

<b>Course title: Public Health: Approaches, Issues and Policy Perspectives</b>				
<b>Course code:</b> PPS 139	<b>No. of credits:</b> 2	<b>L-T-P:</b> 26-4-0	<b>Learning hours:</b> 30	
<b>Pre-requisite course code and title (if any):</b> None				
<b>Department/Centre:</b> Policy Studies				
<b>Course coordinator(s):</b> Dr. Chandan Kumar		<b>Course instructor(s):</b> Dr. Chandan Kumar		
<b>Contact details:</b> <a href="mailto:chandan.kumar@terisas.ac.in">chandan.kumar@terisas.ac.in</a>				
<b>Course type:</b> Core		<b>Course offered in:</b> Semester 2		
<b>Course description</b> This course is designed to provide the candidate a basic understanding of fundamental concepts, approaches and policy issues in the area of public health. Ensuring good health and wellbeing of human population is considered as the cornerstone of development. The public health initiatives affect people every day in every part of the world. It addresses broad issues that can affect the health and well-being of individuals, families, communities, populations, and societies—both now, and for generations to come. This course aims to adorn students with enriched comprehension on the public health related issues, with special reference to India, as well as evidence-based health planning and policymaking.				
<b>Learning objectives:</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To orient the students on the fundamentals of public health.</li> <li>▪ To provide the students a fair understanding on the contemporary key public health challenges in India and recent policy efforts to address those challenges.</li> <li>▪ To help students develop an understanding on the organization of and reforms in health care systems, public health planning and policymaking.</li> </ul>				
<b>Course content</b>				
<b>Module</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>P</b>
1.	<b>Public Health: Key Concepts, Approaches, Frameworks and Measures</b> This module aims to orient the candidates on the basic concepts, objectives, evolution, core principles and activities of public health, along with the political economy of health. A political economy analysis shows how political, social, and economic factors are entwined at societal, community, and household levels to produce health or ill health in individuals. Major discussions in this module include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public Health: Definition, Role, Core Principles and Activities</li> <li>▪ Evolution of Public Health</li> <li>▪ Political Economy of Health (and Development) : Approaches to understanding Health and Disease; Global Health Framework</li> <li>▪ Empirical Public Health: Usage and limitations of Population Health Data; Commonly used Health Indicators</li> <li>▪ Health Equity and Societal Determinants of Health</li> </ul>	9	0	0
2.	<b>Public Health Issues in India</b> This module would discuss the trends and patterns of key health indicators relevant from the perspective of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) -3 in Indian context. In addition, the respective public health programmes and interventions addressing those issues will be discussed. Specific points of discussion will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recent trends and patterns of key public health challenges in India</li> <li>▪ Importance of social determinants of health in India’s context and its policy relevance</li> <li>▪ Major Contemporary Health Schemes and Programmes as case studies (subject to change as per the Government’s focus/priority): for example – National Health Mission, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, <i>Janani Suraksha Yojana</i> and its</li> </ul>	9	2	0

	modified/allied schemes or programmes, <i>Ayushman Bharat</i> Scheme, <i>POSHAN Abhiyaan</i> , etc.			
3.	<p><b>Policy Perspectives</b> This module would discuss the prerequisites for comprehending evidence-based public health planning and policymaking; and would specifically focus on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Understanding and Organizing Health Care Systems: Principles of Health Care Systems; Health Care System Archetypes; Primary Health Care, its renewal, and the turn to Universal Health Coverage; Approaches to improving the Performance of Health Systems</li> <li>▪ Health Policy and Planning: Policy Cycle – Assessment of Population Health, Assessment of Potential Interventions, Policy Choices, Policy Implementation, Policy Evaluation</li> </ul>	8	2	0
		<b>26</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
<p><b>Evaluation criteria:</b></p> <p><b>Test-1:</b> Critical Review of Literature (35%);</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Task: Develop a small piece (Review Paper) based on a critical appraisal of literature on any topic listed in the syllabus or in consultation with the Course-Coordinator.</li> <li>b. Structure of the assignment: A detailed guideline on the structure of the review paper will be provided by the Course-Coordinator.</li> <li>c. Indicators of assessment: selection of appropriate literature (weightage: 5%); clear and concise summaries (weightage: 30%); critique based on student’s own assessment or based on literature (weightage: 40%); effective introduction and conclusion (weightage: 10%); well-structured essay with no grammatical errors (weightage: 10%); and appropriate format of citations and references (weightage: 5%).</li> </ol> <p><b>Test-2:</b> Group Presentation and Discussion (25%);</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Task: Prepare a group of 2-3 students (subject to change based on the total number of students in the course); select any topic based on contemporary public health or health policy issues in India in consultation with the Course-Coordinator; conceptualize, develop, present and discuss the selected issue in group.</li> <li>b. Structure of the presentation: Outline of the issue/topic; relevance of the issue in the current scenario; adequate background of the issue with relevant facts and figures; existing challenges and opportunities supported by evidences, logical arguments and experiences; way forward.</li> <li>c. Indicators of assessment: selection of the contemporary issue (weightage: 10%); conceptualization, outlining and division of sections among the group members (weightage: 10%); content of the presentation (weightage: 40%); effective introduction and conclusion (weightage: 10%); well-conceptualized presentation slides (weightage: 10%); and responses to the questions raised by the audience (weightage: 20%).</li> </ol> <p><b>Test-3:</b> Written Test (40%); after the completion of the full syllabus, the final written test will be conducted. The structure of the major/final test will follow both short- and long-answer type questions.</p>				
<p><b>Learning outcomes</b></p> <p>After completing this course, the candidates would be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. understand the fundamental concepts, approaches, framework and key measures related to population health. (Evaluation: All components)</li> <li>2. comprehend the patterns of key population health indicators, transitions there in and respective policy efforts made by the Indian Government. (Evaluation: All components)</li> <li>3. understand the process of developing evidence-based public health planning and nuances of policymaking. (Evaluation: All components)</li> </ol>				
<p><b>Pedagogical approach</b></p> <p>Discussions on core concepts, approaches, measures, and health scenarios will be mainly facilitated</p>				

through lectures and interactive sessions. Assignments and exercises will follow the discussions and would mainly be focused on developing the health profile and policy issues with special reference to India. Group presentation being an integral part of the curriculum would also enrich the participative learning process.

### **Suggested Readings**

#### **Module 1:**

- Sen A (1999). Health in Development. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 77(8): 619-623.
- Evans DB (2009). 'Health and Development: an Economic Perspective'. In Gatti A and Boggio A (Eds.) *Health and Development: Toward a Matrix Approach*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Bhalwar RV, Vaidya R, Tilak R, Gupta R, Kunte R (Eds.) (2009). *Textbook of Public Health and Community Medicine*. Pune: Department of Community Medicine, AFMC, in collaboration with WHO, India Office, New Delhi.
  - Chapter -1: Introduction, Definitions & General Concepts in Public Health & Community Medicine, by *RajVir Bhalwar, Mandeep Singh, J. Jayaram*
  - Chapter -2: History of Public Health, by *Leo S. Vaz*
- Birn AE, Pillay Y, Holtz TH (2017). *Textbook of Global Health*. New York: Oxford University Press.
  - Chapter -3: Political Economy of Health and Development
  - Chapter -7: Health Equity and The Societal Determinants of Health
- Skolnik R (2021). *Global Health 101*, Fourth Edition. Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning.
  - Chapter -1: The Principles and Goals of Global Health
  - Chapter -2: Health Determinants, Measurements, and the Status of Health Globally
  - Chapter -3: The Global Burden of Disease
  - Chapter -6: An Introduction to Health Systems
- Jacobsen KH (2014). *Introduction to Global Health*, Second Edition. Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning.
  - Chapter -1: Global Health and Health Transition
  - Chapter -2: Measuring the Global Burden of Disease
- Smith S, Sinclair D, Raine R, Reeves B (2005). *Health Care Evaluation*. Berkshire: Open University Press.
  - Chapter -1: Introduction to Health and Health care
  - Chapter -3: Measuring Disease
  - Chapter -4: Measuring Health Status and Health-related Quality of Life
- McCracken K, Phillips DR (2012). *Global Health: An introduction to current and future trends*. New York: Routledge.
  - Chapter -1: Global Health: An Introduction
  - Chapter -2: Measuring Population Health and Disease
  - Chapter -3: The Determinants of Population Health
- WHO (2010). A Conceptual Framework for Action on the Social Determinant of Health. Social Determinants of Health Discussion Paper 2. Debates, Policy & Practice, Case Studies. Geneva: World Health Organization (WHO).

#### **Module 2:**

- Balarajan Y, Selvaraj S, Subramanian SV (2011). Health care and equity in India. *The Lancet*, 377(9764), 505-515.
- Fan VY, Mahal A (2011). Learning and getting better: rigorous evaluation of health policy in India. *The National Medical Journal of India*, 24(6), 325-327.
- Nandi A, Ashok A, Laxminarayan R (2013). The socioeconomic and institutional determinants of participation in India's health insurance scheme for the poor. *PloS one*, 8(6), e66296.

- National Health Policy 2017, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India, 2017.
- Patel V, Parikh R, Nandraj S, Balasubramaniam P, Narayan K, Paul VK, Kumar AS, Chatterjee M, Reddy KS (2015). Assuring health coverage for all in India. *The Lancet*, 386(10011), 2422-2435.
- Rao KD, Ramani S, Hazarika I, George S (2013). When do vertical programmes strengthen health systems? A comparative assessment of disease-specific interventions in India. *Health policy and planning*, 29(4), 495-505.

### Module 3:

- Birn AE, Pillay Y, Holtz TH (2017). *Textbook of Global Health*. New York: Oxford University Press.
  - Chapter -4: Global Health Actors and Activities
  - Chapter -11: Understanding and Organizing Health Care Systems
  - Chapter -13: Building Healthy Societies
- Brown GW, Yamey G, Wamala S (Eds.) (2014). *The Handbook of Global Health Policy*. West Sussex: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.
  - Chapter -1: Understanding Global Health Policy by *Ruairí Brugha, Carlos Bruen, Viroj Tangcharoensathien*
  - Chapter -3: Contemporary Global Health Governance: Origins, Functions, and Challenges by *Rajaie Batniji, Francisco Songane*
- Goldsteen RL, Goldsteen K, Dwelle TL (2015). *Introduction to Public Health: Promises and Practices*, Second Edition. New York: Springer Publishing Company, LLC.
  - Chapter -6: Public Health System Performance
- McCracken K, Phillips DR (2012). *Global Health: An introduction to current and future trends*. New York: Routledge.
  - Chapter -8: Health Systems, Finance and Planning
- Skolnik R (2021). *Global Health 101*, Fourth Edition. Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning.
  - Chapter -6: An Introduction to Health Systems
- Smith S, Sinclair D, Raine R, Reeves B (2005). *Health Care Evaluation*. Berkshire: Open University Press.
- Spasoff RA (1999). *Epidemiologic Methods for Health Policy*. New York: Oxford University Press.

**Additional information:** None

### Student responsibilities

- Active participation in the processes of Learning
- Critical reflections for discourse creation
- Punctuality (according to the Course criterion)

### Course reviewers

1. **Dr. Mira Johri**, Professor, Department of Health Management, Evaluation and Policy, School of Public Health, University of Montreal, Canada.
2. **Dr. Manoj Alagarajan**, Assistant Professor, International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai.