

BLDE
(Deemed to be University)

“CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH”

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Background: The social determinants of health refer to both specific features of and pathways by which societal conditions affect health and that potentially can be altered by informed action. Examples are income, education, occupation, family structure, service availability, sanitation, exposure to hazards, social support, racial discrimination, and access to resources linked to health (Krieger N. (2001)

Vijaypur aka Bijapur district is one of the socioeconomically underdeveloped districts in North Karnataka with lower scores in the human development index. Recently the district is undergoing major developments in water/ irrigation works and a thermal power plan resulting in socioeconomic scenario of the district. Vijaypur city the district headquarter is emerging as major educational hub with 2 medical colleges, 3 Universities and 3 Engineering and several graduate and post-graduate institutes training students from various parts of India and abroad. In this context of rapid socioeconomic, demographic transition, Social factors play an important role in determining the health status of the people of this district in terms of health inequality and equity. All these factors have channeled our efforts towards building this Center of Excellence for social determinants of Health a research centre which would allow researchers, health professionals and students (both local and International) to come together and learn about how they can improve the health of the community with a focus on “social determinants” of health.

It was during the visit of eminent scientist Dr. K. M Venkat Narayan, Professor of Global Health Department, and chair of Ruth and OC Hubert department at RSPH, Emory University, USA in (2011 and 2012) as a part of the BLDE (DU) and Emory University collaboration project initiation, the idea of establishing the center of excellence for SDH became more decisive and with the all the support and help from administrative officials the Center of Excellence for social determinants of Health with a longterm vision of becoming an international collaborative research center was initiated

Vision:

We will strive to enable every individual to achieve their full health potential and not to be affected by any socially determined disadvantageous circumstance.

Mission:

To measure the problem, expand our knowledge base of various social determinants that come in the way of individual's health in our study area.

Develop and implement interventions at population level, raise public awareness about the issues.

Train and Develop work force to tackle social determinants of diseases work with government agencies and assist governments in formulation of policy matters related to social determinants of Health.

The above mentioned goal is being achieved by funding from external agencies of international repute and with hand holding support from our BLDE (DU).

Under this center many international collaborative research projects have been conducted with fundings from international agencies such as **NICHD, NIH, USA, Emory Global Health Institute (GHI) and BLDE University research grant, VECD Fogarty Global Health Fellowship fund and Drivers of Food Choice**”(DFC) competitive grants programs, which is funded by **UK** governments Department for International development & the **Bill &Melinda Gates foundation** and managed by University of South Carolina Arnold school of public health USA.

Outcome of these research projects are disseminated through our **B.E. Impactful Social Determinants Newsletter, Issue-I** (in 2012), **Issue-II** (in 2014) **and Issue-III** (in 2020). A total 16 research articles are published in different international impact factor journals and 21 presentations(national and International)are delivered by the research team under this centre. 09 international students from Emory University have done their summer practicum / research projects for thesis and 1PhD student International student Fogartyfellow completed her thesis work and presently one fulltime PhD scholar is working under the supervision of Dr. Shailaja S Patil, Professor & Head, Dept. of Community Medicine.

Future Visions:

- 1.To expand our work on social determinants of Non communicable diseases in northern part of karnatka .**
- 2. To further develop networks with national and International institutes seeking collaborations to enhance the technical quality of our works on social determinants of health**

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Prof and Head Dept of Community medicine

Center of excellence for Social determinants of Health