed.



Communication-centred Parent-mediated treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorder in South Asia (COMPASS)

Project Name	Neurodevelopment and AutisM in South ASia Treatment and Evidence (NAMASTE)
Project Duration	5 years (Sep-2022 to Sep-2027)
Project PI/Lead	Gauri Divan
Project Location	India (East District of Delhi and North District of Goa), Sri Lanka, & Nepal

About the Project

NAMASTE is a community-based program which aims to design and implement detection care pathways for young children with neurodevelopmental disabilities in different health systems of South Asia. The program is being implemented in 4 sites i.e. India (Delhi and Goa), Sri Lanka and Nepal. Children identified with delays will be triaged into two types of community-based interventions- The Parent mediated Autism Social Communication Intervention for Non-Specialists Plus (PASS Plus) and World Health Organization Caregiver Skills Training (WHO CST) based on results on the detection measure which will be administered in the community. The strength of NAMASTE will be to adapt a broad detection care pathway design to 4 distinct contexts in South Asia based on health and care systems in each site, with the aim of evaluating a model for universal health coverage for young children with disabilities. The program is being conducted in collaboration with the University of Manchester, Autism Care Nepal Society, and the Sri Lanka College of Pediatricians.

Key Achievements/Outputs:

- Senior team leads recruited
- Teams in India site trained on cultural adaptation of detection and evaluation measures

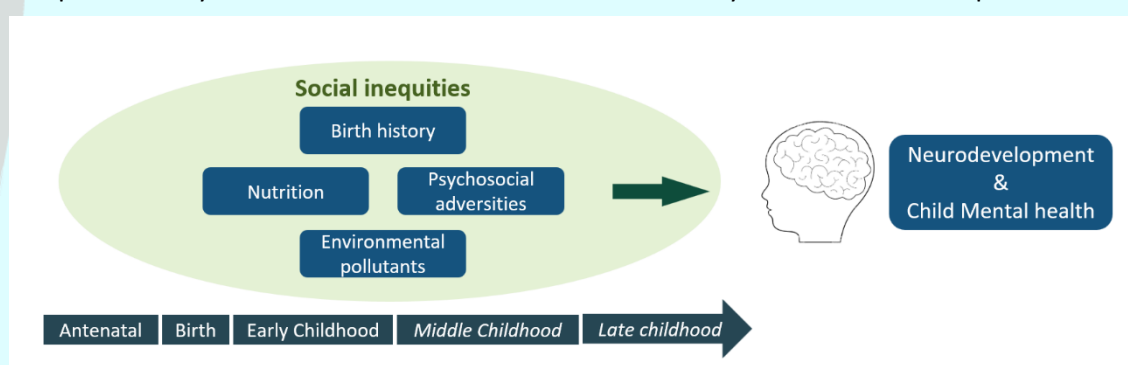
- Permissions from 2 publishers to use and culturally adapt evaluation measures for the program
- Formation of the community advisory board consisting of 7 members with lived experiences.
- Consultative meetings and research plan development for the community engagement toolkit.
- 4 India site program coordinators recruited and trained to competency in PASS Plus
- PASS Plus digitization initiate



Project Name	Nutritional, psychosocial, and environmental determinants of neurodevelopment and child mental health
Project Duration	Sep-2021 to Sep-2025
Project PI/Lead	Dr Prashanth N Srinivas, Director, Institute of Public Health, Bengaluru
Project Location	Rewari, Haryana and Bangalore, Karnataka

About the project

The project aims to evaluate independent, cumulative and interaction effects of nutritional, psychosocial and environmental determinants of neurodevelopment and child mental health in diverse settings of North and South India, covering urban and rural locations, and to identify the processes by which these determinants are influenced by socio-economic disparities.



Key achievements/Outputs:

- Sweep 1 data collection was completed by assessing 600 children at Rewari. These assessments included a parent-report questionnaire, child’s anthropometric assessment, and activity booklets like ASER and RCPM for literacy, numeracy, and cognition assessment.
- Indoor air pollution assessment for summer and winter seasons (N=100) and biological samples (N=250) were collected from the sub-set of sweep 1 participants.
- 37 children were given a referral for RBSK and 32 children were given a referral for anthropometric measures (weight). The children were referred to the District Early Intervention Centre (DEIC), Rewari.
- 5 children with Hb levels less than 10g/dl were referred.
- The pilot for Sweep 2 data collection is complete.
- Dr Smita Todkar registered her PhD with MAHE through COINCIDE, focusing on fathers' involvement in child development.



Project Name	PAHAL (Promoting a Holistic Approach to Learning)
Project Duration	November 2022 to January 2024
Project PI/Lead	Percy Cardozo
Project Location	Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh

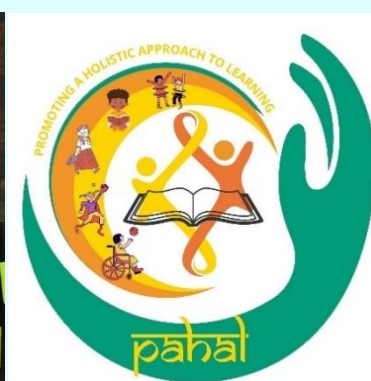
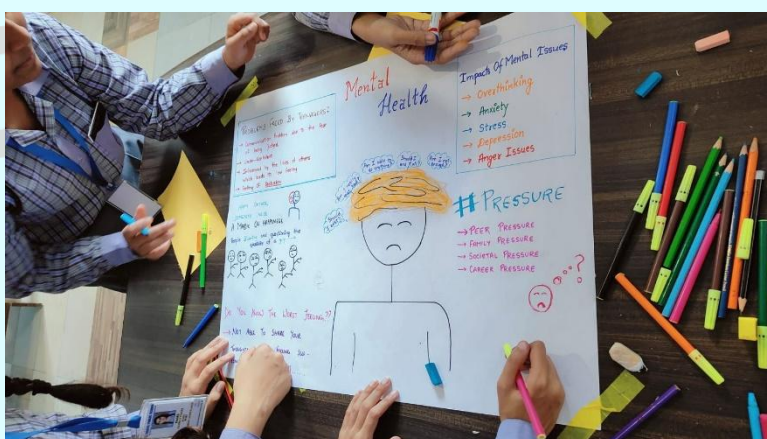
About the project:

The Beyond Boundaries project (2015-2021) supported schools in Goa to adopt a whole-school approach to inclusion. The PAHAL project, an extension of Beyond Boundaries, was implemented at Udaya Public School in Ayodhya from November 2022 to January 2023. It aimed to create a holistic, inclusive ecosystem by building teacher capacity, strengthening student support, and fostering a wellbeing-centered environment.

Key achievements/outputs:

- We helped the school Set up a School Inclusion Committee (SIC) to develop a vision for an inclusive school, conduct a school audit and create an implementation plan
- Establish student-centred services to support students' well-being and academic difficulties
- A learning centre to support students struggling with learning challenges
- A counselling cell with non-specialist counsellors supervised by a senior counsellor
- Sensitise and train teachers in the following areas:
 - Inclusive education

- Diversity in the classroom – developmental problems, behavioural and emotional problems and social issues.
- Dealing with diversity in the classroom through activity-based sessions
- Initiating a cadre of mentor teachers to support their peers.
- Linking the school to partner organisations
- Training in person-centred planning, for the school as a group and for students struggling with learning difficulties.
- Integrating value-based practices into teaching methodologies and interactions with students.
- Demonstrated the importance of working with all stakeholders to create inclusive ecosystem
- School support staff, including admins and other support staff such as the school peons, security personnel, librarians etc.
- Sensitized students to diversity and created a cadre of peer ambassadors to sensitize the whole school community of students.



Project Name	Scalable Transdiagnostic Early Assessment of Mental health
Project Duration	2019-2025
Project PI/Lead	Prof Bhisnadev Chakrabarti, University of Reading
Project Location	India, Malawi

About the project:

STREAM (Scalable Transdiagnostic Early Assessment of Mental health) aims to create a scalable tablet-based assessment tool for non-specialists to assess the development of children aged 0-6 years in the attention and cognition, fine motor, and social domains. It will map population distribution scores for these key developmental domains and test the utility of this transdiagnostic platform in identifying delayed development or the presence of any developmental disorders. The ability of the tool to measure the impact of adversities on brain development, its test-retest reliability, and its ability to monitor change in development over time will also be determined.

Key achievements/Outputs:

- Trained 6 non-specialists on using STREAM app to conduct assessments in India
- Each site has conducted assessments on over 2000 children, 1850 typically developing children from communities in low-resource neighbourhoods

- Over 200 clinically diagnosed neuro-divergent children.
- Test-rest and longitudinal follow-up assessments have been done on a subset of the sample.



Project Name	Me We Sports
Project Duration	2022-2023
Project PI/Lead	Prof Vikram Patel, Prof Abhijit Nadkarni, Urvita Bhatia, Suheil Tandon
Project Location	Goa

About the project:

MeWeSports addresses young people’s mental health and social needs through physical activity and skills-building that promote resilience, belonging, and community cohesion. It offers organized activities, social support from peers, coaches, and families. Using non-traditional platforms such as community sports clubs we are leveraging the strengths of sports in promoting mental health and empower existing youth-friendly community resources to prevent substance use initiation and mental health problems.

Key achievements/outputs

- Successfully developed MeWeSports, a multi-component, evidence-based sports-based intervention, tailored to the needs of adolescents in India. The intervention was grounded in extensive formative research including qualitative interviews with adolescents, families, and experts; a cross-sectional survey; a systematic review; and co-production and theory of change workshops with community stakeholders in Goa.
- Created detailed training and intervention manuals for educators, coaches, and organizations such as sport-for-development organisations and schools, equipping them to work effectively on adolescent substance use prevention.
- Developed and disseminated youth-friendly substance use prevention campaigns and materials aimed at raising awareness and fostering healthy behaviours in adolescents.
- Trained non-specialist community sports coaches and youth champions to deliver the MeWeSports intervention, ensuring accessibility and sustainability in local communities.



Project Name	PEERS (Promoting effective mental healthcare through peer supervision.)
Project Duration	2021-2025
Project PI/Lead	Abhijit Nadkarni, Daisy Singla
Project Location	Goa

About the project:

PEERS aims to test a peer-supervision mobile application and understand the impact of this on the quality of therapy delivered by non-specialist community healthcare workers, and finally impact of improved therapy quality on patient outcomes.

Key achievements/outputs:

- Developed and launched the PEERS e-course and mobile application.
- Trained 71 counsellors to use the PEERS application, which captures patient data and session audio recordings that can be rated later by specialists.
- 7 qualitative FGDs with trainee counsellors to understand knowledge gained about the PEERS app.
- 1 FGD with Supervisors focusing on using the Peer Supervisor dashboard and the process of supervision.



Project Name	ECDEP follow-up study
Project Duration	2021-2022
Project PI/Lead	Dr Ravindra Agrawal
Project Location	Goa

About the project:

This study revisited samples from the PREMIUM (HAP) and SHARE (THPP) projects to assess the long-term effects of psychotherapy on depression and mental health. Through phone surveys, participants were asked about their recollection of the study activities and how they manage daily adversities.

Key achievements/outputs:

- Complete designing of survey on SurveyMonkey platform
- Complete conducting pilot on 10 random participants
- Completed conducting follow-up surveys on a total of 113 participants

Project Name	Goa COVID Relief
Project Duration	2022-2023
Project PI/Lead	Dr Ravindra Agrawal
Project Location	Goa

About the project:

Sangath's Goa Covid Relief project aims to provide relief to the public (Marginalized and vulnerable populations) affected by the pandemic and assist government agencies in their relief efforts.

Key achievements/outputs:

- Health Camps: free medical health camps were held in areas where higher populations of people from lower socioeconomic backgrounds lived. These health camps covered free consultations with a qualified general practitioner/specialist and provided free medication. We were able to provide service to 685 Individuals across 6 lower socioeconomic areas through our health camps
- Provide COVID vaccinations to 55 individuals
- School Workshops:
- Special Schools: we provided capacity building and problem-solving workshops to support teachers in Special Schools in behaviour management of children with special needs (intellectual impairment and other disabilities) who have returned to structured school environment after a prolonged gap
- 205 special educators across 8 special schools
- Mainstream schools: we delivered workshops for creating a supportive environment for students as they transitioned from online to offline schooling
- We provided 35 sessions across 13 schools to 2981 students from Class 8 to Class 10

Project Name	IMPRESS (IMPlimentation of evidence-based facility and community interventions to reduce the treatment gap for depression)
Project Duration	2019-ongoing
Project PI/Lead	Abhijit Nadkarni, Vikram Patel
Project Location	Goa

About the project:

IMPRESS aims to reduce the treatment gap for depression by addressing both, supply and demand side barriers. The supply side will be targeted by scaling up the Healthy Activity Program (HAP), an evidence-based psychological treatment, to all primary health centers in Goa. The demand side will be targeted by developing a community-based intervention which will increase awareness, uptake, and adherence to the depression treatment.

Key achievements/outputs:

- Conducting 3 systematic reviews for gathering evidence on strategies to improve help-seeking and increasing adherence to mental health treatment.

- Conducting a situational analysis in all PHCs to identify ongoing community-based and facility-based programs, mental health programs and roles and responsibilities of nominated PHC staff.
- Development of the HAP training and credentialing manual and completing training 54 health care workers.
- Development of the community intervention from the evidence gathered from systematic review and contextual evidence from IDIs and government policy review.

Project Name	AANAND
Project Duration	2021-ongoing
Project PI/Lead	Anant Bhan
Project Location	Sehore district, Madhya Pradesh, India

About the project:

AANAND, being implemented in Sehore district, Madhya Pradesh, is a randomized controlled trial evaluating the effectiveness of a positive psychology-based coaching intervention, compared to routine supervision provided by the health system, in improving mental wellbeing and reducing work stress and burnout of rural community health workers (ASHAs), and thereby, improving their delivery of services. Launched in 2021, this first-of-its-kind study in the Indian setting has the potential to inform frameworks for addressing stress and burnout among grass-root community health workers, who address the health needs of the population at large. AANAND is a study funded by the Templeton World Charity Foundation.

Key achievements/outputs

- Formative work for intervention development carried out- Literature review of existing Positive Psychology Interventions, FGD (with 59 ASHAs) to understand how they negotiate work stress and strengths assessment on Self Perceived Strengths scale (SPS) (with 274 ASHAs)
- The findings of formative work were synthesised to develop an Intervention Blueprint
- Intervention Development Workshop was organised to gather feedback on Intervention Blueprint by collaborators and experts in the field.
- Intervention was tested in the pilot phase.
- Outcome evaluation was carried out at baseline, 1-month, 3 months and 6 months timepoint to assess the effectiveness of the Intervention. (N=70 ASHAs)
- Intervention Review workshop was organised to apply the learnings from the pilot phase and update the Intervention accordingly



Project Name	Sangath-NISD
Project Duration	2022 – 2023
Project PI/Lead	Anant Bhan
Project Location	Bhopal, India

About the Project:

As a part of the proposed project being submitted to NISD, we aimed to conduct sensitization events & workshops, in different HPE colleges across India, creating awareness about the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 Act & SOGIESC (sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics) competencies. Going a step beyond, the project dedicated to making the campus spaces in various Health Professional Education (HPE) colleges in India queer/trans-inclusive & affirmative.

Key achievements/outputs:

- The project conducted workshops in two medical colleges in India (Jan–Mar 2023) to raise awareness about the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, and SOGIESC among healthcare professionals and students.
- The colleges were Jamia Hamdard and University College of Medical Sciences, Delhi. These sessions aimed to build queer/trans-inclusive healthcare by revising the medical curriculum and fostering essential competencies. Interactive activities and personal stories helped initiate dialogue on creating inclusive, affirmative campuses.

Project Name	iHEAR Peers for Equity (P4E)
Project Duration	2022 – 2023
Project PI/Lead	Anant Bhan
Project Location	India

About the project:

iHEAR Peers for Equity developed a cohort of young researcher-advocates from LGBTQIA+ and disability communities via a free digital course followed by a mentored fellowship. The six-week course equipped learners with tools for action-based research projects and advocacy. A small section of the learners proceeded to a six-month mentored fellowship, guiding them in developing outputs like research proposals and policy briefs.

Key achievements/outputs:

- 133 learners registered, and 60 completed the digital course, gaining essential skills in research and advocacy.
- 20 full-time and 2 part-time fellows engaged in impactful projects with 15 partnering organizations.
- Two in-person gatherings fostered collaboration and networking among fellows, mentors, and collaborators. As part of the dissemination event of the fellowship, fellows in the first cohort were asked to design posters summarizing their work in the fellowship. A report on the fellows and their outputs were also disseminated.

Project Name	UNDP World Mental Health Day Event and Campaign
Project Duration	2022
Project PI/Lead	Anant Bhan
Project Location	India

About the Project:

On account of the World Mental Health Day 2022, that falls on 10th of October, a video campaign was designed and produced for social media video campaign as part of a collaboration between UNDP & iHEAR, Sangath Bhopal Hub. The campaign was an effort to voice the narratives on mental health, its significance & accessibility and the role it plays in the lives of marginalized communities – queer, transgender, disabled communities along with people living with HIV (PLHIV+) participants.

Key achievements/outputs

- The campaign amplified the lived experiences of people from marginalized communities centre staging video narratives to build advocacy and action around mental health. The campaign was shared on social media using the relevant hashtags #mentalhealthmatters, #mentalhealthforall, #leavenoonebehind.
- A series of 6 videos of 2-3 min. each were produced with participants across queer-trans* communities and people living with HIV.
- A day-long event was organized in Hotel Sayaji on 21st October 2023. The event was centred around two panel discussions: one with people with lived experience of mental health problems or of being from marginalized communities and two of people from government agencies and other stakeholder organizations. The event also saw the release of a report co-developed by UNDP and Sangath on trans-affirmative medical education and the launch of the video campaign.
- Initiating a valuable dialogue between the LGBTQIA+ community, policy makers and other stakeholders for bridging the gap between mental healthcare and its access to marginalized communities.
- Release of the videos on UNDP India’s Instagram handle for global engagement



Project Name	iHEAR VaccinEquity
Project Duration	October 2021 – February 2023
Project PI/Lead	Anant Bhan
Project Location	India

About the project:

iHEAR VaccinEquity, a community-based participatory research (CBPR) project hosted at Sangath and funded by Sabin Vaccine Institute, co-led and co-designed with the transgender and disability communities. The project sought to understand the structural barriers experienced by the transgender and disability communities in accessing COVID-19 vaccines. The research team conducted interviews with people from the two communities; persons from within the healthcare system; and representatives from the civil society involved in vaccine delivery. These in-depth conversations brought forth four key barriers to vaccine access for the two communities: inadequate prioritization of the transgender and disability communities in vaccine planning and implementation; lack of information on specific health needs of the two communities; trust deficit in government and health systems; and procedural and infrastructural barriers.

Key achievements/outputs:

- Published a document summarising the study findings aimed at policy makers and programme managers ([Policy Brief](#)).
- Published a document summarising the study findings aimed at community members and general public ([Community Brief](#)).
- Published a report collating case studies of research projects across the globe unpacking structural inequities in vaccine acceptance, demand, delivery and decision making ([Featured in International Report](#)).
- Published a document containing the photographs and narratives describing challenges in accessing COVID19 vaccination acceptance, demand, delivery and decision making.
- Video narratives about COVID-19 vaccine access ([‘Voices for VaccinEquity’](#)) among the Trans and Disability communities and on [Participatory research](#), co-developed with community members
- [Public engagement](#) and dissemination events conducted in Delhi with different stakeholders
- Getting to Zero [Podcast](#) with Anuradha Gupta, President of Global Immunization at Sabin on the importance of aligning research with the specific health needs of marginalized communities, emphasizing access and human-centred design.
- Academic Presentations
- [Presentation](#) at the Global Vaccine and Immunisation Research Forum
- [Presentations](#) at Vaccine Acceptance Research Network 2023



Project Name	VEVNC (Vaccine Equity Video Narrative Component 1.0)
Project Duration	2022 – 2023
Project PI/Lead	Anant Bhan
Project Location	India

About the project

This was a supplementary grant to the iHEAR VaccinEquity 1.0 project where the aim was to document the research process through videography. In addition, the project aimed to work with people from the transgender and disability communities to document their experiences with accessing COVID19 vaccine through participatory videography.

Key achievements/outputs:

As part of the Vaccine Equity 1.0 project, a 30 min. Documentary film was produced that explored the issues related to healthcare access in India by LGBTQIA+ communities and persons with disabilities.

The film focused particularly on the COVID-19 Vaccine access to queer-trans* communities and people with disabilities.

It brought to light the community-based participatory research method incorporated by the Vaccine Equity team at iHEAR to research on the gaps that exist for the marginalized populations in India while accessing healthcare spaces and infrastructures trying to start a dialogue for systemic changes in the same.

Project Name	Promoting mEntal hEalthcare through peeR Supervission(PEERS)
Project Duration	2021 – 2024
Project PI/Lead	Dr Daisy Singla (PI), Dr Anant Bhan (Site-PI), Dr Ravindra Agrawal (Co-I), Ankita Shah (Project coordinator)
Project Location	Bhopal, Goa, India

About the project

The project aims to assess acceptability and feasibility of the digitally-enabled, peer supervision (intervention) on supervision attendance and completion of peer-ratings; effectiveness of the intervention on the reliability of the peer ratings; the impact of the intervention on NSP delivered therapy quality, and finally impact of improved therapy quality on patient outcomes The project aims to assess acceptability and feasibility of the digitally-enabled, peer supervision(intervention) on supervision attendance and completion of peer-ratings; effectiveness of the intervention on the reliability of the peer ratings; the impact of the intervention on NSP delivered therapy quality, and finally impact of improved therapy quality on patient outcomes

Key achievements/outputs:

- One article published in got published In Harvard global institute <https://globalhealth.harvard.edu/empower-gcc-project-pilot/>
- One manuscript –“ Scaling up the task-sharing of psychological therapies” got published in Cambridge university press <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/global-mental-health/article/scaling-up-the-tasksharing-of-psychological-therapies-a-formative-study-of-the-peers-smartphone->

[application-for-supervision-and-quality-assurance-in-rural-india/F4838B21B3D2DDF0B8D5248BD20B237A](https://www.undp.org/india/publications/trans-affirmative-medical-education-india/F4838B21B3D2DDF0B8D5248BD20B237A)

- A total of 7693 screenings have been conducted by the trained ASHAs over a period of 2 years.
- Out of the 693 patients who screened positive and were enrolled in the study, 173 have completed their treatment, while 374 patients are still receiving treatment from ASHAs.



Project Name	TransCare MedEd
Project Duration	July 2021 to June 2022
Project PI/Lead	Anant Bhan
Project Location	India

About the project

TransCare: MedEd aimed to highlight global best practices in shared decision making for vulnerable communities and to create a set of core competencies on trans-affirmative healthcare in India through a series of regional workshops and a national conference. The stakeholders for the workshops included health professional educators; healthcare professionals providing gender-affirmative healthcare; medical students, faculty and other health professionals identifying as TGNB; and TGNB community members. The project concluded with a national conference aimed at highlighting these best practices and national dissemination of this work.

Key achievements/outputs

- Developed competencies on TGNB-affirmative healthcare which were released as part of a report with UNDP. Available here: <https://www.undp.org/india/publications/trans-affirmative-medical-education-india>
- Conducted a national symposium on trans-affirmative medical education in Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi in May 2022 which brought together over 120 participants

Project Name	TransCare Queer Ambassador
Project Duration	July 2022 – July 2023
Project PI/Lead	Anant Bhan
Project Location	India

About the project

The goal of the QA project was to work towards making health professional educational campuses in India queer-inclusive by working with the health professional students themselves. In the project, a cohort of 8 Queer Ambassadors, students of health/medicine/public health were selected from 7 different medical/health professional education campuses across 6 states in India. These students, known as Queer Ambassadors, were provided a mentored studentship journey with a mentor assigned to them who helped them design the plan for queer/trans-inclusion on their respective campuses. The mentors with lived and professional experience helped the QAs shape their ideas and guided them on how to navigate the varied challenges of such an initiative. Most of the Queer Ambassadors came from the queer community and hence brought their lived experiences into their works efforts. They were also provided with a modest stipend towards their studentship for carrying out inclusion-based activities on their campuses like carrying out sensitization events, opening queer clubs & societies, etc.

Key achievements/outputs

- Starting a dialogue and initiatives towards making the medical/health professional education campuses in India queer/trans-inclusive & affirmative.
- Bringing in small incremental ground-level changes in HPE campuses toward inclusion & equity, like the establishment of gender-neutral washrooms, formation of queer clubs, carrying out sensitization events on sex, gender, and sexual orientation with the medical fraternity, etc. The efforts also involved exploring avenues for engaging with the concerned stakeholders including the youth, college administration, and also government stakeholders towards bringing changes at the policy and administrative level for making health education campuses in India a safe space for learning and growing for people across the queer community. As a part of the project, a workshop was organized at the Kasturba Medical College, Manipal for the health professionals from Manipal and the nearby cities, on the 16th of September, 2022, aimed at sensitizing the participants on SOGIESC. It was attended by around 60 health professionals, students, and staff.
- Developing a benchmark tool for measuring ca inclusivity in HPE campuses across India, in collaboration, with three student consultants from the London School of Economics in line with the work done by the QAs in their respective campuses.