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Capacity Building for a Better Future

**IRB MEETING**  
**27 AUGUST, 2024**

**International Institute for Population Sciences**  
**Mumbai 400088**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**



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A meeting of IIPS-IRB was held on 27 August 2024, from 2.00-6.00 pm, under the chairmanship of Prof DP Singh. The committee discussed the ethical issues of three research proposals, as well as IIPS IRB SOP-related matters.

Sr. No.	Name of the project	Presenter	Presentation Time	Discussion Time
1	External Evaluation of Health Management Information System (HMIS) Odisha	Dr Manas R Pradhan	2.15-2.30	2.30-3.00
2	Evaluation of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Schemes in Haryana State	Dr Goli Srinivasan	3.00-3.15	3.15-3.45
3	Exploring Young Men's Knowledge and Perspectives towards Menstrual Health in Madhya Pradesh-A Mixed-Method Study: AWP Study (2023-24) PRC, Sagar	Dr. Reena Basu	3.45-4.00	4.00-4.30

The following members of IIPS-IRB attended the online meeting and participated in the discussion:

Prof. DP Singh Chairperson

Prof A.K. Roy- Member

Prof. Aparajita Chattopadhyay Convener

Prof. Gajanan Velhal - Member

Dr. Lalita Savardekar - Member

Dr. S Das – Member

The meeting started at 2.15 pm. The convener and the chairperson welcomed all members and mentioned that revised IRB forms and SOP will be discussed after these proposal presentations.

The first presentation was on: External Evaluation of Health Management Information System (HMIS) Odisha.

The overall objective of the study is to

1. To assess the data quality of selected RCH HMIS indicators
2. To identify facilitators, barriers, and challenges associated with HMIS data
3. To come up with transferable solutions to improve HMIS data quality in the future

The presenter mentioned that as discussed in the preparatory meetings and suggestions of the NIIM, Odisha authorities, the following four domains are selected for evaluation.

1. ANC Services
2. Delivery care
3. Post-natal care
4. Child Immunization

The suggestions by the IRB board given on this project are as follows:

- Specific criteria be established to evaluate data completeness, such as adequacy of the data and consistency.
- A detailed procedure for cleaning the data was emphasized to check inconsistencies or outliers.
- Revalidate with HMIS portal is suggested. Regular feedback loops should be established to address any discrepancies.
- To check the accuracy of data, the backchecking mechanism, if any, can be applied meticulously. These checks, if done, could be a strong research contribution towards improving the data.
- existing guidelines for assessing the accuracy of the data, any possibility of doing auditing?
- Monitoring the progress of the 28 health indicators coverage was considered essential.

**The IIPS IRB approves the project** with the suggestion of maintaining neutrality while conducting this important research. **PI is requested to provide a short reply to the above points**

The second project, Evaluation of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Schemes in Haryana State, is framed in the context of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative that was launched in 2015 in Haryana to promote gender equality, female education, and the welfare of girls. This evaluation seeks to examine the overall implementation and impact of the BBBP programs in Haryana, focusing specifically on four key schemes/issues: Aapki Beti Hamari Beti (ABHB) scheme, improvements in the Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB), enforcement of the PCPNDT Act, and the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSY). Specific objectives of the project are:

1. To examine the design and execution of the ABHB scheme, parental perceptions and attitudes in investing in girl children, and identify the bottlenecks in implementing the programme.

2. To examine the recent changes in the sex ratio at birth (SRB) and sex ratio of children in the state.
3. To assess the impact of enforcement of the PCPNDT Act and the resulting changes in SRB.
4. To review the implementation and effectiveness of the SSY in securing the future of girl children in Haryana.

IRB board experts made the following comments;

- Some of the words used loosely in this project proposal are impact, enforcement, design, effectiveness, reviewing the implementation process, etc. Researchers cannot use such heavy terms if they are not deeply measuring these concepts or not getting views in length from beneficiaries and providers equally to make a generalized conclusion.
- The PCPNDT act has multiple domains- research is not going deeper into these domains. It is better to be very specific regarding indicators that the study would assess.
- A question was posed on Sukanya Sumriddhi Yojana's data provision: How can coverage of that scheme be assessed? This is a central scheme. Whether the State govt. Has permission been given to make use of the data?

**The project was approved with the request of giving a short reply to the above points.**

The third project, Exploring Young Men's Knowledge and Perspectives towards Menstrual Health in Madhya Pradesh-A Mixed-Method Study: **AWP Study (2023-24) PRC, Sagar**. The present study aims to explore knowledge, perception and attitudes about menstruation among adolescent boys in M.P. in order to gauge their potential and readiness to support girls in M.P., which has a 22-23 per cent adolescent population. The objective of the study is to explore the knowledge of adolescent boys about menstruation; to understand the source of knowledge and awareness among young men; to understand the adolescent boys' perceptions and attitudes towards menstruation and menstrual health issues of women; to recommend strategies for engaging young men in menstrual health education and advocacy, to address gender norms, social stigma, and cultural barriers.

The following points are made to improve the proposal:

- How to ensure the quality of data? Is any mechanism thought of?
- The reason for the 528 samples and how to capture them is missing.
- The questionnaire needs serious improvement- neither does it follow a standard set of KAP constructs, nor are the questions adopted based on published articles.
- Title does not match with objectives, and objectives do not go hand in hand with the study implementation.
- Anyone <18 years old is a minor- for that, it needs assent, parental permission, etc.
- Not sure of the population group the researcher is trying to capture- homogenous or not, age criteria, approach process, a mechanism to handle the implementation of the study, standardization of tools, and inclusion-exclusion criteria.

**PI is requested to submit a revised proposal ASAP for IRB review.**

### **SOP and related matters of IRB:**

The last agenda was to discuss the ongoing revision of rules and SOP. Prof Archana K Roy made significant efforts to improve the formats and SOP based on the authentic references. The IRB committee discussed the revised SOP and related issues. The members are requested to send their comments by September 15th, 2024. Two of the IRB members have never attended a meeting since two internal members joined the IRB committee in Oct 2023. It was suggested that their names be removed, and new members could be added based on the director's approval and suggestions given by the members. The convener and the internal member will be placing the revised SOP document for the Director's approval by the end of September.


It is further mentioned that IIPS is progressing towards getting registered with the designated authority in the Department of Health Research (DHR). In conversation with the Director (additional charge), the convener created the account and gave the documentary details to the concerned authority to help us get the registration number as soon as possible.


It is appraised that IIPS is looking for an additional Research Officer to provide assistance in handling day-to-day activities.

The meeting was concluded with a vote of thanks.



Prof. D.P. Singh - Chairperson

Prof A.K. Roy- Member - 

Prof. Aparajita Chattopadhyay – Convener - 

Prof. Gajanan Velhal - Member - Consent from Email.

Dr. Lalita Savardekar – Member – Consent from Email.

Dr. S. Das- Member - Consent from Email.

Dr. Vinod Joshi – Member- Consent from Email.