



DRISHTi

Project Final Report

Project Name: Proposal for Setting up a Digital Course on Health Research Ethics

Project Title: DRISHTi (Developing Capacity in Health Research Ethics through Training)

Application ID: GT365

Date of Notification of Award: 09.12.2020

Starting Date of Project: 16.12.2020

Name of the organisation: Sangath, Bhopal

Project Summary

DRISHTi is project funded by the Thakur Foundation where Sangath created a short digital course on Health Research Ethics. The course is completely digital in format with 10 core modules and 4 optional modules. Each of the modules is led by experts in Health Research Ethics from across India. The main course content includes pre-recorded videos, reading materials and weekly live interactive webinars with objective assessment in the form of multiple-choice question for each module. The project was 6-month long but was extended by another three months due to COVID19 related delays. The first cohort of the course started on the 31st of July 2021 with 70 participants.

DRISHTi Team

Anant Bhan, Principal Investigator
Deepak Tugnawat, Project Director
Dr. Abhijit Nadkarni, Project Mentor
Dr. Harikeerthan Raghuram, Project Coordinator
Salik Ansari, Technical & Teaching Assistant
Arshita Satsangee, Intern (January 2021 to April 2021)

DRISHTi Design and Development:

Setting up of an Advisory Board

An advisory board for DRISHTi was set up in January 2021 and the first meeting conducted on 25th of January 2021. The members of the DRISHTi Advisory Board were selected ensuring representation of gender and disciplinary expertise

The following are the members of the DRISHTi advisory board

1. Amar Jesani, Bioethicist

2. C S Pramesh, Oncologist
3. Gagandeep Kang, Clinical virologist
4. Shahid Jameel, Virologist
5. Sunita Bandewar, Anthropologist and Bioethicist
6. Subhra Priyadarshini, Chief editor and science communication expert
7. Vikram Patel, Global mental health researcher
8. Vina Vaswani, Forensic expert and Bioethicist

The advisory board was convened twice, and key inputs taken into developing the course blueprint, format, fees and sustainability:

1. The 25th of January 2021
2. The 28th of July 2021

Course Blueprint

As mentioned in the project milestones, a course blueprint was created after reviewing a wide variety of existing courses, key reference documents for health research ethics in India, and was subsequently finalised and approved by the advisory board.

Here is the outline of DRISHTI Health Research Ethics

I. Core Modules

A. Foundation course

1. Introduction to Research Ethics (history & principles)
2. Informed consent process (ICP) & respecting privacy & confidentiality
3. Risk-benefit assessment in Health research
4. Responsible conduct in research
5. Conflict of interests

B. Guidelines and the review process

6. Research Ethics guidelines
7. Ethics committees and the process of ethics review

C. Communities & Communication

8. Community engagement & research involving specific populations
9. Health Communication

D. Emerging topics

10. COVID-19 pandemic from the lens of ethics

II. Optional Modules

1. Health Research Methods
2. Clinical trials and NDCT rules
3. Social Issues in Health Research
4. Ethics of Emerging Technology

DRISHTi Faculty

In consultation with the DRISHTi advisory board, in line with the objectives of each module and as mentioned in the project milestones the following faculty were selected to lead each core module. Additional content was recorded with other faculty.

S. No.	Name of the Module	Name of the Lead Faculty	Other Faculty	Approx. number of hours of content
1	Introduction to Research Ethics	Dr. Amar Jesani	-	5 hours
2	Informed Consent Process, respecting Privacy and Confidentiality	Dr. Olinda Timms	-	1 hour 24 mins
3	Risk Benefit assessment	Dr. Mala Ramanathan and Dr. Amar Jesani	-	1 hour 8 mins
4	Responsible Conduct of Research and	Dr. Vina Vaswani	-	1 hr 3 mins
5	Conflict of Interest	Dr. Vina Vaswani	-	51 mins
6	Research Ethics Guidelines	Dr. Roli Mathur	Dr. Nithya Gogtay Dr. Vasantha Muthuswamy	1hr 50 mins
7	Ethics Review Process	Dr. Nandini Kumar	-	1 hr 4 mins
8	Community engagement and Research involving specific populations	Dr. Sunita Bandewar	Dr. Abhya Nirgude, Dr. Dr. Aqsa Shaikh, Dr. Dr. Satendra Singh, Dr. Bezwada Wilson, Dr. Deepa Pawar,	4 hrs 30 min
9	Health Communication	Subhra Priyadarshini	Dr. Sarah Iqbal, Prof. Usha Raman, Sarojini Nadimpally, Dr. Gautam Menon and Dr. Tavpritesh Sethi	4 hrs 21 mins
10	COVID19 pandemic through the lens of ethics	Dr. Anant Bhan	Prof. Usha Raman, Deepa Pawar, Aqsa Shaikh, Dr. Satendra Singh, Dr. Ravindran Gherard, Bezwada Wilson, Satyajit Rath	3 hrs
11	Health Research Methods	-	Dr. Giridhar Babu, Dr. Abhijit Nadkarni and Dr. Ameya Bondre, Dr. Sangeetha	4 hrs 30 mins

			Paramasivan, Vasumathi Sriganesh	
12	Clinical Trials and NDCT Rules	Dr. Arun Bhatt	-	1 hr 32 mins
13	Social Issues in Health Research	Dr. Rakhal Gaitonde	Sivakami, Muthuswamy, Anurag Bhargava, L Ramakrishnan, Anjali Siroya, Sulakshana Nandi, Dipak Abnave, Shankar Prinja	4 hrs 45 mins
14	Ethics of Emerging Technology	Dr. Manjulika Vaz		3 hrs
15	Stories of early to mid-career researchers	-	Vishnu V Y, Aju Matthew, Shuhba Nagesh, Shital Muke, Nilangi Deshpande	3 hrs 30 mins
16	Voices of research participants	-	Vivek Tomar, Ronak Borana, Roshani Babu	1 hr 49 mins

Total Number of Faculty Contacted	85
Total Number of Faculty in DRISHTI's first cohort	50
Total Number of Faculty who have completed content recording recorded content	50

Development and Digitising the content on the LMS

Each module's content was recorded with the faculty over ZOOM using a standard PPT template. Interruptions & technical errors in the video were removed through a process of video editing using the software Shotcut.

Each module with all its components: lectures, readings and assessments, was uploaded on Sangath's Learning Management System which is based on the Moodle platform. The Learning Management System was upgraded with the help of a vendor.

DRISHTI course Implementation

Launch of DRISHTI Health Research Ethics

After months of outreach and publicising the course on social media, we opened the applications for the first cohort in mid-July 2021 and began the course on 31st of July.

Students Enrolled in the first cohort

We sent 120 offer of selection and out of these 70 registered for the first cohort. Below is the profile of registered participants.

Years of experience in Health research			
0-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15+ years
31	19	12	8
Education			

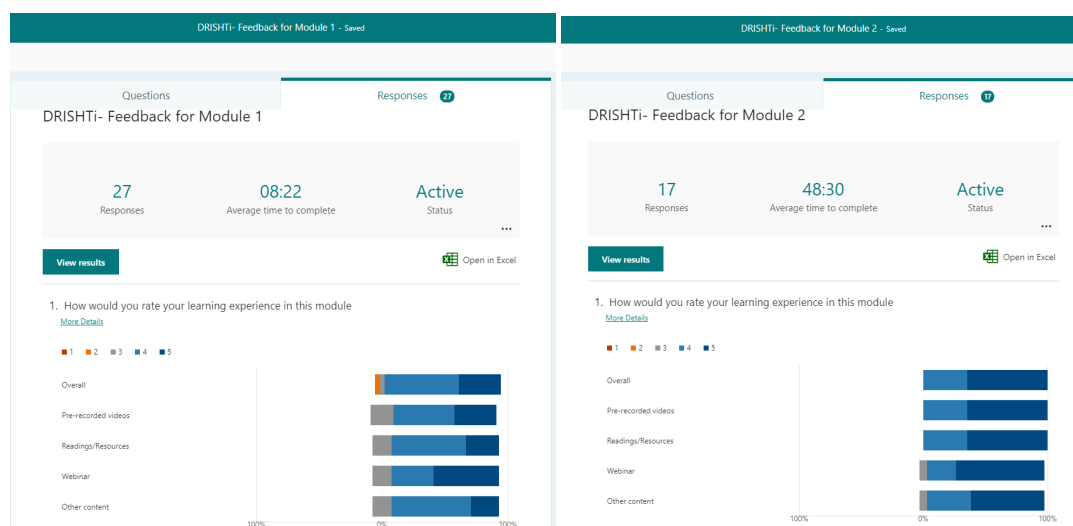
PhD/MD (Completed/Pursuing)	MPH (Completed/Pursuing)	Others qualification (Psychology/Social work/AYUSH/Population studies/Life sciences)	
37	14	19	
Current profession			
Asst./Associate Prof/Lecturer	Clinician	Public Health professionals	Other (students/research assistant/unemployed)
26	14	6	24

Total number of participants: 70

DRISHTI Evaluation:

Feedback received in the first cohort

For each of the module, we have uploaded a feedback form on the LMS that the participants can fill anonymously. The form provides an opportunity to give feedback on all the components of the module- pre-recorded videos, readings, webinar. Below are screenshots from the feedback forms for first two modules.



Students' completion status so far in the first cohort

The current cohort is in week 9 of the course (as of Sep 28). Our LMS allows us to track the progress of each of the registered participant in the course individually.

Health Communication Module

Under the leadership of Subhra Priyadarshini, Chief Editor, Nature India, the health communication module will also be delivered as a standalone short course. This short course is co-branded with Nature India.

For this additional faculty have been roped in such as

1. Sarah Iqbal, Independent Communications Consultant
2. Gautam Menon, The Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai

3. Tavpritesh Sethi, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi
4. Usha Raman, Dept of Communication, University of Hyderabad,
5. Sarojini Nadimpally, SAMA resource group for women and health
6. Jisha Krishnan, First Check, Bengaluru

DRISHTI Health Communication Short Course:

Sangath India in collaboration with Nature India will be launching [DRISHTi Health Communication](#), a 6-week long digital course with a focus on health research communication in the Indian context.

The core modules of this course includes:

1. Foundations of Health Communication
2. Health Research Communication
3. Communication for Health Advocacy
4. Communication for Health Promotion
5. Ethics of Health Communication

Future Plans

Course content:

Based on the participant feedback & advisory board consultation new content will be recorded and the existing ones updated. Since the core content of our course has already been recorded the requirement of newer recordings (and cost involved in it) will be significantly lesser.

Online platform:

The learning management system for the course belongs to Sangath and the same platform can be utilized for subsequent cohorts with no additional cost. We have incorporated costs for maintenance and upgradation of this platform.

Funding & collaboration:

By launching a variety of short courses (Health Communication, Social issues in Health research & Ethics committee training) we have the option of cross subsidising, cost-sharing, and resource sharing. Different courses will target different stakeholders contributing to research at all levels. Collaboration with universities will add more value to our course certification. We will also explore the possibility of sponsorship from universities to offer our course to their staff.