

Manodharma

**RURAL PUBLIC HEALTH
June 8 - 22, 2019**

Program Sites: Bangalore, Mysore, Nagpur, and Pune

Schedule and Content

After leaving the US on or before June 8, the participants would have arrived in Bangalore by late evening of June 9. The immersion program will begin with a welcome reception on the afternoon of Monday, June 10, a short preview of the program by Manodharma staff followed by an orientation to Bangalore by one of our local hosts.

The schedule over the next 12 days (June 10-21) will include a highly curated and interconnected observational program, whereby, the delegates will have an opportunity to meet, hear and learn directly from the very best of internationally recognized & award-winning comprehensive health organizations devoted to rural and tribal health. To add diversity, participants will also visit and observe a few research institutes devoted to public health and good governance, and other organizations that deal with mid-day meal programs, special needs, and K-12 education.

- At [Jamkhed](#) International Institute for Training & Research in Sustainable Health & Development, outside of Pune, the delegates will witness the operation of a comprehensive rural health project (CRHP) which works to improve the health of poor and marginalized communities. It operates on the foundational principles of equity, integration and empowerment. It is a global pioneer recognized by WHO and UNICEF for excellence in service.

To date, more than 3,000 people from over 100 countries and 30,000 from India have benefited from the application of its principles.

- [KEMHRC](#) and its flagship Vadu Rural Health Program (VRHP) is an internationally acclaimed research center for its work in community health. It is famous for its longitudinal biannual follow-up of the population of around 170,000 and cross-sectional surveys of socio economic, morbidity and nutritional status at regular intervals. Due to its research foresights, it has been recognized with high



honor by the Indian government and has enabled the government with the implementation of many of its local and national public health programs.

- [Society for Education, Action and Research in Community Health \(SEARCH\)](#) provides healthcare to rural and tribal people by empowering their communities to take care of their own health. SEARCH conducts high-quality research to shape the local, national and global health policies. *Lancet*, a prestigious medical journal had this to say of SEARCH in 2011, “What it has done would fly in the face of convention—it decided ‘the only way to practice medicine was to offer demand-driven health care by asking the people what they wanted.’ It then created something that was unprecedented at the time: a home-based package of neonatal care that would be delivered by trained and equipped village women. SEARCH and its founders have won hundreds of awards and recognition from organizations around the world.



- [Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement \(SVYM\)](#) is a development organization, engaged in building a civil society in India through its grassroots to policy level action in Health, Education, Socio Economic Empowerment and Training and Research sectors. Its vision is to create a caring and equitable society free of deprivation & strife. To attain such a vision, it will facilitate & develop processes that improve the quality of life of people. SVYM runs 9 institutions and has more than 40 projects in all its 4 sectors reaching more than 2.5 million people.



- [The Institute of Public Health, Bengaluru \(IPH India\)](#) founded in 2005 is a non-profit research institute that is actively involved in contemporary research, education and policy initiatives. It works closely with WHO's Alliance for Health Policy & Systems Research (Geneva) and also has a long-term strategic partnership with the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp (Belgium) for building capacity. IPH has strong working relationship with several esteemed national and international organizations, including health insurance schemes for people below the poverty line.

- The [Public Affairs Centre \(PAC\)](#), established in 1994, is a nonprofit in Bangalore that engages in action research devoted to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of UN in the context of India. It has a mandate to improve the quality of governance in India. It employs innovative Social Accountability Tools (SAT) to measure the quality and adequacy of public services. Its work is based on evidence-based research on governance across sectors, geographies and populations in India.
- The vision of **Akshaya Patra**, a pioneering organization that sprouted from a resolve that "No child in India shall be deprived of education because of hunger" [The Akshaya Patra Foundation](#). From humble beginnings in 2000, serving just 1,500 children across 5 schools, today Akshaya Patra is the world's largest (nonprofit) mid-day meal program serving wholesome food to over 1.6 million children from 13,210 schools across 10 states in India.
- [Bubbles Center for Autism \(BCA\)](#), founded in 2003, is a school and intervention center devoted to children with Autism. At present it provides special needs services for over 40 children and plans to expand services for 60 + in the near future. With a vision to make a positive difference in the quality of life of children affected Autism, BAC has taken up skill development initiatives for young adults over 16 years of age and enable them to be a part of an inclusive community. As is the case always, delegates will witness the great accomplishments of such small organizations, their growing pains and the challenges that lie ahead.
- Last but not the least, ultimately comprehending and interpreting some the above Bangalore-based organizations in the context of culture and southern hospitality will be offered through the generosity of children, staff, principal and founders of a pioneering educational institution of Bangalore, [Delhi Public School North](#).



Karnataka as a patron of the arts has nurtured poets, musicians, dancers, story-tellers, writers and artists. Many respected schools of music, Carnatic and Hindustani, over the centuries, have been perfected here. While in Bangalore, Manodharma will do its best to enable the delegates experience some of the authentic genres of these [classical art forms](#), visit the Iskcon movement's [religious shrine](#) and attend 2-3 social events organized by our partner institutions, while in Mysore visit the [Mysore Palace](#), and while in Pune visit the famous [Ajanta and Ellora Caves](#) (World Heritage Site).

The program will end in Pune by the afternoon of Friday, June 21, 2019, so as to enable everyone to catch their return flights to the US by June 22.

Program Directors

Dr. S. Umashankar Program Director, Manodharma, India

Uma is the Principal of Padmashree School of Public Health (PSPH) in Bangalore, India and has led such delegations for over 20 years, some for his students at Padmashree, some for visitors of his former employer Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Center, many for the India Winterim Program of the University of Iowa, and was also an active leader providing oversight for the Manodharma immersion program in India last summer in July/August 2018.

Professor Emeritus Raj Rajagopal, University of Iowa & Manodharma, Founder

Raj, in consultation with Manodharma's partners in India meticulously plans every aspect of the immersion program experience for the delegates. He has done this for the last 13 years enabling over 70 faculty and 1,400 students from the US benefit from the India immersion experience. Every year is brand new for him, and he can't wait to welcome you on-board this year.

Orientation and Literature

All reading material and video content for the program will be made available to all delegates on a shared google drive so that they can prepare to meet each organization. Day-to-day activities will be described in detail on the itinerary which will be made available by late-April and updated periodically till early June 2019.

Resiliency and Flexibility

Flexibility in every aspect of life is the key to navigating successfully though India. Local circumstances, weather, and traffic jams will rule every day. Overcoming such obstacles and ending each day with a smile on our face will be our motto. That's what we have done for over 1,400 people during the last 13 years. Welcome aboard on the Immersion program with Manodharma!

