13th Annual Conference of the Indian Health Economics and Policy Association

IHEPA
Indian Health Economics and Policy

Health, Nutrition, and Wellbeing: Evidence, Evaluation, and Way Forward

Organised by

School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Indian Institute of Technology Mandi

December 10th-13th, 2025   Venue: IIT Mandi, Himachal Pradesh

Link for abstract submission: https://forms.gle/7ThN2o7qUd742viW7

Abstract

India's public health and nutrition landscape is undergoing a significant transformation, influenced by demographic shifts, epidemiological transitions, and changing social and economic determinants. The dual burden of undernutrition and overnutrition, coupled with a surge in nutrition-related chronic diseases, poses complex challenges for achieving equitable health outcomes. In this dynamic context, the 13th Annual Conference of the Indian Health Economics and Policy Association (IHEPA), in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi, seeks to provide a platform for interdisciplinary dialogue on this issue. The conference aims to explore the interconnections between health, nutrition, and wellbeing through rigorous evidence-based research and critical policy evaluation. By bringing together researchers, policymakers, and practitioners, the conference aspires to generate actionable insights that address existing disparities and support inclusive, sustainable development. Contributions that examine the social, economic, and behavioural dimensions of nutrition and health systems will be particularly encouraged.

Objective of the Conference

The conference aims to serve as a dynamic platform for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to come together and share insights on the evolving challenges and opportunities in health, nutrition, and wellbeing in India. With a strong focus on evidence, evaluation, and practical pathways forward, the conference encourages cross-disciplinary dialogue and collaborative thinking. It seeks to support thoughtful policy discussions and research that can inform inclusive, equitable, and sustainable improvements in health systems and population wellbeing across the life course.

Abstract Submission

Individual scholars, practitioners, or policymakers interested in participating are invited to submit the abstracts of papers based on original research that addresses the core concerns of this conference as described in the thematic areas below.

Conference Themes

Child Health and Nutrition: Achievements and Emerging Priorities

Adolescent Health and Wellbeing: Addressing Gaps in Policy and Practice

Maternal and Reproductive Health: Progress, Policies, and Future Challenges

Evaluation of Health Policies and Programmes

Health Systems Strengthening and Innovations

Healthcare Financing and Nutrition Financing

Wellbeing and Mental Health Outcomes: Measurements and Determinants

Ageing, Geriatric Health and Public Policy

Climate Change and Health

Social Determinants of Health and Nutrition

Sustainable Development Goals and Targets

Universal Health Coverage: Bridging Gaps for All Age Groups

Digital Health and Technological Innovations: Opportunities for Inclusive Care

Future Directions: Building Integrated Pathways for Health and Wellbeing

Pre-Conference Workshop

Workshop-1: Spatial Analysis in Health using R
Resource person: Dr. Pankaj Narula (Thapar University, Patiala, Punjab)

Spatial analysis reveals geographic patterns in healthcare access, disease burden, and resource gaps. This workshop equips researchers with R programming to analyse spatial health data (e.g., NFHS/LASI). Participants will learn to visualise disparities, process geospatial data, and generate evidence for equitable policy decisions in the Indian context.

Workshop-2: Health Econometrics and Machine Learning (ML) using Python
Resource person: Dr. Subrata Mukherjee (University of Mumbai, Mumbai)

This workshop bridges traditional health econometrics with cutting-edge machine learning using Python. Participants will learn to analyse health datasets through both econometric modelling (linear/logistic regression) and ML techniques (Random Forests, LASSO), while gaining skills in text analysis of health documents. Designed for health economists and policy researchers, the curriculum covers the full analytical pipeline from data preprocessing to advanced modelling using Python's scientific stack.

Total seats: 25 in each workshop (preference will be given to early career researchers)
Application link: https://forms.gle/dQC6rLgGqSNaPUPAA
Last date for application: 25th September 2025

Awards and Certificates

T. N. Krishnan Award
The best paper award for early-career researchers (below 40 years) will be given in honour of Prof. T.N. Krishnan. A certificate and an honorarium of ₹ 20,000/- for the best paper selected by the conference committee will be provided to the first author.

Gavin Mooney Prize
The two best papers by Ph.D. students will be awarded in honour of Prof. Gavin Mooney. An honorarium of ₹ 10,000/- each will be provided for the best papers by PhD scholars as selected by the conference committee. The PhD students should be the presenters and the lead authors of the research paper.

Mayanka Ambade Early Career Research Award
The best paper by an early-career researcher (below 35 years) will be awarded in honour of Dr. Mayanka Ambade. An honorarium of ₹ 10,000/- will be provided for the best paper by an early-career researcher as selected by the conference committee. The early career researcher should be the presenter and the lead author of the research paper.

All the paper presenters and participants will receive certificates for their participation.

🪶 Guidelines for Abstracts and Full Papers

Please submit the abstract in the following prescribed format:

- Authors are requested to submit extended abstracts within a word limit of 900-1000 (excluding references) in electronic form via https://forms.gle/7ThN2o7qUd742viW7 on or before 25th September 2025, 11:59 PM IST.
- The organising committee will review all abstracts, and based on this review, some selected abstracts will be invited to submit a full paper for oral presentation.
- All the paper presenters and attendees will receive certificates for their respective participation.
- Researchers who want their papers to be considered for any of the mentioned awards must send the complete paper before the given deadline.

> **Format for Extended Abstract (word limit 1000)**
>
> - Title of the Abstract: Times New Roman, Font Size- 14 pts, bold.
> - Author(s): Full name in Times New Roman, font size- 12 pts, bold and italics.
> - Author(s) Affiliation: Name of the institute, designation and contact details in Times New Roman, font size- 12 pts.

📝 Registration

Individual registration for the presenting author and accompanying author(s) attending the conference is mandatory: https://forms.gle/Y1VqdArRZbqaVQ4g7

Timelines

Date	Timeline
10th September, 2025	Call for abstracts open
25th September, 2025	Last date for submission of abstracts
10th October, 2025	Communication for acceptance/rejection of abstracts/ call for full papers for selected abstracts/ registration is open
15th November, 2025	Last date for full papers submission of the selected abstracts
20th October 2025	Last date of payment of registration fee (early bird)
30th October 2025	Last date of payment of registration fee

Registration

Particulars	For early birds	For late registration
IHEPA members	₹ 3,000/-	₹ 4,000/-
Non-members	₹ 4,000/-	₹ 5,000/-
On-the-spot registration for attendees (without accommodation)		₹ 3,000/-

For the submission of registration fee, the bank account information of IHEPA is as follows:
Account Name: Indian Health Economics and Policy Association IHEPA
Account Number: 076510200013642, Account Type: Current Account, Bank: IDBI Bank Ltd.
Branch: Deonar, IFSC Code: IBKL0000765
Branch Address: Safal Pride Unit No. 1, Basement and Ground Floor, Sion-Trombay Road,
Deonar, Mumbai 400088

Travel Support and Logistics Information

All the outstation registered paper presenters and pre-conference workshops participants will be entitled to modest boarding and lodging facilities, and the conference kit. All outstation applicants are requested to indicate whether they require support to cover their travel expenses. We are actively working to secure funding for travel support. If we are successful, partial support may be prioritized for the needed presenters. AC 3-tier round-trip express train fare by shortest route (except Rajdhani, Satabdi and Vande Bharat express) may be reimbursed on the production of actual tickets. Only one author per paper accepted for presentation will be eligible for travel support. Boarding and lodging will be provided for a maximum of 3 nights, starting from December 9th to the workshops and from December 11th to the conderence participants.

About IHEPA

The Indian Health Economics and Policy Association (IHEPA) is a registered society under the Society's Registration Act 1960. The office is located at the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai. IHEPA welcomes all those interested in issues relating to health economics and policy to be a part of this association. IHEPA welcomes young scholars and researchers, grassroots practitioners, the private sector and community-based organizations to participate actively so that all views and experiences can be heard, debated, understood and absorbed. Please visit https://ihepa.org/ for further information.

About IIT Mandi

Nestled in the Shivalik Range of the Himalayas, away from the bustle of metropolises, IIT Mandi is a prominent institute among the eight new IITs started in 2008-2009 and is making strong strides to be among those which offer world-class education. The main campus of IIT Mandi is situated in the forested hills of the Kamand valley on the banks of the river Uhl, a tributary of the river Beas. IIT Mandi is approximately 20 kilometres away from Mandi town. The usual travel route to Mandi is via Chandigarh from Delhi. The nearest airports to Mandi are Kullu (56 km), Dharamshala (130 km) & Chandigarh (200 km).

Organizing Committee

Faculty Coordinators	Staff Coordinators	Student Coordinators
Ramna Thakur (Convener)	Stuti Sharma	Gayathri B
Surya P. Upadhyay	Ajay Kumar	Shivani Kumaria
Shyamasree Dasgupta	Nishant Kumar	Bhanupriya Pareek
Masudul Hasan Adil		Prateek Singh
Subrata Mukherjee		Shalem Balla
Md Zakaria Siddiqui		Tarsem Kasnia
William Joe		Atma Prakash

Contact us

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For more details kindly visit us on:
https://shss.iitmandi.ac.in/ihepa13/2025/