

**Internship
at
India Health Action Trust,
Lucknow**

***By*
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The logo for IIHMR University, featuring a stylized 'i' in a square followed by the letters 'IIHMR' in a large, bold, serif font, and the word 'UNIVERSITY' in a smaller, sans-serif font to the right.
**The IIHMR University, Jaipur
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INTRODUCTION

Internship training is an integral part of the MBA (Hospital and Health Management) second year program, where we have to observe and learn the work culture of the organization. Also, it will be necessary to participate in various department/activities so that we get first hand exposure of the different departments and work done in the organisation and through which we can understand process of work and thereafter be able to involve in decision making.

I am appointed as District Nutrition Specialist, by India Health Action Trust UP-TSU at Barabanki District of Uttar Pradesh. The focus of the project is on reducing child and maternal mal-nourishment by providing quality interventions at community and facility level.

UP-TSU

It is a consortium of global health organizations who work together to support GoUP and NHM in improving the lives of women, children and their communities by improving state's planning and execution capacity to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and equity in health and development.

Objectives of TSU

- Support GoUP in improving the quality and quantity of frontline worker interactions at the community level and within households to drive the priority RMNCH+A behaviors
- Support GoUP in improving the quality of RMNCH+A services at facilities
- Support GoUP in improving strategies and systems required to deliver improved frontline worker capabilities and service delivery at primary care facilities
- Support GoUP in improving its capacity to fund, contract, regulate, mandate private providers.
- Support GoUP in improving the scale and quality of community accountability mechanisms.

Goals Of Internship

- (a) Understand the work pattern of India Health Action Trust, and its organizational structure.
- (b) Learn various managerial and administrative skills needed to work with a government system and to help in effective implementation of the assigned program (RMNCH+A Project) in the government setup to ensure the overall benefit of the community.

(c) Identify existing gaps in service delivery quality, logistics availability, data collection, analysis and implementation of assigned project (RMNCH+A Project) in the district and to propose probable solutions to them.

(d) Coordinate proper functioning of the assigned program (RMNCH+A)

About the Organization

The India Health Action Trust (IHAT) was established in 2003 to improve public health in India and abroad by extending proven techniques, insights and principles pivotal to the success of the University of Manitoba's and Karnataka Health Promotion Trust's projects. IHAT specializes in providing comprehensive technical assistance and training in programme planning and management. With emphasis on incorporating science in programme design and monitoring, it aims to maximize both efficacy and efficiency of interventions.

With the University of Manitoba's (UoM) Centre for Global Public Health, IHAT has assisted the national governments of Bhutan and Sri Lanka to initiate and scale up HIV prevention. IHAT manages the designated Technical Support Unit (TSU) for the Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society. It has provided technical assistance to government agencies in Maharashtra, Bihar, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Goa. IHAT has also received support from UNICEF and Save the Children India, for projects in Rajasthan to protect infants from HIV, to provide life skill education for adolescents, and to provide community outreach services to rural children.

The Government of Uttar Pradesh (GoUP) and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on December 13th 2012, the objectives of which are:

- To reduce maternal, neonatal and child morbidity and mortality, total fertility and improve key nutrition and health outcomes by scaling up existing and new innovative solutions through public and private sectors through techno-managerial support to the public health system to improve the reach, coverage and quality of essential primary health, immunization and nutrition services for children under five years and women of reproductive age especially pregnant women, newborns and children under five years – as per targets in the State Program Implementation Plan in the areas mentioned above;
- To improve agricultural productivity by improving indigenous state capacity to conduct research into critical areas and supportive innovations in extension;

- To enhance financial inclusion (e.g., by improving government to person payments through digitization); and
- To document and disseminate results and lessons to influence related health and nutrition programs within India and other developing countries.

Services provided by the Organization

IHAT provides technical support through various mechanisms:-

- At the National level, IHAT has been involved in Data Triangulation Project under the leadership of NACO. In this project, IHAT was primarily responsible for HIV data triangulation in the states of Karnataka and Maharashtra and provided technical support to Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH), Hyderabad, and Andhra Pradesh. The project was undertaken to enhance evidence-based programming and policy in dealing with the HIV epidemic. The project was initially implemented in selected states as a pilot. Learning's from these pilots have guided NACO to scale up the process in other states and encouraged an environment of evidence based planning.
- In pursuance of the MOC, BMGF has contracted the University of Manitoba (UoM)/India Health Action Trust (IHAT) to set up a Technical Support Unit (TSU) that will report to the Principal Secretary Health, Government of Uttar Pradesh in Lucknow. The TSU will have the support structures in select divisions, districts, and blocks to advice and support government structures (state/district/divisional level machinery, PHCs, sub-centers, and ICDS centers, etc.), frontline workers (FLW) and other service delivery points. The TSU's goal is to support the government to increase the efficiency, effectiveness and equity of the delivery of key RMNCH+A services to improve RMNCH+A outcomes in UP.
- Additionally in Karnataka, IHAT has continued to extend technical assistance to Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society through the Technical Support Unit (TSU) to support the scale up of quality Targeted Interventions(TIs) in the State and help it achieve the goals and objectives of NACP III.
- IHAT in collaboration with UoM and SIHFW initiated the State Training Resource Centre which was successful in ensuring standardized and high quality training of TIs as per NACP III operational guidelines. Besides this, IHAT, along with Centre for

Global Health, University of Manitoba provided technical support to South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries like Bhutan and Sri Lanka to help them initiate and scale up the HIV prevention programmes.

Field Visits undertaken

- Initially Community Health Centre and Primary Health Centre visits for the Monitoring Visit to accompany district team.
- Visits to facility to find existing practice for addressing Nutritional and maternal and child related issues.
- Visit to cluster meeting of ASHA and ANMs for discussing their current knowledge and practice to deal with Nutrition interventions.
- A visit to state headquarter to participate in induction training and participated in planning activities for the project implementation.
- Visits to the DPO office to meet DPO and DEOperators to get the status of and updation of Patients refer and discuss on quality issues of HMIS data at district Level.
- Field visits to the block to meet CDPO, and Data Entry Operators to get the status of updation and discuss on quality issues of HMIS data at Block Level.
- A visit to Zonal Review meeting at Barabanki.