

## 100-100-100 INITIATIVE OF DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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#### Abstract

The "100-100-100" initiative, launched by the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, stands as an ambitious effort to cultivate a research culture and harness existing data resources within the health system for informed policy decisions. This article explores the inception, execution, and challenges encountered during the implementation of the initiative. The outcome revealed that 50% of the submitted proposals were completed, with 4.8% published or under review and 45.1% presented at a workshop organized by the Directorate. The "100-100-100" initiative represents a significant leap in promoting research and evidence-based decision-making in public health.

**KEY WORDS :** "100-100-100" initiative, health research

## INTRODUCTION

The "100-100-100" initiative launched by the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine is a commendable and ambitious endeavor aimed at fostering a research culture and utilizing existing data resources within the health system to inform policy decisions. Marking the centenary of the DPH, this initiative seeks to publish 100 research publications in just 100 days, that reflects a strong commitment to advancing public health. This article will delve into the conception of the 100-100-100 initiative, its execution, and the encountered challenges

## CONCEPT OF 100-100-100 INITIATIVE

The 100-100-100 initiative called for the publication of 100 papers within 100 days, serving as a platform to connect research concepts with data resources and mentorship. A widespread invitation to participate was disseminated throughout Tamil Nadu. The initiative sought concept notes focusing on essential public health needs falling within the WHO's six building blocks of the health system. Interested individuals were invited to submit a concise one-page concept note outlining the research question, justification, methodology, and data sources. Additionally, applicants were required to provide proof of the feasibility of their proposed research for publication within 100 days, presented in the form of a Gantt Chart detailing the planned activities. The application process was open to individuals from any background, without restrictions based on their professional cadre, encouraging participation from various fields such as medical, paramedical, engineering, data analytics, economics, social welfare, and others.

## PROFILE OF APPLICANTS

Around 104 applications were received following the

announcement, and the details of these applications are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Profile of the applications for the

Variable		Frequency (Percentage)
Type of institution	Government	100(97.0%)
	Private	3 (2.9%)
Type of institution based	Medical Colleges/ Universities/research institutes	30(28.8%)
	Directorate of Public Health and preventive Medicine	71(68.2%)
	Non-Medical Academic Institutions	3 (2.8%)
Domains	Reproductive health	27 (25.9%)
	Non communicable diseases	22 (21.1%)
	Communicable diseases	19 (18.2%)
	Health system	19 (18.2%)
	Child health	8 (7.6%)
	Mental health	6 (5.7%)
	Adolescent health	2 (1.9%)
	Geriatrics	1 (0.9%)
Source of data	Primary data collection	40(38.4%)
	Secondary data – open source	11(10.5%)
	Secondary data – to be obtained from Directorates	19(18.2%)
	Secondary data – locally available	34(32.6%)

## MENTORSHIP

Mentors from esteemed academic and research institutions such as Madras Medical College, National Institute of Epidemiology, National Institute of Research in Tuberculosis, and JIPMER were extended invitations. Each faculty member



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willing to serve as a mentor was assigned a maximum of 2 research projects for guidance and support. Clear guidelines were established to govern the mentor-mentee relationship. In addition to a designated mentor, each research topic was linked with a program officer from the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, tasked with facilitating the acquisition of secondary data from the directorate. Comprehensive instructions were provided to mentors and mentees regarding their respective timelines, the frequency of meetings and discussions, the specific nature of guidance to be offered by mentors and program officers, the responsibilities of the mentee, and the guidelines for authorship. A detailed activity timeline was also furnished.

### ACTIVITY TIMELINE



### OUTCOME OF THE INITIATIVE

Of the submitted proposals, 50% have been completed. Among these, 5 (4.8%) have been published or in review process in the journals, and 47 (45.1%) have been presented at the workshop organized by the Directorate.

Table 2: Outcome status of the proposals submitted at the end of the initiative

Variable		Completion status		
		Completed and Sent for Publication N-3 N(%)	Completed and Presented N-48 N(%)	Not completed N-53 N(%)
Type of institution - ownership	Government (n-98)	4(4%)	46(46%)	50(50%)
	Private (n-6)	1(33.3%)	1(33.3%)	1(33.3%)
Type of institution based on function	Medical Colleges/ Universities/research institutes (n-28)	3(10.0%)	17(56.7%)	10(28.5%)
	Directorate of Public Health and preventive Medicine (n-73)	2(2.8%)	30(42.2%)	39(54.9%)
	Non-Medical Academic Institutions (n-3)	0(0%)	0	3(100%)
Domains	Reproductive health (n-27)	1(3.7%)	11(40.7%)	15(55.5%)
	Non communicable diseases (n-22)	0	12(54.5%)	10(45.4%)
	Communicable diseases(n-19)	3(15.7%)	7(36.8%)	9(47.3%)
	Health system (n-19)	0	6(31.5%)	13(68.4%)
	Child health (n-8)	0	6(75%)	2(25%)
	Mental health (n-6)	1(16.6%)	2(33.3%)	0
	Adolescent health (n-2)	0	2(100%)	0
Source of data	Primary data collection (n-40)	0	13(#2.5%)	27(67.5%)
	Secondary data – open source(n-11)	1(9.0%)	8(72.7%)	2(18.1%)
	Secondary data – to be obtained from Directorates (n-19)	2(10.5%)	7(36.8%)	10(52.6%)
	Secondary data – locally available (n-34)	2(5.8%)	19(55.8%)	13(38.2%)

### DISCUSSION

Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine's "100-100-100" initiative, reflects a commendable effort to promote research acumen and utilize the wealth of existing data within the health system for informed policy decision-making. The program's emphasis on bridging research ideas with available data resources and mentorship signifies a proactive approach toward fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing within the public health domain. The initiative implemented by the directorate has exhibited significant strengths and encountered notable challenges.

The widespread circulation of invitations across Tamil Nadu reflects an inclusive and open approach, welcoming participants from diverse backgrounds to contribute their expertise and perspectives to the initiative. This inclusive stance not only encourages a multi-disciplinary approach to research but also promotes a holistic understanding of public health challenges and solutions.

The focus on aligning research proposals with the World Health Organization's (WHO) six building blocks of the health system demonstrates a strategic approach to addressing critical public health needs. This not only ensures that the research is relevant and impactful but also aligns with global health priorities.

The requirement for a one-page concept note, which outlines the research question, justification, methodology, and data source, along with a Gantt Chart detailing the timeline for publication, ensures that applicants have a clear and feasible plan for their research. This level of detail and planning is crucial for the successful execution of the initiative.

By fostering a research culture among field staff, the initiative not only encourages a deeper understanding of data analysis but also instills a sense of curiosity and exploration. Moreover, by demystifying the research process, the program has made it more accessible and feasible for individuals with varying levels of expertise. Additionally, the provision of a platform that connects inexperienced researchers with seasoned academicians and experts serves as a crucial support system, promoting knowledge sharing and mentorship.

However, it is important to recognize that achieving the goal of publishing 100 research papers in 100 days is a formidable challenge. Several challenges have emerged during the implementation of this initiative. It will require a robust infrastructure for data access, analysis, and publication, as well as strong mentorship and support for the participants. The difficulty in obtaining secondary data from the directorate has impeded the seamless execution of the research activities.

This issue has highlighted the importance of streamlining data retrieval processes within the organization. Furthermore, the limitations of remote mentorship have hindered the full realization of the potential benefits, emphasizing the need for a more robust and interactive mentorship model.

Despite these challenges, the initiative has made significant progress, achieving half of its intended objectives. Going forward, it is imperative to reinforce the concept of converting existing data into actionable insights and continue to build upon the foundation laid by this program. Addressing the identified bottleneck of acquiring secondary data from the directorate will be crucial for the future success of the initiative. To overcome this, the directorate should consider proactively sharing available data and encouraging researchers to propose analysis plans for the accessible data sets. Additionally, fostering a culture that promotes the utilization of locally available field data for research endeavours will contribute to the sustainability and growth of this initiative.

As far as we know, this initiative represents a pioneering

effort in establishing a facilitating platform for the mass production of research. While the initiative has faced its fair share of challenges, its potential to empower staff with valuable research skills and leverage existing data for meaningful insights remains promising. By addressing the identified shortcomings and implementing strategic improvements, the directorate can continue to nurture a thriving research community within the organization, leading to enhanced data-driven decision-making and sustainable development.

## CONCLUSION

Overall, the "100-100-100" initiative represents a significant leap in promoting research and evidence-based decision-making in public health. By bringing together a diverse group of participants and focusing on key public health needs, this initiative has the potential to yield valuable insights and contribute to the improvement of healthcare services and policies in Tamil Nadu. It serves as a noteworthy example of how data-driven research can drive positive change in the public health sector.