

## Statement of interest

Hello everyone,

Through this letter I would like to share my thoughts while putting forward my candidature for the South-East Asia regional seat on the HSG board. As a mid-career researcher based in a not-for-profit in the south of India, I see a need for empowering early career researchers to be able to engage at national and international forum.

The potential to contribute in HPSR within the region exists but can be furthered through exchanges with other regions to share and learn from the experiences. With a large and growing database of members from across the globe the HSG holds immense promise to contribute at local and global levels through research, policy engagement and capacity building. The HSG members are spread across the spectrum of HPSR actors such as researchers, activists, decision makers, influencers and it is important to tap into this rich network to strengthen health systems at national levels. HSG members have such skills and resources which can benefit early to mid-career researchers. The Evidence to Action, Emerging Voices for Global Health and the Teaching and Learning TWGs are already playing a crucial role in capacity building and knowledge translation. The Regional networks of the HSG also provide a good platform to bring a focus on the specific regions and ensure representation and decision making by LMIC members.

We will need to think (dialogue/ exchange) global to empower actions at the local (national/ sub-national) levels. We cannot progress on the decolonizing global health matter unless we are able to bring about the change where it is most needed. Until we do not level the playing field by building capacity, mobilizing resources, providing access to information and opportunities we cannot truly claim to have initiated on the path of decolonization.

The field of health policy and systems research is growing and one of the challenges would be to keep it relevant and useful to the needs of the members such that they can translate it in their settings. Some of the areas that I would particularly like to bring the boards attention to include society member engagement and network building, creating policy relevant outputs through member exchanges, mentoring of early career researchers, possibility of hosting HSG in the region, regional dialogues while maintaining gender equity. In the regional level I had the opportunity to organize a workshop through the Emerging Voices network to mobilize submissions for HSR2018. I have been a member of the organizing committee for the EPHP conference series [Bringing Evidence in Public Policy] which hosts delegates from across Indian states as well as countries within the region.

As an Assistant Director of administration at my host institute for the past five years I have a fair experience of human resource and financial management including and not limited to liaising, communication, fundraising, grievance redressal, conflict resolution, statutory compliances etc. I will be happy to bring in this experience to the HSG board and contribute to the efforts of the society.