

Internship Report

Dissertation Location: Pune, Maharashtra, India

University Mentor: Dr. Akshay Kumar Mishra, Associate Professor, IIHMR University, Jaipur.

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Introduction

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a growing global health concern that undermines the effectiveness of antibiotics, making once-treatable infections increasingly difficult and expensive to manage. The World Health Organization (WHO) recognizes AMR as a top public health threat due to its potential to reverse decades of medical progress. Inappropriate antibiotic use—such as self-medication, incomplete dosing, and unnecessary prescriptions—has accelerated the development of resistant bacteria.

India, as one of the world's largest antibiotic consumers, faces a critical AMR burden. Factors such as over-the-counter antibiotic availability, lack of public awareness, and weak regulatory enforcement contribute significantly to the problem. The National Action Plan on AMR by the Government of India highlights the urgent need for education, stewardship, and community engagement.

This study aims to assess the knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) regarding antibiotic use and resistance among the general public in Pune, Maharashtra. By identifying public misconceptions, behaviors, and information sources, the research seeks to inform strategies that can enhance awareness and promote rational antibiotic use at the community level. Understanding the public's role in AMR containment is essential for designing effective interventions that align with global and national efforts to combat resistance.

Objectives of Internship

1. The main goal of this research is to play a part in the global and national fight against antimicrobial resistance by shedding light on community-level factors in Pune.
2. To evaluate how much the public knows, thinks, and acts regarding antimicrobial resistance in Pune and other regions of India.
3. To pinpoint where the general public in Pune typically gets their antibiotics.
4. To examine how antibiotics are misused, including issues like self-medication and not following medication guidelines.
5. To explore the connection between the public's understanding of AMR and their antibiotic usage habits.

Organizational Profile

IIHMR University, Jaipur

IIHMR University, Jaipur, established in 1984, is a premier institution in India dedicated to research, education, and training in the fields of public health, hospital management, pharmaceutical management, and health economics. Recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and accredited by NAAC, IIHMR is a WHO collaborating center for health systems research and capacity building. The university has consistently contributed to shaping India's healthcare landscape by producing competent healthcare professionals and advancing health policy and management research.

Mission and Vision

Mission

To improve health standards through better management of healthcare and related programs by conducting research, training, education, and capacity-building.

Vision

To become a world-class higher education institution by promoting education, research, and training in health management, and to strengthen health systems through leadership and innovation.

Core Values

Academic Excellence: Commitment to high standards in education, training, and research.

Integrity: Upholding transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct in all academic and operational affairs.

Social Responsibility: Serving the public good and addressing contemporary health challenges through applied research.

Collaboration: Engaging with national and international partners to strengthen health systems and policy.

Innovation and Impact: Encouraging novel thinking and practical solutions for public health challenges.

Campus and Infrastructure

Located in the culturally rich city of Jaipur, Rajasthan, IIHMR University boasts a modern, green, and fully Wi-Fi enabled campus. Facilities include:

Smart classrooms and digital learning platforms

A comprehensive library with access to global databases (PubMed, Scopus, JSTOR)

Fully equipped computer labs and statistical software tools (SPSS, STATA, NVivo)

Residential hostels and a student activity center

On-campus healthcare services and recreational amenities

Academic Programs

IIHMR University offers interdisciplinary postgraduate and doctoral programs:

MBA in Hospital and Health Management

MBA in Pharmaceutical Management

MBA in Development Management

MPH (in collaboration with Johns Hopkins University, USA)

PhD in Health and Hospital Management

Research and Outreach

IIHMR University is renowned for its operational and policy research in public health, healthcare quality, health financing, reproductive health, and antimicrobial resistance. The university collaborates with WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), and other global organizations. Numerous projects have informed national health policies and improved service delivery mechanisms.

Internship and Dissertation Learning

As part of the dissertation project, students engage in real-time field research, like the current study on Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices Regarding Antimicrobial Resistance in the General Public in Pune. The university facilitates rigorous academic guidance, access to analytical tools, and fieldwork supervision to enhance learning outcomes.