

Dr. Devaki Nambiar

I am a highly committed public health researcher who has striven to build strong networks and a program of research in health policy and systems research with a focus on equity and the Sustainable Development Goals agenda of “leaving no one behind.” Engagement in policymaking National level (in India) I have had the good fortune of being involved with two large policy recommendation exercises in India. The first was the High Level Expert Group (HLEG) on Universal Health Coverage (convened in 2011), which was an ambitious and magisterial attempt to lay out a blueprint for health reform for the country as part of the Twelfth Five Year Plan. Much of my research has been in support of this as well, with increasing attention on state level engagement as health is a state subject in the country. Another national reform effort took place around 2013, with the convening of the Technical Resource Group for the National Urban Health Mission in India. I was involved as a researcher in a large stocktaking exercise to suggest recommendations to this reform effort, spanning fieldwork in 31 cities across India and interactions with over 40 different types of urban dwellers who have been historically underserved. System and service design delivery recommendations were made and adopted in at least half a dozen states across the country. In 2020 I chaired a session on Sustainable Development Goal 3 (on Health) as part of Voluntary National Review exercise convened by the Niti Aayog and United Nations in India. This exercise was designed to enable the sharing of experiences and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Our Review report has gone to the United Nations as part of India’s SDG related reporting and accountability exercise. I serve on various Committees and Task Forces of the Government including the Non-Communicable Diseases Task Force, the Department of Health Research Project Appraisal Committee Group for Health Technology Assessment. I was involved with the drafting of India’s Women’s Adolescents and Children’s Health Strategy in 2018 and have subsequently supported policy development and policy engagement exercises related to Comprehensive Primary Health Care and

Universal Health Coverage at national and state levels (with an emphasis on Kerala). My institute is a knowledge partner for India’s flagship Comprehensive Primary Health Care Program of Health and Wellness Centres under Ayushman Bharat, which is anchored by the National Health Systems Resource Centre. International level I have supported the development of two open-source software offerings of the World Health Organization – Health Equity Assessment Toolkit and Health Equity Assessment Toolkit Plus –over a five year period with extensive feedback from users across four of the six WHO regions –SEARO, PAHO, WPRO, and EMRO, reaching over 150 government officials across 25 countries. I led facilitation in each of the workshops and as a trainer in health inequality monitoring using this software,

assisted with the collation of feedback, beta testing, review of technical notes and manuals as well as documentation related to these efforts. I have led short courses in health inequality monitoring for the Ministry of Public Health and Indigenous Medicine of the government of Sri Lanka (face to face in 2017) and the Government of Malaysia (fully virtual in 2020-21). In each case, I have led 20-30 officials of government departments and agencies in the two countries across a process of understanding concepts, applying skills of health inequality monitoring and using two open-source software offerings of the WHO – Health Equity Assessment Toolkit and Health Equity Assessment Toolkit Plus – which I have led the development of over five years with extensive feedback from users across five of the six WHO regions.

Professional Activities I advise multiple divisions of the World Health Organization (WHO) as a gender, equity and human rights expert, and was invited by the Director General to extend my membership of the WHO Guidelines Review Committee. I also serve on two Lancet Commissions; one related to women and cancer and the other pertaining to population health post COVID. I have a Professorial appointment at Manipal Academy of Higher Education as well as a prestigious Wellcome Trust/Department of Biotechnology India Alliance Public Health Fellowship. In 2018, I was the recipient of the Emerging Leaders Award of the Royal Society for Tropical Medicine & Hygiene. I previously received a school-wide Student Recognition Award (2006) and department-specific Doctoral Distinguished Dissertation Award (2008) at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Since 2016, I have been a Bernard C Lown Scholar in Cardiovascular Health at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health. I am a member of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, the American Public Health Association, the People's Health Movement, and the Medico Friend's Circle. I am also a founding member of the Health Equity Network of India (HENI), a community of practice focused on health equity research in India that includes some of India's most prestigious domestic educational institutions like Azim Premji University, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, the Institute of Public Health, the Sree Chitra Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology, and Jawaharlal Nehru University. Apart from collaborating to host the Cutting Edge health equity research methods workshop, this group also convenes a series of Equilogues or webinars related to a wide range of equity themes. I have helped curate a video series on health equity as part of this collaboration. I am currently leading TGI's contributions to India's Health Policy and Systems Research (HPSR) Fellowship in consortium with the Institute of Public Health, the Achutha Menon School of Health Systems Science, the Nossal Institute and the Institute of Tropical Medicine Belgium, which is being offered fully online at present. This involved conceptualisation of the fellowship, leading contributions from TGI in the form of identifying lecturers, recording their contributions, sending in their reading materials, creating assignments, lecturing, organising assessment and continuous review and feedback. The first cohort of 20 selected from over 100 applications have

undergone the first phase of the program earlier this year, many of which are either already enrolled in PhD programs or are embedded within health departments and agencies. In the next phase, I will be helping match these 20

scholars to mentors from TGI and sister institutions as they carry out short term HPSR projects of their own design. I was asked to serve a second tenure as an External Member of the World Health Organization's Guidelines Review Committee (my first tenure was 2018-2020 and I will now be serving until 2024). In 2020, I accepted invitations to serve on the Lancet Commission on Women and Cancer as well as the Lancet-Chatham House Commission on Population Health Post COVID-19. I am on the editorial board of the Global Public Health and Medico Friends Circle Journals. I have peer reviewed for over a dozen journals including the American Sociological Review, British Medical Journal, PLOS One, Health Policy and Planning, Social Sciences and Medicine and other prestigious journals. I have served as Grant reviewer for the WHO's Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, the United States - India Educational Foundation (USIEF), Fulbright-Nehru U.S. Student Program (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics – STEM fields), the Research and Innovation for Global Health Transformation (RIGHT) Program, National Institute for Health Research (London, United Kingdom), and most recently, the Global Effort on COVID-19 (GECO) Health Research Program, National Institute for Health Research (United Kingdom). I serve as a Global Advisory Group Member on the Colonial History Task Team of the RSTMH, which is carrying out a review of archives of the Society to understand its role in the economic expansion of European colonial empires. This work builds on a similar exercise carried out by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and underway at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.