

Report: - on Eight Annual Conference of Indian Health Economics and Planning Association (IHEPA) on Social Determinants of Health, January 23-24, 2020, National Institute of Science Education and Research Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India.

The eight Annual conference of Indian Health Economics and Planning Association (IHEPA) held a conference with a theme of “social Determinants of Health” on January 23-24, 2020 at National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India. The conference presidential remarks were made by sir Micheal Marmot from Institute of Health Equity, University College, London.

The conference was designed to cover different topic areas mainly: social determinants of health, health equity, insurance, communicable and non-communicable issues and global health. The conference was composed of invited speakers, panel discussion and oral research presentations. The invited speakers talks on social justice and health equity. In his talk, he said taking action to reduce health inequalities is a matter of social justices. In addressing health inequalities, we need to address the social gradient in health not only the worse-off and other groups. In addition, he mentioned even if economic factors were important, but they are not the only drivers of inequality in health. He concludes his talk by saying taking action to tackle the health gap based on sound evidence across the whole society is required.

In this conference more than 70 paper with a variety of health topics were presented as oral presentation for 15 minutes followed by questions and answers from participants and moderator of the session. The paper presented are academically rigorous, and has equipped me to draw knowledge and skills from a variety of disciplines to define, critically assess and resolve broad spectrum of public health problems and issues that I encounter in my professional career. In this conference, I also made a presentation on one of my PhD paper entitled “Health gains and financial risk protection afforded by public financing of selected malaria interventions in Ethiopia: an extended cost-effectiveness analysis”. This had made an experience to share my findings and receive feedback from participants. Our paper presented in this conference was selected as one of the best paper award of the year in this conference.

In addition to creating an opportunity for me to interact and share ideas at conference period, the informal learning with interaction of participants from different countries, networking, and culture were substantial.

In summary, the two days scientific conference encourages and facilitates for the exchange and sharing of knowledge, ideas and experience among researchers, decision makers and practitioners working on health sector to contribute towards a more equitable and efficient health care system. Overall, the conference was deemed to meet my objectives.

