

PRACTICUM REPORT

For the Partial Fulfillment of Course Requirements of the

Master of Public Health Program

Offered By

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

In Cooperation with IIHMR University

By

Abiral Nidhi

Cohort-4

2016-18

Under the Guidance of

Faculty Advisor

Dr. SD Gupta

Chairman

IIHMR University

Preceptor

Dr. PR Sodani

Acting President and Dean-Training

IIHMR University

Declaration by Faculty Advisor

To Whom It May Concern

This is to certify that *Abiral Nidhi*, student of Master of Public Health program offered by Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Baltimore in cooperation with IIHMR University, Jaipur has undergone Practicum Training under the guidance of ***Professor Dr. PR Sodani, Acting President and Dean (Training) at IIHMR University***, Jaipur as an intern from 12th of February 2018 to 21st of April 2018.

The candidate has efficaciously carried out the various duties and responsibilities expected of him during his Practicum Training. His approach has been sincere, scientific, analytical and innovative.

The Practicum Training is in fulfillment of the course requirements.

I wish him success in all his future endeavors.

Dr. SD Gupta

Chairman

IIHMR University, Jaipur

Declaration by Practicum Preceptor

To Whom It May Concern

This is to certify that **Abiral Nidhi**, student of Master of Public Health program offered by Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Baltimore in association with IIHMR University, Jaipur has undergone Practicum Training under my guidance at IIHMR University, Jaipur as an intern from 12th of February 2018 to 21st of April 2018.

His approach has been sincere, scientific, analytical and innovative. As an intern he was engaged in reviewing literature, analyzing data, presenting recommendations, generating review papers/reports, conducting policy analyses and designing policy analysis tools, involving in advocacy efforts for executive education at the University, whilst also providing other form of support as necessary.

The Practicum Training is in fulfillment of the course requirements.

I wish him success in all his future endeavors.

Dr. PR Sodani

Acting President and Dean (Training)

IIHMR University, Jaipur

Certificate by Scholar

To Whom It May Concern

This is to certify that the document titled *Practicum Report: Practicum Training at IIHMR University* submitted by me, **Abiral Nidhi**, enrollment number IIHMR-U/07/2016-2018/0015, under the supervision of my *Faculty Advisor* **Professor Dr. SD Gupta** and *Preceptor* **Professor Dr. PR Sodani** for the award of Master of Public Health carried out during 12th of February 2018 to 21st of April 2018 embodies my original work and has not formed the basis for the award of any degree, diploma, associateship, fellowship , titles in this or any other institute or similar institutions of higher learning.

Abiral Nidhi

MPH Cohort – 4

Certificate from the Organization

INSTITUTE OF HEALTH
MANAGEMENT RESEARCH

(WHO Collaborating Centre for District Health System Based on Primary Health Care)

IIHMR UNIVERSITY

To Whom It May Concern

This is to certify that **Abiral Nidhi**, student of Master of Public Health program offered by Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Baltimore in association with IIHMR University, Jaipur has undergone Practicum Training at IIHMR University, Jaipur as an intern from 12th of February 2018 to 21st of April 2018. Dr. Nidhi has successfully completed more than four hundred (400) hours of practicum training here. His approach has been sincere, scientific, analytical and innovative.

Dr. Nidhi has successfully carried out the training and fulfilled the tasks designated to him during the practicum training and his work exceeded satisfaction. This practicum training is in fulfillment of the course requirements of the MPPII Program.

I wish him success in all his future endeavors.



Dr. PR Sodani
Acting President and Dean Training
IIHMR University, Jaipur

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Student Profile

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Practicum Details

Mentor and Organization Information

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Practicum Title

Practicum Training at IIHMR University, Jaipur

Practicum Goals and Objective

Goal

To demonstrate at the workplace the *Core Competencies of Public Health Workers*

Objectives

To demonstrate learning and application in:

1. ***Analytics/Assessment Skills*** by obtaining and interpreting data to identify public health issues.
2. ***Policy Development/ Program Planning Skills*** by obtaining policy information, developing tools to analyze policy documents and analyzing the various aspects of policy process to produce recommendations for improvements.
3. ***Communication and Management Skills*** by developing communication strategies, exhibiting effective communication with stakeholders, utilization of different medium for communication, and employ advocacy skills.
4. ***Cultural Competency*** by regular interaction with people from diverse communities to identify strategies to utilize with utmost respect for their cultural values, in improving public health practice.
5. ***Community Dimensions of Practice Skills*** by creating connections with key stakeholders and identifying the role of government in health promotion.
6. ***Public Health Sciences Skills*** by applying methods of social sciences, epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental health, infection control and chronic disease prevention.
7. ***Financial Planning Skills*** by developing a program budget and applying information technology skills at the workplace.
8. ***Leadership and Systems Thinking Skills*** by describing how public health operates within a larger system, demonstrating how the political system can effect change, and creating connections and collaborating with key stakeholders to promote health.

Important Dates

Start Date: *12th of February 2018*

Mid-Point Submission Date: *30th of March 2018*

End Date: *21st of April 2018*

Total Practicum Hours: 450+ hours

IIHMR University

IIHMR University, Jaipur is a leading institution in India engaged in academics, research and training in the realms of public health, health and hospital administration, pharmaceutical management and rural development. The institute pioneered health management and is dubbed as an 'Institute of Excellence' by the Government of India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Practicum Experience

Analytics/Assessment

As an intern I was assigned to perform a literature review and report with the latest developments in Vaccine Economics in the WHO-SEARO Region with details and deliberations of the current immunization programs with special focus on program costs incurred by governments and organizations. This was in reference to advocating quality management techniques for executive health professionals currently involved in vaccination programs. It was essential to obtain and analyze the data on vaccine preventable diseases and compare it with the health system status of the countries in the SEARO region. Vaccine-preventable diseases is a major cause of DALYs lost in the WHO-SEARO region. The report echoed the conclusion of many published literature that established excessive administrative costs was crippling the effectiveness of some vaccine programmes in developing countries, despite the availability of vaccine technology and human resource. I also practiced my skills in using tools such as UNIVAC for vaccine impact and cost-effectiveness analysis and cMYP for Costing and Financing which are based on the MS Excel platform.

Policy Development/ Program Planning

Associated with a PhD candidate to study the health policy process in India, I was entrusted to review all the iterations of the National Health Policy and develop two policy analysis tools. These tools were based on theories and current models of policy making with specific focus on health policy. The first tool was a comprehensive checklist for the investigator to study the policy document and assess its appropriateness in the following capacities: Legitimacy and Document Control, Structure and Layout, Language, Policy Background, Accessibility, Acceptability, Resources, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation. The second tool was a comprehensive checklist for the professionals (*central*: parliamentarians, ministers, bureaucrats; *state*: parliamentarians, ministers, bureaucrats, program managers; and *district*: health officers, program officers, etc.) involved in health policy-making that the investigator was tasked to interview. The checklist assessed the policy process in 4 broad categories: Agenda building and Policy-Making, Planning, Implementation and, Monitoring and Evaluation with themes of problem representation, robustness of evidence, organizational mechanisms, politics and public perception, economy, human resources, religion, technology, industry collaborations, law and ethics.

Communication and Management

For the advocacy of Executive Education efforts at the university, I was tasked to develop a print design for a brochure. The design brief was to highlight its history and significant efforts in health promotion. To design the brochure a four-member team that included Dr. Sodani, himself, was structured. Several meetings with key stakeholders were initiated to develop a framework that identified the basic minimum information to be included in the brochure. Further, the team communicated through group meetings, instant messaging, phone calls and emails. The brochure incorporated the use of design theory that dictated the color, font size and alignment, amount of information and selection of pictures to effectively communicate the purpose of the brochure. I was tasked to design the brochure based on the inputs of the team using the Adobe InDesign software. Data from the past 15 years were used to generate information that highlighted the effectiveness of these education programs. The drafts were reviewed by the team and other members where multiple iterations were developed before publishing to ensure everyone in the university derives ownership of the final document.

Cultural Competency

To be effective in the workplace, it is important to respect and be aware of the cultural contexts of each colleague. This is reciprocated by others and avoids unnecessary conflicts while at the same time promotes collaboration between professionals to achieve a common goal. IIHMR University, Jaipur hosts health professionals from across 38 different nations of the world. The duration of the internship enabled me to meet and work with professionals from various states of India as well as develop stimulating relations with colleagues from Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Canada. They adhered to different religious, cultural and political beliefs than my own but shared the same zeal to solve public health problems and improve the health of all. Rousing discussions with these colleagues helped me view public health problems from a perspective which revealed unique challenges and solutions. For example, whilst participating in the Training Program on Hospital Management for Senior Health Executives of Afghanistan, Brigadier (Retd.) Dr. SK Puri revealed a unique practice of building prayer rooms near the Emergency Room to persuade relatives of patients against resorting to violence when dissatisfied by the level of care or in the unfortunate incident a patient's life is lost. Violence against doctors is serious and is a rising trend in the SEARO region, especially India.

Community Dimensions of Practice

The mentor encouraged connecting with eminent faculty that belong to the School for Health and Hospital Management, School of Developmental Studies and School of Pharmaceutical Management under the university. Further they helped in connecting me with experts from various states and nations working with governmental and non-governmental health programs ranging from immunization, non-communicable diseases, nutrition, health economics and health systems strengthening, etc. I experienced and have come to respect the sheer power of good networking with government officers as well as stakeholders that do not necessarily belong to the health domain, in aligning resources for the effective implementation of various health programs.

Public Health Sciences

Whilst developing the policy analysis tools a review of different policy process theories was due. This involved searching for literature on policy-making and policy-analysis. PubMed and Google Scholar data repositories were used with combinations of the key words, 'health', 'policy', 'analysis' and 'models'. Only articles from high impact journals were reviewed. Additionally, the election manifesto of national political parties, parliamentary acts, and study modules from

eminent schools of political sciences made available for free were studied. All of these papers were assessed for robustness of evidence using review tools that determined the context of their approach, biases and confounders in their methodology, and generalizability of their conclusions. After consultation with experts two tools were developed. As part of the executive education program on Hospital Management for Senior Executives from Afghanistan, the managerial aspects of SMS Hospital and Fortis Hospital in New Delhi were assessed to identify areas for quality improvement in the Out-Patient Services, Emergency Room, Administration, and other sections.

Financial Planning

The Executive Education team was tasked to develop budgets for two open enrollment programs. I was asked to review and suggest changes to the budget items for the two 5-day programs and build competency in using Microsoft Excel. Other programs to develop a budget document (MS Word) and present the budget (MS PowerPoint) were used. The team communicated using emails, instant messaging, phone calls and group meetings. Further, I was tasked to perform a review focusing on vaccine program costs in the WHO-SEARO region and develop a report.

Leadership and Systems Thinking

Like any health institute IIHMR University depends upon its various systems and sub-systems at work to effectively contribute in improving the health status of people. I belonged to a small team that worked under the guidance of the Dr. Sodani to assist him in the capacity of the Pro-President, the Dean-Training, Professor of Health Economics and as Principle Investigator of multiple health programs which meant traversing with various protocols and channels within the university and without. He has allowed me enough space to practice my skills in research, advocacy, and administration to share with them the vision I have for the task at hand and convince them to collaborate. Responsibilities and expectations were raised as I learned to manage time better. In addition, to better understand leadership and capacity building in health organization I was tasked with studying the unique and admired Professional Development Courses in Management, Public Health and Health Sector Reforms supported by the MOHFW, Govt. of India, developed and organized by the IIHMR University for the District Medical Officers of Rajasthan. This was followed by discussions on health policies and programs with respect to benchmarks set by the WHO with conjunction to the ground realities of Indian governance, economy and society. I was given the opportunity to attend a certified training on Logistic Management of Vaccines with Special Focus on Strengthening Cold Chains.

Conclusion

The Practicum experience at IIHMR University allowed me to employ in the workplace skills learned in the MPH program. I was engaged with the mission of the university to improve the standards of health by associating myself with research, advocacy, health programs and administration. I was a part of a competent and hard-working team under the guidance of Dr. PR Sodani who used every available resource proficiently. I put into practice people skills and honed my ability to communicate ideas through various media. I was allowed to contribute my opinions towards significant policy processes. I had the opportunity to improve my skills with advanced software for data analysis, design and communication.

I would like to thank my preceptor Dr. PR Sodani for this opportunity and his patience with me.

I would like to thank my faculty advisor Dr. SD Gupta for his valuable time and suggestions.

I would also like to thank all the faculty, research officers and everybody else at IIHMR University for this wonderful experience.