As public health physician, community advocate, grass roots activist, mentor, and woman leader from Dehradun, India. I am honored to have been nominated to stand for election for the Health Systems Global Board.

With over 15 years experience in health systems strengthening, I joined HSG 8 years ago. As an emerging doctor in medical school, I already started my journey in health systems strengthening. Dedicating my vacation time to work tirelessly with adults with disabilities. My experiences have consistently highlighted the disparity between healthcare service availability and the demand. Working within the national AIDS control program further underscored my awareness of equity issues and the urgent necessity for healthcare system strengthening. Over the past decade, my work in establishing health systems and services for children with developmental disabilities in the remote regions of the Himalayan state of India has strengthened my resolve and focused my efforts to significantly contribute to health system strengthening. This includes advocating for policies and initiatives that tackle social determinants of health and ensure equitable access to high-quality healthcare services for individuals with disabilities.

After graduating medicine in India I worked for three years as a clinician in the NHS, UK, before I made a decision to be a public health physician in India. I have over a decade of experience working with children with developmental disabilities in the Himalayan state of India, Uttarakhand. I hold a Master degree in global health from Karolinska Instituet in Stockholm as an Erasmus Scholar and a Master degree in Health Administration from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. I have been a Gates Scholar for the Executive Program in Global Health leadership at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, a Senior Atlantic Fellow in Global Health Equity at the George Washington University and an inaugural Women Lift Health India Fellow. I mentor young medical doctors and public health students and have served as a mentor with Global Health Mentorships, Canadian Society of International Health and the University of Global Health Equity, Rwanda. I have been the South Asia correspondent for International Health Policies blog and have written widely about gender, disability equity and women in leadership.

My experiences in clinical practice, public health, community health, and activism in India and Asia, along with being a long term HSG member familiar with the mission and goals drives my aspiration for a position on your board. My more recent global experience at Women in Global Health, affirms my belief in the importance of supporting female leadership, from low and middle income countries. My candidacy is underpinned by a passion for strengthening health systems and addressing global health challenges through effective governance, collaboration, and innovation.

These are some compelling reasons that make me a strong candidate to further the mission of Health Systems Global.

- Passionate advocate for strengthening health systems and addressing global health challenges, demonstrated through my work on disability and gender equity
- Commitment to promoting gender equity within health systems and ensuring inclusivity for all genders.
- Dedicated to advancing disability equity and integrating disability-inclusive practices into health policies and programs.

- Experienced in building movements and coalitions to drive positive change in global health.
- Skilled in fostering collaboration and partnerships across diverse stakeholders to achieve sustainable health outcomes.

If elected as a Board member of Health Systems Global, my commitment to enhancing the organization will be demonstrated through:

- Vision for Equity and Inclusion: I am committed to reinforcing equity and inclusion across all aspects of Health Systems Global's operations and initiatives. By integrating equity and inclusion into HSG's vision and strategic priorities, you can ensure that the organization not only leads by example but also drives systemic change towards more equitable and inclusive health systems globally.

- Collaborative Leadership Approach: My collaborative leadership style and experience at Women in Global Health will equip me to effectively engage with diverse stakeholders, including researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and community members. This collaborative approach is crucial for advancing the mission and impact of Health Systems Global.

- Increased Representation of Women in Senior Leadership: I am committed to promoting gender equity by advocating for increased representation of women in senior leadership positions within Health Systems Global. Foster an inclusive and supportive organizational culture that values diversity and promotes gender equality. Conduct regular diversity and inclusion training for all staff and leadership to raise awareness

- Advocacy for Persons with Neurodiversity: I will advocate for inclusivity by promoting the representation of persons with neurodiversity at the board level of Health Systems Global. Embracing neurodiversity brings unique insights and talents to the organization, fostering innovation and inclusivity across all initiatives.

- Mentorship as a Key Component: I will champion mentorship programs within Health Systems Global to nurture emerging leaders and practitioners in the field. Mentorship fosters professional growth, knowledge transfer, and diversity of perspectives, which are essential for the organization's vitality and sustainability.

I would also represent HSG’s vision and be an able ambassador for the region, advocate for gender transformative leadership in global health and all global affairs. I hope that together we may advance women’s empowerment, strengthening health systems and health security, and improving national and global economic growth.

In summary, my candidacy is rooted in a vision for mentorship, gender equity, and neurodiversity within Health Systems Global, supported by collaborative leadership and a commitment to equity and inclusion. These qualities will contribute significantly to the organization's mission of strengthening health systems globally.

Dr. Shubha Nagesh
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