RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES,
KARNATAKA, BANGALORE

Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Public Health and
Centre for Disease Control

Three Years Course in Master of Public Health (Honours)

BACKGROUND

The Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) established the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Public Health and the Centre for Disease Control (RGIPH&CDC) in July 2013 as its renewed commitment towards strengthening public health capacity and system development in the state, country and region.

The University will be launching a special post graduate degree - Master of Public Health-(Honours) in the academic year 2014-15, a significant contribution to strengthening the pool of public health practitioners, teachers and researchers to take leadership positions in the state, country and region to evolve, implement and sustain public health programmes committed to the broad objectives of promoting ‘Right to Health’ and ‘Social Determinants’. These objectives are very relevant to the current challenges of ‘Health for All’ and ‘Universal Health Coverage’ in the region. Through this course the RGUHS is initiating a new focus which goes much beyond the scope of the current public health courses in the country.

SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

This new Honours course is innovative, primarily in five different ways:

Firstly, the course design is unique. Unlike traditional RGUHS annual courses, this course follows semester system. The curriculum is competency based. It’s teaching learning experience are student centric. Assessment again is not traditional norm centred. It is credit based with varying weightages for different competencies. An array of methods and tools are planned for continuous assessment. Formative assessment carries a weightage in the range of 40 – 80 per cent of credits. Summative assessment is based on an exit examination and pass is determined on achievement of minimum CGPA (Cumulative Grade Point Average) of all candidates.

Secondly, it will go well beyond the orthodox commitment to public health systems, management, capacity building, research and public health challenges like MCH, CDC, NCD and nutrition to covering new areas such as values in public health, social and community health, leadership and governance, universal health policy, ecological sensitivity, plural health systems, disaster preparedness and international & global health with a rights and social determinants perspective.

Thirdly, it will use a diverse range of teaching learning experiences and activities which will include focus on higher cognitive and communication skill development, case
studies, field visits, postings to institutions and programmes, and more specifically and specially a period of internship within the course framework.

Fourthly, the curriculum framework will be competency based with six semesters and will incorporate a credit system for each of the competencies. The assessment will be continuous (formative) with sessional tests, quizzes, presentations, open book tests, case studies, critical reading of journals, end term exam.

Fifthly, the participants will be offered two electives—the first one will be research based (quantitative or qualitative) and the second one will be advanced options in areas covered by the curriculum.

Finally, the course is open to candidates from a wide range of disciplines—graduates of all systems of medicine (MBBS and AYUSH), dentistry, nursing, physiotherapy and later from beyond the health related disciplines. Foundation courses will be introduced at the start of the course to help all candidates to commence with a similar level of public health understanding.

In the context of all these innovations the course will spread over three years so that its quality and rigour is well established.

Goals

- To create a pool of trained public health practitioners and researchers who can take up leadership positions in the state, country and region to implement contextually relevant public health programs and direct research.
- Practice the specialty efficiently, backed by scientific knowledge and skill base.
- Exercise empathy and a caring attitude and maintain high ethical standards in public health practice and in interactions with colleagues and the community.
- Continue to evince keen interest in continuing education irrespective of whether he/she is in a teaching institution or is practicing.
- Be a motivated ‘teacher’—defined as one keen to share knowledge and skills with a colleague or a junior or any team member/learner.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

At the end of the MPH (Hons) program in the context of the above three broad objectives and in the context of the competency framework adopted for this Honors program the following will be the specific objectives:

A public health professional orientated to the values of equity, rights, gender equality, ethics, integrity and quality in public health practice.

A public health professional having competency in the following areas:
- Socio-Cultural and Community Health
- Research
- Public Health System
- Public Health Management
- Public Health Nutrition
A public health professional conversant with National and State health programmes related to
- Communicable diseases
- Non-communicable diseases
- Woman, child and adolescent health