**Feedback for AROGYAM Ph. D Scholars’ Workshop, 2015**

**Duration of visit with date** - 29th June, 2015 - 3rd July, 2015

**Name of the departments/centres/units visited during the period** - The research scholar attended the AROGYAM Ph.D Scholars' Workshop, which was hosted by the Edinburgh India Institute, School of Social and Political Science, The University of Edinburgh.

Additionally, she made field visits to the Scottish Parliament and also attended a tour of the campus of the University of Edinburgh given to us by our host, Prof. Roger Jeffery. The latter visit provided her with an opportunity to gain some insight into the history and architecture of this ancient city, particularly the period of the Industrial Revolution. As public health scholars', the visit gave us a unique first-hand insight into a historical period, which has had a great influence in the shaping of public health in the modern era.

**Scope and progress made on the exchange of knowledge –**The workshop brought together scholars and academicians from varied disciplines, including public health, history, sociology, geography and anthropology. The exchange of ideas and dialogue between the various scholars was on a range of topics was particularly enlightening for her.

During the presentation of her paper on “Contextualising Environment and Health: A study of the Boatmen of the Ganga in Varanasi,’ the suggestions from the audience proved particularly helpful in her work and helped her to further probe environment and health linkages and develop a more nuanced approach to the same.

Further the suggestions helped highlight the gaps in her current work, including on data reporting and presentation and methodological shortcomings. Through a de-briefing of the methodological approaches of scholars’ from varied backgrounds, she was also able to gain an insight into the application of alternate methodologies in social science research.

Additionally the session conducted on Ethics in Social Science research helped to clarify some important points on anonymisation and data inclusion in her study.

Further, the wide variety of presentations at the workshop of other scholars and faculty members provided her with the opportunity to benefit from the experiences and learning of other presenters. In particular, a session on Geographical Information Systems (GIS) by Dr. Biju Soman gave her important references for her work. She has made a map of Varanasi (the city in which her study is based) using the software, QGIS, and also found the government portal, <http://bhuvan.nrsc.gov.in/bhuvan_links.php>, useful in further enhancing her knowledge and skill-sets in this direction.

Finally, the workshop allowed the researcher to conduct interpersonal interaction with scholars from other social science disciplines. Such interaction helped her in learning about important reference material related to her field of study. A few of the suggested references have also been incorporated in her thesis.