

Gupta-Klinsky India Institute (GKII) at Johns Hopkins University

Girish & Himangi Rishi Student Travel Awards (GHRSTA) Scholar Presentations



Event Agenda

Topic	Presenter	Time
Welcome Remarks GKII Overview	Kunal Pal	3 min.
GKII GHRSTA Program Highlights	Beth Romanski	4 min.
GKII GHRSTA/GHEFP Faculty Mentor Remarks	Dr. Anita Shet	6 min.
GHRSTA India Presentations		
Scholar Presentation 1	Siddhaparna Sannigrahi	10 min.
Scholar Presentation 2	Manvi Poddar	10 min.
Scholar Presentation 3	Divya Rao	10 min.
Scholar Presentation 4	JaeLynn Taylor	10 min.
Q&A	Attendees	5 min.
Closing	Beth Romanski	2 min.



Event Participation Tips

The **event will be recorded**, and **materials will be sent** to all attendees and registrants. The event information will also be posted on GKII's website.

Accessibility settings for closed captions and languages can be <u>enabled in Zoom</u> and <u>YouTube</u>.

Participants are requested to **mute microphones** during all presentations.

Post questions or comments in the chat to be discussed during the event.

We'll open conversation for live Q&A after all presentations are completed.

Viewing the Recording? Email GKII Team at jhii@jh.edu with your questions or insights!













Increased impact through better coordination

Gupta-Klinsky India Institute at Johns Hopkins University was established in 2020

Creating a "Super-Highway" of collaboration, activity and exchange between the best of Hopkins and partners in India to solve complex problems and benefit the world



To solve complex challenges and improve society GKII has four major goals

RESEARCH

GKII advances research between JHU and Indian collaborators through funding, strategy, education & training, partnerships, and programmatic support.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

GKII facilitates educational opportunities for students and faculty, promotes reciprocal learning between JHU and Indian universities, enhances knowledge sharing, and improves skills and leadership for scholars and professionals in the U.S. and India.

POLICY AND PRACTICE

GKII collaborates with Indian partners to identify policies and practices that require transformation to enhance health and other social determinants by providing technical experts, data, knowledge, partners, and funding in partnership with the U.S. and Indian government, industry, academics, and other key stakeholders.

COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT &
COMMUNICATIONS

GKII strives to enhance its and JHU's visibility within its community and India through effective communication and marketing strategies while creating meaningful engagement opportunities for JHU students, faculty, and alumni.



GKII GIRISH & HIMANGI RISHI STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS



Purpose: Empower JHU master's students to conduct **impactful research** and **experiential learning projects in India**.



Grant Funding: Covers **student travel expenses** (accommodation, transportation, food, vaccines, visas, etc.) for India projects.



Who Benefits:

JHU Students

JHU Faculty

India Partners & Community



- Transformative: Projects address critical issues in India, driving positive change.
- Global Reach: Students gain invaluable experience with Faculty Mentors, fostering international collaboration with India partners.
- Sustainable Solutions: Projects focus on long-term impact and community empowerment.





With Appreciation to Our Donors & Program Partner

Girish Rishi, an alumnus of Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), is an accomplished tech executive, now CEO of the industrial software company Cognite, with a passion for business and technology and with a zeal for solving challenges of urban hunger, sustainable diets, and health inequity.

Himangi Rishi is specifically interested in improving maternal and child health through better access to quality food and nutrition.

GKII has partnered with the **Center for Global Health (CGH)** Global Health Established Field Placements (GHEFP) program to support the placement of JHU students traveling to India.



GKII GIRISH & HIMANGI RISHI AWARDS (GHRSTA)

Award to develop next generation of leaders, supports students traveling from or to Johns Hopkins University across any school, division, department, or center, for the purpose of research, field practicums, capstone research, and student exchange



Faculty,

Indian

Partners

Gupta-Klinsky India Institute (GKII)



Global Health Established Field Placements (GHEFP)



Projects

8 Impactful Projects:

Primary Healthcare Support
Health Systems Capacity Building
Infectious Diseases - TB/HIV
Maternal & Child Health
Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare

Year 1: 2022-23

8 students working

with 5 JHU faculty and

5 Indian partners

Year 2: 2023-24

6 students working

with 6 JHU faculty and

6 Indian partners

Year 3*: 2024-25

8 students working

with 8 JHU faculty

and 8 Indian partners



Student Learning Objectives

Aligned to JHU Institutional Assessment Co-Curricular Learning Guidelines

Assess the effectiveness of public health interventions and policies in diverse cultural settings.

Utilize data collected during field experiences to draw meaningful conclusions and make evidence-based recommendations.

Apply research methodologies to design and implement a global health research project in collaboration with local partners in India.

Reflect on personal and professional growth based on the experience in India, including insights gained, skills acquired, and challenges overcome.

Analyze how the fellowship experience has influenced perspectives on global health issues and cultural competence, and how these insights will inform future academic and professional pursuits.

Evaluate the significance of the co-curricular learning experience in shaping career aspirations, research interests, and commitments to global health equity.

Create a plan for integrating lessons learned from the experience into future academic and professional endeavors, demonstrating a commitment to lifelong learning and ethical global engagement.



GIRISH & HIMANGI RISHI STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD: Student Feedback

Participants gained critical skills applicable to their global health careers, such as research methodologies, data analysis, and community engagement.

Skills and Professional Development



Clarity in Career Goals

health and equity.

The program helped

participants refine their

academic and professional

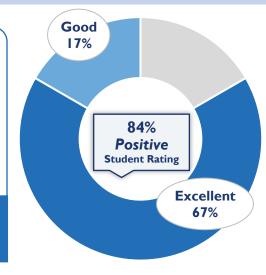
aspirations, inspiring long-

term commitments to global

Students highlighted the importance of working within diverse teams and learning from experts across disciplines.

Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Insight





Participants consistently emphasized how the program fostered their personal development, self-awareness, and resilience.

Personal Growth and Self-Discovery



Immersive experiences in India allowed participants to develop deeper cultural sensitivity and understanding.

Expanded Cultural Competence



Key Insight: Students significantly developed their research skills in collaboration with local India partners through this program.





Impact & Personal Growth Themes from Student Evaluations







Faculty Mentor Role – Facilitating Global Education Partnerships

JHU Faculty Mentors

India Partners

JHU Students

Mutually beneficial approach to engaging in cross-cultural educational exchange

India Students



Dr. Anita Shet - GHRSTA JHU Faculty Mentor



"For ten years, I've had the honor of mentoring JHU students through the GHEFP program. These students do more than fulfill academic requirements—they bring energy, compassion, and innovation to our project sites. Their presence inspires underserved youth in India to dream bigger and uplifts entire communities, leaving a lasting impact that extends far beyond their time on the ground."

Anita Shet is a pediatrician and a public health specialist and director of the Johns Hopkins Maternal and Child Health India program that focuses on addressing health issues among women, infants and children, and strengthening public health capacity in India. Her interests span maternal and child nutrition, pediatric and adolescent HIV, dengue infections, social determinants of health, childhood immunization and vaccine-preventable diseases. Her practice areas include addressing pandemic-related disruptions of routine childhood vaccination and essential health services, and advocacy efforts to expand vaccine access in India and globally. At present, she also focuses on empowering disadvantaged children and youth to live with good health and dignity.



Faculty Mentor Perspective – Program Community Impact

Transformative

Community-rooted

Sustainable





Transforming student-led and community-led public health research in India





Transformative

- Departs from traditional, top-down, prescriptive models of health intervention
- Embraces decolonized, equity-driven approaches

Community-Centered

- Community-based participatory research
- Students are not mere observers; they are collaborators in the daily rhythms of the community
- Emphasis on trust, co-design and contextual solutions

Sustainable

- **Encourages long-term impact from within to identify locally-driven solutions**
- Students explore resilient models from within communities; leverage community-based financing
- Sannigrahi S, Seenappa B, et al. Partnering for progress: lessons learned from mental health assessment for youth living with HIV in India. Journal of Participatory Research Methods, 2024; 5(3)b
- Sannigrahi S, et al. "I can be a source of motivation": Perspectives from stakeholders of the I'mPossible fellowship. PLoS Global Health, 2025
- Sharma AA, et al. Mental health challenges among adolescents and young adults with perinatally acquired HIV. PLoS Mental health (in press)
- Seenappa et al. Impact of a community-led physical activity intervention on resilience and mental health among Indian adolescents with HIV. International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science, 13-16 July 2029
- Sathyamoorthy H, et al. Empowering adolescents with perinatally acquired HIV: Exploring Self-Efficacy for Exercise (SEE) and its impact on physical activity engagement. IAS Conference, Rwanda, 13-16 July 2025
 Tangney A. A peer-driven, demand-side Differentiated Service Delivery (DSD) model to enhance care and support for adolescents and young adults, IAS Conference, Rwanda, 13-16 July 2025
- Filian, K. Overcoming intersectional barriers: a gender-transformative physical activity intervention for adolescents and young adults with perinatally acquired HIV in India, IAS Conference, Rwanda, 13-16 July 2025





GHRSTA Scholar Presenters

Siddha Sannigrahi Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, MSPH in Social and Behavioral Interventions | The I'mPossible Project: Addressing global health challenges for vulnerable populations in India, particularly empowering young people living with HIV.

Manvi Poddar MSPH in International Health | Social Behavioral Interventions Project: Peer-Led Mental Health and TB Services Integration in India to enhance tuberculosis treatment programs by integrating mental health services, informed and led by individuals with lived experience of both conditions.

Divya Rao ScM, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health | Project: Zero TB Kids & Family, a collaborative initiative leveraging innovative technology to combat tuberculosis, engaging in community focus group discussions and developing surveys to understand TB screening and therapy factors.

JaeLynn Taylor CHES® MSPH in Health Education and Health Communications, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health | Project: Supporting Equitable Wellness through Advanced Research and Training in Health (SEWARTH) offering training modules to improve communication for efficient data collection under the SEWARTH-Health and Demographic Surveillance System.



Siddha Sannigrahi

GHEFP 2022, GHRSTA 2023 Recipient

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

MSPH International Health '2023: Social and Behavioral Interventions

The University of Texas at Austin

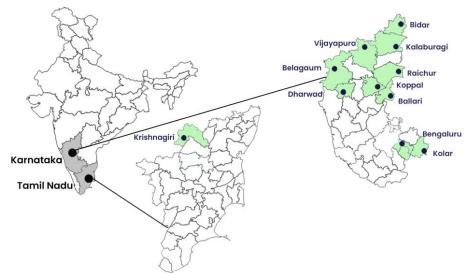
BSPH Public Health '2021





I'mPossible Fellowship

- Launched in 2021 in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, India
- Designed to support adolescents and young adults living with HIV
- 10-15 young adults with HIV trained and selected as *Fellows* (mentors)
- Fellows undergo rigorous training in mentorship and support
- Each Fellow was matched with 25
 Peers for individualized mentoring and to conduct support group meetings
- Program Reach
 - 216 participants (called *Peers*) enrolled between 2021 and 2023
 - 240 participants as of 2025







Positive Running Program

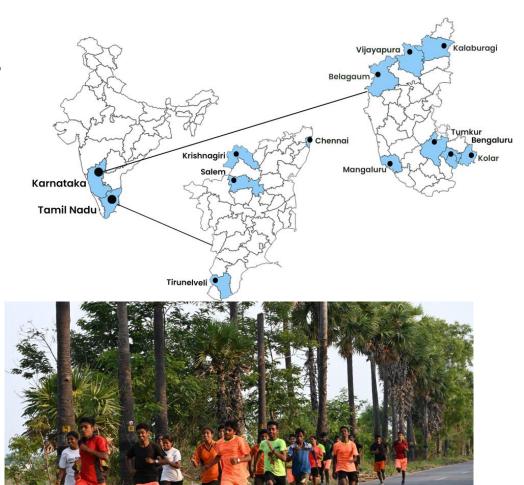
- Mission: Promote good health and self-sufficiency in children living with HIV and facing disadvantage
- **Goal:** Create winners for life, not just winners of the race

Core Objectives

- Daily running, strength, and endurance training
- Confidence-building through physical activity and mentorship
- Nutrition education and access to supplemental support

Program Reach

- Active in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu
- 2023: Reached 250 children (ages 8-21) living with or affected by HIV
- 2024–25: Expanding to 100 additional children in both states





Placement Roles and Responsibilities



Research

Designing, conducting, and analyzing data to inform youth-focused programs

Training

Building peer capacity through skill-based, participatory workshops

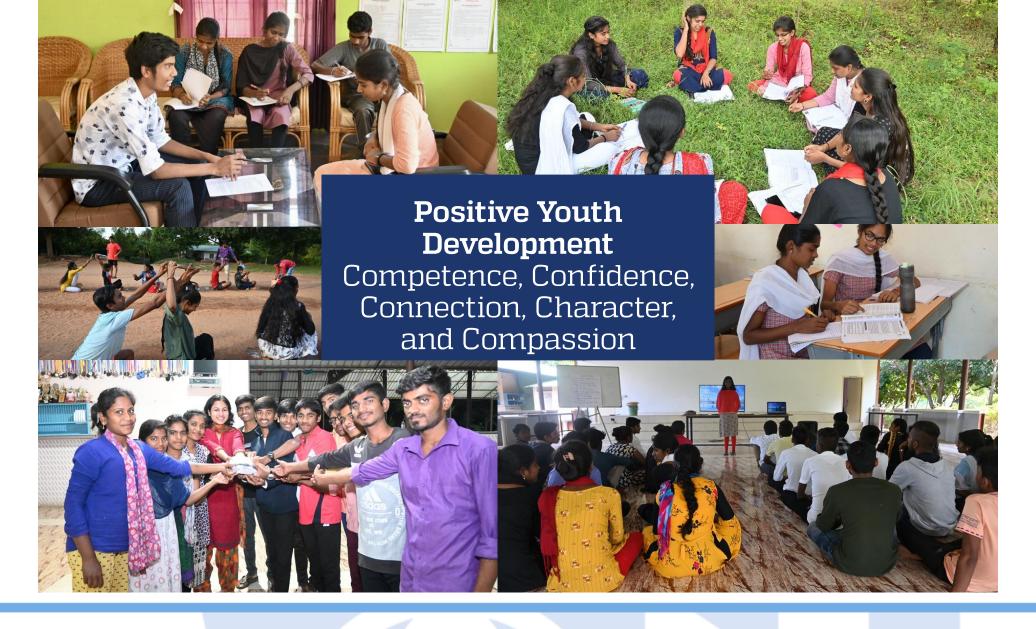
Teaching

Instructed National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) students (10th & 12th grade) and provided vocational training to support career readiness

Institutional Support

Assisted with ART medication pick-up, supported institution-specific programs and cultural events, and handled administrative tasks such as proposal writing







Mother Teresa Hospital- Gulbarga, Karnataka



Christy Girls Home- Kolar, Karnataka



Snehasadaan- Mangaluru, Karnataka



St. Joseph's Home-Bijapur, Karnataka

Nava Sanidhya- Bijapur, Karnataka



Our Community Partners



Snehagram- Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu



Sneha Charitable Trust, Bangalore, Karnataka





"I can be a source of motivation": Perspectives from stakeholders of the I'mPossible fellowship, a peer-led differentiated service delivery model for adolescents with perinatally acquired HIV in India

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doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.03.11.25323808

Siddhaparna Sannigrahi, MSPH

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE





(From left to right) Autumn Tangney, GHEFP 2024; Siddha Sannigrahi, GHEFP 2022, GHRSTA 2023; Kacie Filian, GHEFP 2023

(From left to right) Isha Mohan, GHEFP 2025; Anupama John, GHEFP 2025; Hrishikesh Satyamoorthy, GHEFP 2024; Dr. Anita Shet, Faculty Mentor; Pratya Poosala, Rishi Children's Travel Award 2025; Rithika Muragan, Rishi Children's Travel Award 2025

Our team keeps growing! Thank you!



Formative Assessment for Peer-Led Mental Health and TB Services Integration in India

Manvi Poddar







Study office and team members



Tuberculosis Unit in Pune, India





Government-run mental health treatment center

Nepal: Zero TB Kids and Family Initiative

Divya Rao





Project Overview

Scope:

I worked with Himalayan Trust Nepal, assisting the TB clinical team in screenings of children housed in monasteries in rural Kathmandu, delivering medications, performing analytical tasks to inform future screenings, and assist with various administrative tasks. At Nepal Fertility Care Center, I assisted with TB screenings at local schools, supporting the M&E team with statistical and software help, and general data management for various projects at the NGO.

Deliverables:

An analytical report to recommend changes to the Zero TB Kids and Family programmatic approach and inform future TB screenings to better measure the burden of TB in Nepal.





Seeing the collective, communitycentered approach to healthcare in Nepal brought to life concepts I had only encountered in the classroom.

It pushed me to reckon with how deeply cultural identity, ethnic and religious diversity, and social cohesion shape health.





In the context of low engagement and a lack of awareness of the TB crisis, it is the responsibility of health practitioners to approach the community.







My public health training in the U.S. focused on structural racism, political neglect, and institutional failure as drivers of poor health, but these frameworks didn't directly translate in Nepal.

Confronting issues like caste, religious identity, and global power dynamics forced me to rethink my approach and adapt to a radically different set of upstream factors influencing health.



There is widespread lack of engagement and misinformation surrounding latent TB.

Institutional neglect—from NGOs, medical professionals, and the government—has led to a national response that largely ignores prevention.

My own observations, from adults dismissing the seriousness of TB to monasteries overlooking risk factors like poor diet and overcrowding, underscored just how deeply this neglect runs.





Through my work in Nepal, I strengthened HTN's ability to measure the true burden of TB in Kathmandu and identified ways to better address mental health, TB co-morbidities, and gaps in pediatric data—insights that can lead to stronger local health outcomes.

Engaging with the complexities of systemic health challenges, alongside experts in diverse fields, has helped me envision a future where I contribute fieldwork, analyzing the impacts of violence, climate change, and migration, and working directly with affected communities.





Girish and Himangi Rishi Student Travel Award Scholar Presentation

JaeLynn Taylor, MSPH, CHES

2024 Global Health Established Field Placement Awardee

About Me









"My mission in life is not merely to survive but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style." — Maya Angelou



Overview of My Journey



What Work Did I Do?

- SEWARTH: Supporting Equitable Wellness through Advanced Research and Training
 - A collaboration between the Uttar Pradesh Department of Medical Health and Family Welfare, AIIMS Gorakhpur, and the BSPH
- Overall Goals: Health Systems Strengthening through development of an HDSS and Systems Thinking Trainings
- Main Locations: Lucknow and Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh
- Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Brian Wahl
- In Country Mentor: Raghukul Pandey
- Development of: Standard Operating Procedures, Ethics and Communications Training, and Data collection tool testing







Lessons Learned

- Asking questions can open the doors of opportunity
- There's always something to learn
- Communication and Collaboration are key

Project Updates

- Received govt approval to start data collection in March 2025
- Data collection started May 2025
 - 15 total data enumerators
 - An entire village has already been collected (over 10,000 individuals)





Thank You!



JaeLynn Taylor, MSPH, CHES



Student Testimonial Video ~ Babu Seenappa

Explore more
GHRSTA
Scholar
Testimonials
& Impact
Stories on our
GHRSTA
Program
Website!







GHRSTA SCHOLAR PRESENTATIONS



QUESTIONS + INSIGHTS





GIRISH & HIMANGI RISHI AWARDEES

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01

Siddhaparna Sannigrahi

Master of Science in Public Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (Social and Behavioral Interventions)

JHU Faculty: Anita Shet
Theme: Children living with HIV
Project: I'mPossible Fellowship

The I'mPossible Fellowship is an initiative that offers support to children, adolescents, and youths affected by HIV by addressing their educational, health, skills development, self-efficacy, and psychosocial needs. The project empowered young people in India and helped them enact positive social and healthcare related changes through their own lived experiences.



02)

Babu Seenappa

Consultant, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

JHU Faculty: Anita Shet

Theme: Children living with HIV

Project: The Positive Running Program

The Positive Running Program incorporates nutrition, daily running, endurance training, psychological support, and confidence-building to empower vulnerable children and youth to pursue a healthy holistic lifestyle. These overlooked activities are particularly important for children from disadvantaged backgrounds such as orphans and those living with HIV.



03

Rishabh Kumar

Bachelor of Arts in International Studies, Krieger, School of Arts and Sciences at JHU

(International Development and South Asia)

JHU Faculty: Rina Agarwala Theme: Vulnerable populations Project: Social Insecurity Project

Rishabh's portion of the Social Insecurity Project interviewed people in India to understand their social and economic views on security to provide the foundation of a larger research project. He hypothesized that older groups prioritized social security, while younger ones would focus on individualistic terms, guiding future research into these demographics.



Sherina Poyyail

Master of Public Policy, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai



JHU Faculty: Rina Agarwala

Theme: Vulnerable populations

Project: Social Insecurity Project

For the social insecurity project, Sherina interviewed young individuals in Mumbai, including students and working youth, to understand their perceptions of social security across caste, class, and gender. The interviews provided foundational insights, aiding in hypothesis building. The diverse population of identities in Mumbai offered valuable data for her ongoing research.



8 students working with

5 JHU faculty and 5 Indian partners



Sonal Sharma

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Sociology, Johns Hopkins University

JHU Faculty: Rina Agarwala
Theme: Vulnerable populations
Project: Social Insecurity Project

Sonal investigated social insecurity among Indian youth aged 17-25 in New Delhi and Mumbai, examining gender and class differences. His qualitative research project aimed to create a new measure for social insecurity to affect change in policy and explore India's post-pandemic challenges, including safety, vulnerability, and aspirations



Austin Schmidt

Master of Science in Public Health (Health Studies), Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

JHU Faculty: Krishna Rao

Theme: Health systems

Project: India Primary Health Care Support Initiative

Austin's project worked to enhance primary healthcare coverage and performance in selected Indian states in support of the India Primary Health Care Support Initiative. She refined partner workplans, established milestones, and visited sites for context. The project also developed study designs and tools and contributed to manuscripts.



Rose Pollard Kaptchuk

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of International Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

JHU Faculty: Shruti Mehta

Theme: Social Behavioral Interventions

Project: People Who Inject Drugs- Opportunities to Improve, Treat & Retain (POINTER)

The POINTER trial assessed same-day antiretroviral therapy (ART) and community-based ART effects on HIV viral suppression in people who inject drugs to better support this vulnerable population. Rose worked with an in-country team to conduct site visits, recruited respondents, monitored data collection, and analyzed interview data to identify barriers and facilitators for the trial.



Manvi Poddar

MSPH in International Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public

JHU Faculty: Christopher Kemp

Theme: Social Behavioral Interventions

Project: Formative Assessment for Peer-Led Mental Health and TB Services Integration in India

Manvi's project worked to expand mental health services India, guided by individuals with firsthand experience of TB and mental health conditions. Her goal was to identify the characteristics of a peer-led tuberculosis-mental health integration model that would demonstrate effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, acceptability, feasibility, and sustainability that could be used by India's TB programs.



GIRISH & HIMANGI RISHI AWARDEES

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Year 2: 2023-24

6 students working

with 6 JHU faculty

with 6 Indian partners

Year 3: 2024-25

8 students working

with 8 JHU faculty

with 8 Indian partners

Sahana Shekhar

Master of Science in Public Health Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

JHU Faculty: Svea Closser

Theme: Maternal and Child Health

Project: Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT)

Under the mentorship of Professor Svea Closser, Sahana supported KHPT on implementation research to build institutional capacity and scale up the coverage and quality of Kangaroo Mother Care across selected districts of Karnataka through advocacy and technical support.



Divya Rao

Master of Science (ScM) Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health



Theme: TB Impact on Children & Families Project: Zero TB Kids & Family

Divya Rao worked on the "Zero TB Kids & Family" project, a collaborative initiative between Johns Hopkins, India, and Nepal. The project leverages innovative technology, including AI-enabled x-rays, molecular diagnostics, and short-course preventive treatments to combat tuberculosis Divya had the opportunity to engage in focus group discussions with the community, develop dedicated surveys, and help understand the factors that influence TB screening and therapy.



JaeLvnn Taylor

MSPH in Health Education and Health Communications, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Healthh

JHU Faculty: Brian Wahl

Theme: Primary Healthcare, NCDs

Project: Supporting Equitable Wellness through Advanced Research and Training in Health

JaeLynn worked on the SEWARTH project, a collaboration between the Department of Medica Health and Family Welfare (Government of Uttar Pradesh), JHU and AIIMS Gorakhpur to partner in public health research and training. She supported the development of training modules to improve communication for efficient data collection under the SEWARTH-Health and Demographic Surveillance System



Katherine Lim

Project: India Primary Health Care Support

Katherine worked under the mentorship of

Professor Rao on the India Primary Health Care

by JHU, in collaboration with AIIMS New Delhi

and supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates

Foundation, works under the guidance of the

National Health Systems Resource Centre to strengthen delivery and performance assessments

of primary healthcare systems across selected

Support Initiative (IPSI). The initiative, spearheaded

MSPH in Health Systems, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

JHU Faculty: Krishna Rao

Theme: Health Systems



JHU Faculty: Anita Shet

Theme: Children Living with HIV Project: Positive Running Program

Hrishikesh Sathyamoorthy

Bloomberg School of Public Health

Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins

Master of Science (ScM)

Hrishikesh worked on the Positive Running program, a peer-led physical fitness initiative to improve outcomes among adolescents and youth living with HIV. He assisted in the recruitment of new participants, developed nutrition-related guidance, and provided insights for scaling up the program



Autumn Tangney

MSPH in Health Systems, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health



JHU Faculty: Anita Shet

Theme: Children Living with HIV Project: I'mPossible Fellowship

Autumn worked on the "I'mPossible Fellowship" project, that supports children, adolescents and youths affected by HIV, addressing their educational, health, skills development, selfefficacy, and psychosocial needs.

Student Testimonial:

"Living and working at Snehagram showed me the power of resilience and community. The students' unwavering determination and optimism have inspired me to pursue a career that integrates public health research with hands-on community engagement. I leave this experience with lifelong friendships and a renewed commitment to empowering vulnerable communities."

2025 GHRSTA Student Awardees to be Announced Soon!

