

Brief report of the 2nd AROGYAM intersectionality workshop

The Gender sub-theme group of the AROGYAM project organized a workshop on “*Learning to do health equity research addressing multiple axes of inequalities*” was organized during 13-14 August, 2015, also in Trivandrum, India. This workshop followed-up on one of the recommendations of the previous consultation, of the need for researchers principally employing quantitative or qualitative methods to learn from each other about the methodological approaches used by them in examining multiple axes of inequalities and their association with or contribution to health inequities. The workshop was meant for young scholars embarking on their research careers and interested in health equity issues, and also for more experienced researchers who have engaged with multiple axes of inequalities and who would like to enhance their understanding and methodological skills. It was attended by 40 participants of which more than half were doctoral research students, and the rest included faculty from AROGYAM partner institutions as well as scholars from India and elsewhere engaged in health equity research.

The workshop had seven sessions, five on day one and two on day two. The first session on day one introduced basic concepts and definitions on intersectionality, and also briefed participants on key learning from the 2014 consultation, followed by four teaching-learning sessions led by eminent experts.

Professor (Emerita) Lesley Doyal, University of Bristol, shared her methodology from her book *Living with HIV and dying with AIDS: Diversity, Inequality and Human Rights in the Global Pandemic*, in a lecture entitled “Taking context and intersecting inequalities into account in research on HIV/AIDS”. Professors Daniel Reidpath and Pascale Allotey, Monash University, Malaysia, in a lecture on “Factoring in social, cultural and environmental contexts in examining burden of disease: an intersectional approach”, walked participants through the methodology they used in their study of how the “burden” of disease is specific to context and social position.

Sessions four and five in the afternoon of day one were focused on “Intersectionality-informed” quantitative research. Professor U.S. Mishra, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum introduced the topic, while Professor Raman Kutty from Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology discussed methodological approaches that may be adopted to examine multiple axes of intersection using quantitative epidemiological methods.

Day two started with a summary presentation of key learning from the previous day. The last session of the workshop was on applying an intersectionality approach followed. The session consisted of small group work to develop draft research protocols of specific topics in health equity in India employing an intersectional approach and mixed methods. Five small groups produced ideas for research questions and methodology on a variety of topics: dengue fever; food security and nutrition; health systems and health insurance; research on social inequalities and health of tribal populations in India; and research on groups discriminated on the basis of gender and sexual identity. The results of group work were presented in the plenary and were good starting points for building future research proposals.

A learning-module for graduate students on “Intersectionality-informed health equity research” has been produced based on the proceedings of the workshop and is available [Here \[link to PDF\]](#).