

T17aP11 / Public Hospital Reforms in India, China and South East Asia: Consequences for Accountability and Governance

Topic : T17a / Sectorial Policy - Health

Chair : Rama Baru (Jawaharlal Nehru University)

Second Chair : YINGYAO CHEN (School of Public Health, Fudan University)

Third Chair : Madhurima Nundy (Institute of Chinese Studies)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

Over the last four decades most low and middle income countries in Asia have introduced a range of reforms in public health institutions, especially hospitals at the secondary and tertiary levels of care. The motivations for reforms in diverse socio-political contexts share some common features with the objective of rationalizing cost and improving efficiency and effectiveness of public hospitals. Some of these shared features include the introduction of user fees; contracting out and in of clinical and non clinical services; casualization of workers to include medical, paramedical and support staff; introduction of paying clinics; autonomisation of public hospitals leading to the redefinition of the 'public' in public hospitals.

The main objective of this panel is to invite papers that address the a) the motivation for reforms: fiscal and budgetary pressures prompting governments everywhere to search for ways to improve efficiency and rein in healthcare costs; b) the different ways of pursuing those goals by a mix of strategies and instruments (not just market principles); and c) the consequences of those reforms on hospital workers, patients, management and others.

A number of interesting questions that the papers could address are: (a) whether these reforms have given rise to multiple structures of authority within public hospitals? (b) What are the consequences of fragmentation of authority for the functioning of the hospital? (c) What does contracting in and out of services imply for governance and quality of services? (d) What are the implications of casualization of health workers for governance? (e) Who is responsible and accountable for these workers- the contracting agents or hospital administrators? (d) Is there a potential role conflict between permanent and casualised workers? (e) How do the differential working conditions and wages affect motivation and morale of workers? (f) How does this affect the organizational culture and behavior of health workers towards patients? (g) What are the challenges for governance in the context of fragmented roles, authority and power within a hospital? (h) What are the consequences of these reforms for patient care?

CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite papers that adopt a multi and interdisciplinary perspective that address the complexities involved in governing public hospitals that have introduced reforms. The papers submitted to the panel may be descriptive and /or analytical that discuss the process, content and experience of public hospital reforms in India, China and South East Asia. These papers could have a country focus or may adopt a comparative perspective between two or more countries of public hospital reforms. The papers must provide broadly a historical overview, content and process of reforms; the role of international agencies (if any) in furthering the reform agenda; restructuring of financing and structures for governance; innovations in regulations for the management of public-private partnerships in the hospital. The papers must reflect on the reform process and the challenges it poses for governance of the hospital. It should broadly address the following questions :

- What are the consequences of these reforms for accountability, quality, management and organizational culture?
- What are the implications of these reforms for patient care?
- How do users of hospitals perceive and experience these changes?
- What were the consequences of these reforms for equity of access?

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Session 1

Thursday, June 29th 08:15 to 10:15 (Block B 3 - Auditorium)

Discussants

Rama Baru (Jawaharlal Nehru University)

An Overview of Public Hospital Reform in China

Shanlian Hu (School of Public Health, Fudan University; Shanghai Health Development Research Center)

Evolving organisational structures in public hospitals in China: Implications for governance and equity in access

Madhurima Nundy (Institute of Chinese Studies)

Private Sector Solutions to Public Sector Problems: Critical Appraisal of Public Hospital Reforms in India

Altaf Virani (Monash University, Indonesia)

M Ramesh (LKY School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore)

Power of data in the governance of public hospitals in China: case of antibiotics control in Shanghai Municipality

Hai Lin (Shanghai Health Development Research Center)

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Session 2

Thursday, June 29th 10:30 to 12:30 (Block B 3 - Auditorium)

Discussants

YINGYAO CHEN (School of Public Health, Fudan University)

How Reforms are Reorienting Public Sector Hospitals in India

Bijoya Roy (CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT STUDIES)

The Bonus Scheme, Motivation Crowding-Out and Quality of the Doctor-Patient Encounters in Chinese Public Hospitals

Alex Jingwei He (The Education University of Hong Kong)

How patient welfare committees contribute to the governance of district hospitals in Odisha State, India

Bhuputra Panda (Public Health Foundation of India)

Kabir Sheikh (Public Health Foundation of India)

Harshad Thakur (Tata Institute of Social Sciences)

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Session 3

Thursday, June 29th 13:30 to 15:30 (Block B 3 - Auditorium)

Discussants

Madhurima Nundy (Institute of Chinese Studies)

Policy Pilots and Public Hospital Reform in China

Xun Wu (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)

Qian Jiwei (East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore)

Yifei Yan (University of Southampton)

Casualisation of Health workers and the erosion of trust in public hospitals in India

Rama Baru (Jawaharlal Nehru University)

'On-Contract' Healthcare Personnel in Government Services – Issues and Implications for patient care in India

Zafar Seemi (Jawaharlal Nehru University)

Free Medicines in Tamil Nadu: sustainable reforms and effective financial protection

Mukhopadhyay Indranil (School of Government and Public Policy, OP Jindal Global University)