

TITLE:

Assessing national organizational capacity for Health Policy & Systems Research in India: results of a survey

FIELD BUILDING DIMENSION:

Novel strategies for developing the capacities needed to conduct people-centred health policy and systems research, covering formal teaching programmes and broader capacity-development initiatives

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ABSTRACT:

The Implementation Research Platform and Alliance for Health Policy & Systems Research have established Nodal Institutes in countries and regions with a critical mass of institutions engaged in health policy & systems research (HPSR). A crucial objective of the Nodal Institutes is to support the development of HPSR capacity. However, there is limited knowledge about the organizations conducting HPSR in many of these settings, and their current capacities – knowledge that is essential to design capacity building initiatives. The Nodal Institute for India - the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), collaborated with the Health Systems Research India Initiative (HSRII) to conduct a survey with the objective of connecting with organizations engaged in HPSR in India and identifying their current priorities, capacities, activities, partnerships, capacity building needs and challenges related to HPSR.

The survey is being implemented at the time of the deadline for abstracts, and full results will be available in time for the Global HSR Symposium. The survey was emailed to 43 Indian organizations, identified as those represented in recent editions (since 2010) of Global and Asian Health Systems Research conferences. Additionally, an open call was issued through the HSRII list-serve (1068 members). Quantitative data will be collated, and frequency tables prepared. Qualitative data will be thematically analyzed and organized. Results will include data on the broad areas and specific topics in which HPSR is conducted, the disciplinary competencies (social and health sciences) of organizations channelized towards HPSR, organizations' prior engagement in HPSR capacity building initiatives, their HPSR capacity building needs, and challenges faced in conducting HPSR.

The results will be utilized by the Nodal Institute, in the development of HPSR capacity strengthening strategies and measures. Our target audience are primarily those involved with implementing, supporting and participating in HPSR teaching and learning programmes and networks in LMIC contexts.