

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR QUOTE



Vaibhav Agavane

At IPH Bengaluru, each quarter brings renewed purpose and deepened commitment to our mission of strengthening health systems through meaningful collaboration, rigorous research, and grounded community engagement. The April-June 2025 quarter was marked by significant milestones—our partnership with IIM Bangalore formalised through an MoU, strengthening avenues for joint work in public health education and policy. We continued to build on our research excellence, with our scholars and colleagues gaining recognition at global platforms such as IADR and the World Conference on Tobacco Control.

This quarter also witnessed critical dialogues on oral health policy and its integration into primary care, advanced through consultative workshops under the DHARANI and ASPIRE projects. Our selection into the MODELS2UHC consortium is also an important highlight of the quarter.

Through initiatives like the Janadhwani sessions and the Passive Patient Culture book launch, we continue to foreground community voices and questions of dignity in healthcare. I am proud to see the sustained energy and reflective inquiry across our teams. As we move forward, let us continue to listen deeply, act collaboratively, and uphold our shared commitment to equitable health for all.

KEY UPDATES

MOU signing between IPH Bengaluru and IIMB



IPH Bengaluru and the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) formalised their collaboration through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing. The partnership aims to strengthen public health education, research, and policy engagement initiatives. The MOU was signed by Dr. Prashanth N Srinivas, Director of IPH Bengaluru and Prof. Rishikesha T Krishnan, Director of IIMB, in the presence of Dr. Upendra Bhojani, Former Director & Senior Fellow (IPH), Dr. Vaibhav Agavane, Assistant Director (Outreach, IPH), Mr. Manjunath, Admin Officer (IPH), and Ms. Komal R., HR Manager (IPH).

We were joined by Prof. Dinesh Kumar, Dean (IIMB), Prof. Arnab Mukherji, Public Policy (IIMB) and Ms. Rashmi Lad, Research Manager at the Dean's Office (IIMB).

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Dr Aswathy Ram

Aswathy Ram, Research Assistant with the ASPIRE project, has been selected as a recipient of the Responsive Research Fund under Project CORE for the proposal 'Strengthening India's Oral Health System: Addressing workforce inequities for achieving better health outcomes'. The project aims to explore, map, and assess the dental workforce distribution across India to provide evidence to inform policies and secure equitable access to oral healthcare. The project will be mentored by Dr. Rajeev, DBT Wellcome Trust India Alliance Early Career Fellow and Assistant Professor at IPH.

Consortium supported by the Asia Pacific Observatory

IPH Bengaluru is proud to announce its selection as a partner in the MODELS2UHC consortium, a significant collaboration with WHO's Asia Pacific Observatory (APO). This five-year initiative, led by IIMB, brings together prestigious institutions from Bangladesh (BRAC University), Japan (HIAS Health), Hong Kong (AeHIN), and Nepal (PHRC).

The consortium will focus on four critical health goals: developing sustainable health financing models, improving healthcare access and implementation, ensuring equity in health outcomes, and building climate-resilient health systems. Under Dr. Prashanth N. Srinivas's leadership, IPH will contribute its policy analysis expertise to strengthen health systems across Asia.

Book Launch: Passive Patient Culture in India



The Institute of Public Health (IPH), Bengaluru, co-organised the launch of "Passive Patient Culture in India: Disrespect in Law and Medicine" by Supriya Subramani at Bangalore International Centre on June 6th, 2025. Our own Dr. Meena Putturaj participated as a key panellist alongside distinguished speakers, including Amar Jesani, Sundar Sarukkai, and S.V. Joga Rao. The event featured critical discussions on patienthood, dignity, and healthcare inequalities in India. The book, published by Routledge, examines how marginalised communities face challenges in healthcare and legal systems, advocating for patient agency and self-respect.

PhD Scholar Focus



Dr Ketki Shah

Ketki Shah is a doctoral scholar registered at The University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology (TDU). Her PhD focuses on understanding from a worker's perspective the issues, and experiences with shifting to alternative and safer non-tobacco livelihoods. As part of her PhD, she received the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (RSTMH) Early Career Short Grant and a fellowship from the Heal India Initiative. She recently joined the education team as the Learning Hub Manager – School and Learning Initiatives, where she is actively involved in conceptualizing the School of Advanced Studies and supporting the work of the Instructional Design Unit.

Health Among Tribal Communities event



Our PhD scholars, Santosh Sogal and Anika Junej, participated in the Health Among Tribal Communities event organised by Azim Premji Foundation in Ranchi (April 22-23, 2025). They presented a poster on "Systematising sickle cell care: from crisis to routine," showcasing IPH Bengaluru's Samhita registry work in Chamarajanagar, Karnataka.

The conference brought together organisations like SEARCH, Ekjut, and Jan Swasthya Sahyog, focusing on critical issues affecting tribal communities, including healthcare access, nutrition, and culturally sensitive care. The event provided valuable networking opportunities and insights into designing empathetic healthcare solutions for marginalised communities.

DHARANI and ASPIRE Stakeholder Workshops



In May 2025, two key stakeholder workshops were held on strengthening oral health systems in Karnataka. On May 27, the DHARANI project held a consultative workshop in Bengaluru to explore integrating oral health into primary healthcare. The event featured a Theory of Change exercise, an expert panel discussion, and the launch of an oral health IEC flipbook.

On May 30, the ASPIRE project hosted a stakeholder consultation on the evolution of oral health policy in India and Karnataka, followed by a power analysis and stakeholder mapping activity. The consultation emphasized the urgent need to form a working group dedicated to advocating for comprehensive oral health policy in the state.

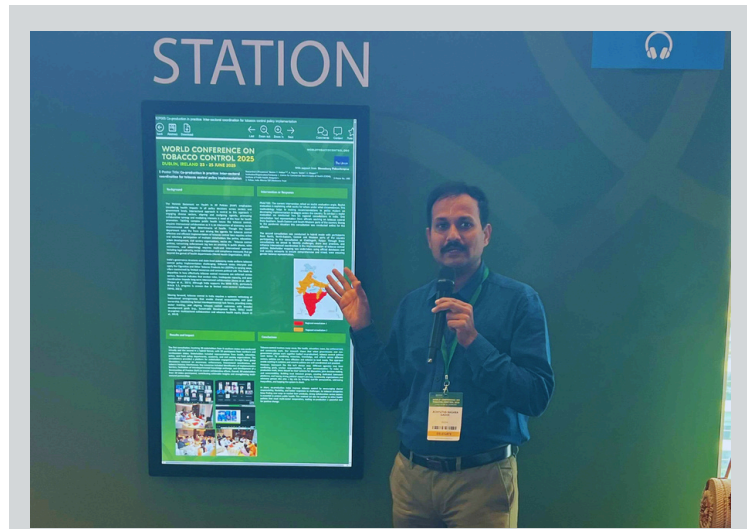
Moments in IPH



The First Mile team conducted a capacity-building Nali-Kali session under the Arogya Grama Janadhwani initiative, where participants engaged in wellness activities, explored the concept of a healthy village, and creatively presented their visions through group-based Janadhwani performances.



Rajeev B R presented a poster titled "Bridging Aspirations & Reality: Challenges in Oral Health Policy Implementation in Karnataka, India" at the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) General Session held in Barcelona, Spain from 24th to 28th June 2025. The study examined the evolution and implementation of oral health policies in Karnataka between 2000 and 2025, employing qualitative methods and frameworks from implementation science. Key findings highlighted significant policy implementation gaps, resource constraints, and the critical role of frontline actors in shaping policy outcomes. The poster sparked engaging discussions with researchers and practitioners from around the world on how to strengthen oral health governance in low- and middle-income settings



Achyutha N G presented multiple posters at the World Conference on Tobacco Control in Dublin, Ireland (June 23-25, 2025). The featured presentation, "Co-production in practice: Inter-sectoral coordination for tobacco control policy implementation," highlighted findings from the ANUSHTHANA project's stakeholder consultations across 20 Indian states. Additional presentations included a moderated e-poster on Qualitative Comparative Analysis (DEEP project) and three visual abstracts covering Gender & Tobacco, Tobacco Industry Influence on Public Policies, and Indigenous tobacco products in India, representing work by Anand, Pragati, Upendra, and Sreenidhi.