

Curriculum Vitae of Amitabha Sarkar

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Personal Information

Sex: Male
Passport: Yes
Indian Nation-state
Profound user: Bengali, English and Hindi
Basic user: Assamese, Odia, Spanish, French,
German and Nepali

Education

- PhD (2013 – 2020) in **Public Health** at the Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, Scholl of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. (*awarded on the 18 November 2020*)

Thesis title - **“World Bank’s Aid in Health System Strengthening in India: A Policy Analysis”**

Committee-

Supervisors: Professor Mohan Rao and Professor Rama Baru

Third Member: Professor Ramila Bisht

Examinees:

(1) Professor K Srinath Reddy (President of the Public Health Foundation of India)

(2) Professor Raman Kutty (*Professor Emeritus* at the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology in Kerala, India)

- Post Graduation (2005 – 2007) in **Public System Management** (specialisation in Health care & Hospital Management) from Indian Institute of Social Welfare & Business Management (IISWBM), Calcutta, India.
- B.Sc. (2002 – 2005) in **Bio-Science** from Scottish Church College, University of Calcutta, India

ORCID ID: 0000-0002-8009-2739

Currently associated with Transnational Institute (TNI)

Experience	
Health Information System Researcher (1 May 2021 – 31 August 2021)	Research consortium of Jawaharlal Nehru University-Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Science and Technology-University of Oslo- Health Information Systems Programmes (HISP) Project: Studying digital health and the relationship of citizen and state in Information Communication and Technology (ICT) interventions.

China – India Visiting Scholar (1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021)	Department of Global Health, School of Public Health, Peking University Project: Carried out research on the topic of ‘Public Health Preparedness and Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic in South Asia’.
Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant (September 2015 – March 2018)	Plan International Project: Managed the M&E system of a Gender-based Violence (GBV) project namely ‘Girls Aspiration for Rights and Values’ (GARV) to address the pre and post birth discrimination against girl children under the support of European Commission.
Visiting Fellow (November 2016 – May 2017)	ISEC (Institute for Social and Economic Change), Bangalore, India Research topic: Two Decades of the World Bank Aid in Karnataka : A Case Study of Health System Strengthening Policy Implementation.
Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, (December 2010 - July 2013)	Solidarity and Action Against The HIV Infection in India (SAATHII) Project: Responsible for Project “ <i>Pehchan</i> (Identity): MSM (Male Sex with Male), Transgender (TG) and <i>Hijra</i> (Eunuch) Community Systems Strengthening” in India (National Health Program under ODA) under the aegis of Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), Round: 9 phase. Ensure Global Fund’s Performance Based Funding (PBF) mechanism and manage fund life cycle.
Monitoring Officer- Health (December 2009 – November 2010)	The Hope Foundation Project: Responsible for six different projects, namely Primary Health Care - for the urban slum community under the aegis of Irish-Aid, Hospice for HIV/AIDS Infected/Affected People, Emergency Response Unit, Rehabilitation Home for the Drug Addict Children, Rehabilitation Centre for the Orthopedically Disabled Children and Children Hospital.
Project Associate (August 2008 - October 2009)	Indian Institute of Bio-Social Research & Development (IBRAD) Project: Executed a pilot project under the aegis of Dept. of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of West Bengal in ‘ Community Managed Health System ’ concept.
Internship	
Trainee (April - July 2007)	GTZ-HSS (German Technical Cooperation), West Bengal Project: Exploratory Research on ‘ Assessment & Analysis of Cesarean Delivery : A Case Study of Bardhaman District, West Bengal’, a study sponsored by GTZ-HSS in collaboration with Govt. of West Bengal
Trainee (March - April 2007)	HOSMAC India Project: Conducting Pilot survey as a trainee and preparing Detailed Project Report for hospitals in South Bengal, India

Publications

- *Forthcoming*: Health Seeking Behaviour and Experience of the Lockdown among the Indian Urban Middle Class in Early Phase of the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Survey across Ten Cities in the Hindu Centre for Politics and Public Policy (on behalf of the Holistic Health Systems Network)
- Article entitled ‘Public Health Preparedness and Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic in South Asia: A Situation and Policy Analysis’, published in *Global Health* journal (Volume 4, Issue 4, December 2020) (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.glohj.2020.11.003>)
- Three-article series, on behalf of the JNU PHC Version 2.0 Study Group, on the theme of ‘Primary Health Care to Strengthen Health System’, published in *Medico Friend Circle Bulletin* (Vol. 380, February 2019) (<http://www.mfcindia.org/mfcpdfs/MFC380.pdf>)
 - The Alma Ata Declaration and Elements for a PHC 2.0 (*as fourth author*)
 - Some Thoughts on Health for All: The rationale for engaging with the politics of knowledge (*as third author*)
 - Towards Re-Framing Operational Design for HFA 2.0: Factoring in Politics of Knowledge in Health Systems (*as third author*)
- Research Report entitled “Two Decades of World Bank Aid in Karnataka: A Case Study of Health System Strengthening Policy Implementation” (February 2019). Submitted to Institute for Social and Economic Change, Karnataka, India.
- Working paper entitled “World Bank’s Reformed Model of Development in Karnataka”, published in Institute for Social and Economic Change (Working paper No. 408, April 2018) (<http://www.isec.ac.in/WP%20408%20-%20Amitabha%20Sarkar%20-%20Final.pdf>)
- Article entitled ‘filling and refilling – the melancholy of malaria since independence in India’, published in *Journal of the Indian Medical Association* (Vol. – 115, No. 6, June 2017, ISSN: 0019-5847) (*as first author*)
- Commentary entitled ‘Methodological Critique from an Epidemiological Perspective on ‘Transitions in Health Financing and Policies for Universal Health Coverage’, published in *Indian Journal of Hygiene and Public Health* (Vol. - 2, December 2016, ISSN: 2455-1813), by All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health. (http://www.ijhph.co.in/current_issue/Dec2016/PDF/Commentary.pdf)
- Article abstract entitled 'The World Bank and health systems strengthening: experiences from four Indian states', published in *BMJ Global Health* (vol. 1 no. Suppl 1 A30-A31), (DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2016-EHPAbstracts.40> published on July 7, 2016)
- Paper entitled ‘Understanding Hunger and Mortality through Social Epidemiology’, published in *Medical Anthropology and Bioethics* (Vol. - 2, Issue - 12, 2016, ISSN 2224-9680). (In English: http://www.medanthro.ru/?page_id=2885&lang=en ; in Russian: http://www.medanthro.ru/?page_id=2885)

- Paper entitled ‘Socio-cultural Dimensions of Health Seeking Behaviour- A Community Perspective’, published in SURVEY (Vol.-55, June, 2015), by Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management (ISSN 0586-0008). (*as first author*)
- Paper entitled ‘Community Managed Health System - an experience of success from South West Bengal’, Published in Journal of Social Work and Social Development (Vol.-2, Issue-1, June, 2011), by Department of Social Work, Visva Bharati University (ISSN 2229-6468). (*as second author*)
- Paper entitled ‘Assessment & Analysis of Cesarean Delivery: A Case Study of Bardhaman District, West Bengal’, published in SURVEY (Vol.-48, Nov, 2008), by Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management (ISSN 0586-0008).

Op-Eds

- Immunity is liberty: Vaccine internationalism during a pandemic, TNI (Transnational Institute) long read, June 16, 2021 (<https://longreads.tni.org/immunity-is-liberty-vaccine-internationalism-during-a-pandemic>)
- In Bengali: চিকিৎসা হাতের কাছে এলে আতঙ্কও কমবে (Advisory on emergency planning and long-term goal to combat COVID-19 in West Bengal, India), Ei Samay, 7 May, 2021 (co authored)(https://www.epaper.eisamay.com/imageview_2532_69753_4_1_07-05-2021_8_i_1_sf.html)
- In Bengali: জনস্বাস্থ্য ছাড়া জননীতি হয় না (There is no public policy without public health), Anandabazar Patrika, April 29, 2021 (<https://www.anandabazar.com/editorial/essays/essay-india-will-never-win-against-corona-virus-without-the-coordination-of-central-and-state-governments/cid/1278397>)
- An unhealthy health budget, The Telegraph, February 23, 2021 (<https://www.telegraphindia.com/opinion/an-unhealthy-health-union-budget-2021-22/cid/1807531>)
- My struggle with COVID-19, The Indian Express, 24 July, 2020 (<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/my-struggle-with-covid-19-6520333/>)
- In Bengali: যত বেশি টেস্ট, ততই বাড়বে রোগমুক্তির আশা (epidemic preparedness and response management on COVID-19), Ei Samay, 6 April, 2020 (<https://eisamay.indiatimes.com/editorial/post-editorial/post-editorial-on-coronavirus/articleshow/75003852.cms>)
- In Bengali: কামান দেগে মশা মরে না কেন (Why mosquitoes won't die by mosquito fogging machine on Dengue endemic), Anandabazar Patrika, 16 December, 2019 (<https://www.anandabazar.com/editorial/why-mosquitoes-won-t-die-by-mosquito-fogging-machine-1.1083005>)
- In Bengali: স্বাস্থ্যনীতির চিকিৎসা চাই (on India's Health Budget of 2019 – 20), Anandabazar Patrika, March 12, 2019

<https://www.anandabazar.com/editorial/ayushman-bharat-scheme-may-actually-a-step-for-privatization-of-health-policies-1.965233>)

- People over Profit: National Health Assembly, Deccan Herald, October 23, 2018 (<https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/main-article/people-over-profit-699470.html>)
- Wealth is not health (on the distinctions between Alma-Ata and Ayushman Bharat), The Telegraph, October 1, 2018 (<https://www.telegraphindia.com/opinion/spot-the-changes/cid/1670610>)
- In Bengali: জনস্বাস্থ্য হোক রাজনৈতিক প্রশ্ন (Public Health should be of political question), Anandabazar Patrika, September 15, 2018 (co-authored)(<https://www.anandabazar.com/editorial/public-health-should-be-of-political-question-1.864426?ref=archive-new-stry>)
- Regulating Private Healthcare: What should Karnataka do?, Deccan Herald, June 6, 2017 (<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/615657/regulating-private-healthcare-should-ktaka.html>)
- In Bengali: সদিচ্ছার প্রশ্ন, মতাদর্শের নয় (Health services provision is the matter of willingness, not ideology), Anandabazar Patrika, March 29, 2017 (<http://www.anandabazar.com/editorial/health-services-provision-is-the-matter-of-willingness-not-ideology-1.587980?ref=editorial-new-stry>)
- Health first (on the National Health Policy 2017), The Telegraph, March 23, 2017 (https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170323/jsp/opinion/story_142067.jsp#.WNdcLGf-tLN)
- Demonetisation logic not in sync with implementation plan, Deccan Herald, December 6, 2016 (<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/585022/demonetisation-logic-not-sync-implementation.html>)

Blogs

- *Can a global 'vaccine citizenship' help us move toward an inclusive pandemic-free space?*, Bliss (blog of the International Institute of Social Studies on global development and social justice), 15 July 2021 (<https://www.iss.nl/en/news/can-global-vaccine-citizenship-help-us-move-toward-inclusive-pandemic-free-space>)
- In Bengali: বঙ্গনাকে জয়ের নাম ইস্টবেঙ্গল (Historical importance of East Bengal club and football in the context of Bengal partition, nationalism, refugee crises, and cultural evolution in pre and post-independence India), Guruchandali, 1 August 2020 (<https://www.guruchandali.com/comment.php?topic=18213>)
- In Bengali: করোনা কিন্তু সরকার ও সমাজেরও পরীক্ষা (Generating public debate on COVID-19 testing issue in West Bengal, India), Guruchandali, 31 May 2020 (<https://www.guruchandali.com/comment.php?topic=17651>)

Presentations

- Oral presentation entitled '**World Bank's Method of Development Finance: A Case Study from Indian State of Karnataka**', presented in the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI) and the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) General Conference 2021 (July 5 – 8, 2021) at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in Hague, Netherlands (originally scheduled for July 2020, but postponed due to pandemic).
- Oral presentation entitled '**Realist Evaluation's Framework for Health Systems Strengthening**', presented in the International Realist Conference 2021 (February 16 – 18, 2021) in Dublin, Ireland (originally scheduled for March 2020, but postponed due to pandemic).
- Oral presentation entitled '**Can the euphoria of strategic purchase be the panacea for fragile health system?**', presented in the Eight Annual Conference of Indian Health Economics and Planning Association (IHEPA) (January 23 -24, 2020) at the National Institute of Science Education and Research in Bhubaneswar, India on January 24, 2020.
- Oral presentation entitled '**International Health Governance Revisited: World Bank in the Age of Global Health Governance**', presented in the intentional workshop on 'The Contested Authority of International Institutions in Global health: National De-Couplings, Regional Stumbling Blocks and International Collisions' (November 13 – 14, 2019) at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg, Germany on November 13, 2019.
- Oral presentation entitled '**PhD Dissemination Seminar on the topic of World Bank's Aid in India's Health System Strengthening: A Policy Analysis**', organised by the National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC), Government of India, (June 7, 2019) at the campus of National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIH&FW), New Delhi.
- Oral presentation entitled '**PHC, UHC and the Politics of Knowledge – factoring in epistemological pluralism as an ethical imperative**' in the Workshop on Politics of Knowledge, presented at the '14th World Congress of Bio-Ethics & 7th National Bio-Ethics Conference', (5 – 7 December 2018) at Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Oral presentation entitled '**Two Decades of the World Bank Aid in Karnataka: A Case Study of Health System Strengthening Policy Implementation**', presented at the 'Project Dissemination Seminar of SRTT ISEC Visiting Fellowship Program' at Bengaluru, Karnataka, India on May 9, 2017.
- Oral presentation entitled '**The World Bank and health systems strengthening: experiences from four Indian states**', presented at the 'Third National Conference on bringing Evidence into Public Health Policy (EPHP)' (July 7 - 9, 2016) at Bengaluru, Karnataka, India on July 9, 2016.
- Oral presentation entitled '**Determinants of Health System and Health Service System: An Empirical Exercise to Compare the Health Status between UK, USA, China and India**', presented at the international conference on 'International

Conference on Social Issues and Social Work: Public and Private' (January 29, 2016) at Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management (Calcutta, India) on January 29, 2016.

- Oral presentation entitled '**Association between Hunger and Mortality: A Social Epidemiology Perspective**', presented at the 'International Interdisciplinary Scientific and Practical Symposium- Medical Anthropology: Issues, Methods and Research Field' (June 28 - 30, 2015) at the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow, Russian Federation).
- Oral presentation entitled '**Prescription of Global Governance: Innovative Medicine for Global South- Universal Health Coverage**', presented at the international conference on 'Social Sciences and Medical Innovations: Doing Things Together' (May 21 – 23, 2015) at Tomsk State University (Tomsk, Russian Federation) on 22nd May 2015
- Poster presentation entitled '**The Dream of UHC under the Reality of Global Governance for Health**', presented at International Symposium on 'Global Governance and Health' (September 7- 9, 2014) at Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi, India).

Awards

- China – India Visiting Scholar Fellowship for the year of 2020-2021 by the International Foundation for Research and Education, Ashoka University.
- Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) Fellow for PhD Research from January 2019 to June 2019.
- Visiting Fellowship (November 2016 to May 2017) award from the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bangalore, India to conduct an evaluation study on the World Bank's health system projects (1996 – 2017) in Karnataka, India.
- International Travel Grant from CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research), Govt. of India to visit Russia for presenting paper at the international conference on 'Social Sciences and Medical Innovations: Doing Things Together' at Tomsk State University, Russian Federation in 2015.
- University Grant Commission (UGC), Government of India Fellowship for PhD Research from August 2013 to July 2018.

Membership

- Life member of Indian Public Health Association (IFPHA)
- Member of Health Systems Global
- Associate with the Transnational Institute (TNI)