

Dr Meenakshi Gautham :

Dr. Meenakshi Gautham is a Research Fellow with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She is the India Country Coordinator of LSHTM's IDEAS project, an evaluation project in maternal, newborn and child health, implemented in Ethiopia, India and North East Nigeria. She is also the Principal Investigator of a study on the drivers of antibiotic use by informal private healthcare providers in the state of West Bengal in India. Prior to working with LSHTM, Meenakshi was a post-doctoral fellow (2008-2012) with the Institute of Health Policy and Management, Erasmus University, Netherlands, and the Micro Insurance Academy in New Delhi, working on health services research to support development of micro health insurance programs in low income communities. She completed her PhD at LSHTM in Public Health and Policy in 2006. Before that she worked as India Programme Manager with Intrahealth International (1997-2001).

Ms Meenakshi's health systems research interests are broad and crosscutting. They include rural health services and human resources in health, maternal and child health, equity and quality of healthcare, mobile health applications for low resource settings, and a growing interest in antimicrobial use and resistance. She has a special interest in evidence based policy reviews and debates, especially those that have an impact on the availability and quality of healthcare for the most impoverished and underserved communities.

For several years now, she has advocated for policy shifts for training a new cadre of mid-level practitioners to deliver basic clinical health care close to every village home.

In 2009 she filed a Public Interest Litigation in the Delhi High Court, along with senior Supreme Court advocate Prashant Bhushan, asking the central government to start such a programme. They won the case in 2010. She has critiqued the model of medical education and medical profession followed in India. In November 2015 she contributed to a review of the functioning of the Medical Council of India conducted by the Parliamentary Committee on Health. She writes on public health issues for the Indian Express and The Hindu newspapers in India.