



MEET OUR ACADEMY MEMBERS

Our New Research Leaders are emerging scientists within the Centre who demonstrate strong potential to lead independent research. They are recognized not only for their scientific excellence, but also for their leadership skills and commitment to research culture and impact.

Our PhDs and Master's students are early-to-mid-career researchers who are fully funded by the Centre and are enrolled at various universities. They are developing their research skills under a dual-supervision model while actively contributing to the Centre's broader research themes.

Updated on 1 July 2025

NIHR | Global Health Research Centre
for Non-communicable Diseases
and Environmental Change

NEW RESEARCH LEADERS



2



Chris Mary Kurian

The George Institute for Global Health, India

[in https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-chris-m-kurian-772b82a0/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-chris-m-kurian-772b82a0/)

[id 0009-0009-2638-9783](#)

Chris Mary Kurian is a senior research fellow at The George Institute for Global Health, India. Trained as a social scientist examining public health, at the University of Edinburgh and Jawaharlal Nehru University, Chris has been part of several research projects focused on health seeking behaviour, gender and development across urban and rural India. Her doctoral work examined the place-based nature of perceptions of wellbeing among lower middle-class populations in Delhi. At The George Institute for Global Health she is working on Heat in Pregnancy- India, a collaborative research project examining impacts of increasing temperatures on maternal health and adaptive responses by poor women and the communities they are part of. She has a growing investment in examining the interactions between climate change adaptation and health and the equity implications of the same for marginalised communities across India. Her broader interests include the politics of public health knowledge production, feminist and queer approaches to health and climate change besides an enduring interest in non-expert understandings of wellbeing.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Heat in Pregnancy-India, Harnessing tacit knowledge at The George institute to aid research

TALK/ PRESENTATIONS

- Gender and adaptation in India: reflections on women and communities as potential agents of change, at the Gender & environment data alliance webinar (June 2025)
- Experiment with Hope: everyday experience, knowledge and self-management of symptoms among persons living with sickle cell anemia in Chhattisgarh' at 'reflections on the past, looking to the future: fifty years of towards equality' international conference organized by the Centre for women's development studies, New Delhi (March 2025)



P.K Latha

Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, India

[in https://www.linkedin.com/in/pk-latha-ba908127a/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/pk-latha-ba908127a/)

[id 0000 0002 7250-6284](#)

P K Latha is a public health researcher with a decade long experience in occupational heat stress, focusing on the link between heat, workload, dehydration, and renal health. She holds a master's degree in environmental engineering and a doctorate in engineering and technology. Her research focuses on developing sustainable, evidence-based solutions for identified key risk factors for heat stress. She has contributed to nine national and international epidemiological research projects, which helped her to develop



expertise in project execution, data analysis, community engagement, and scientific communication. Her research portfolio includes 25 peer-reviewed publications, 25 indexed abstracts, and 32 seminal conference presentations.

She served as a principal investigator for a US Cross-funded project (2022) on worker perceptions of heat stress and community engagement. Currently, she is working with NIHR-Global Health Research Centre for NCDs & EC where her work focuses on developing sustainable & scalable passive cooling solutions for low-resource indoor workplaces. She also holds an appointment as an honorary research fellow at the department of primary care & public health with Imperial College London.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Enhancing thermal comfort in unconditioned Indoor workplaces through passive cooling technologies: A feasibility and performance assessment

TALK/ PRESENTATIONS

PK Latha, Vidhya Venugopal-Indoor occupational heat stress mitigation: utilization of building materials as a passive cooling technology, oral presentation in the first world conference on health and social sciences (WCHSS), Binawan university, East Jakarta, Indonesia (October 2024)

AWARDS

Appointed as secretary of the ICOH scientific committee on thermal factors for 2024-2027.



Moh. Shadiqur Rahman

Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia

 [www.Linkedin.com/in/moh-shadiqur-rahman-a73007181/?originalSubdomain=id](https://www.linkedin.com/in/moh-shadiqur-rahman-a73007181/?originalSubdomain=id)

 [0000-0002-4275-3196](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4275-3196)

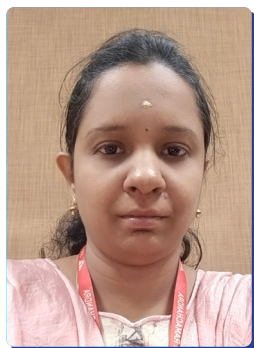
Moh Shadiqur Rahman is a lecturer in the socio-economics department, faculty of agriculture, University of Brawijaya, Indonesia. He also holds an appointment as an honorary research fellow at Imperial Collage, London. He earned his PhD in agricultural economics from the National Pingtung University of Science and Technology, Taiwan (2022). His primary research interests include rural development, public health, impact evaluation, climate change, well-being, and food security. His work has been published in several reputable international journals in the fields of agricultural economics and sustainable development including the International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology and the International Journal of Social Economics, Marine Policy.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Towards a plastic-free Indonesia: A discrete choice experiment on household preferences for waste management

TALKS/ PRESENTATIONS

- Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics (AARES) Brisbane, Australia, 2025
- International Conference on Agriculture and Food Sustainability, Malang, Indonesia 2024

**Dr. Rekha Shanmugam (B.Sc., M.B.A., M.Sc., Ph.D.,)**

Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, India

[in www.Linkedin.com/in/rekha-shanmugam-198b8368](https://www.linkedin.com/in/rekha-shanmugam-198b8368)

[ID 0000-0001-6390-1162](#)

Rekha is currently working as a project scientist in SRIHER on a Wellcome Trust-funded project. She holds a master's degree in obstetrics and gynaecological (OBG) nursing from Rajiv Gandhi University (India), MBA in hospital administration at Alagappa University and her Ph.D. under the faculty of OBG nursing at SRIHER (2025). She began her research career as a senior research fellow at SRIHER, working on department of science and technology funded projects related to occupational heat stress. Her research interests focus on women's health issues at workplaces, inadequate sanitation facilities for women and adverse pregnancy outcomes.

CURRENT PROJECTS

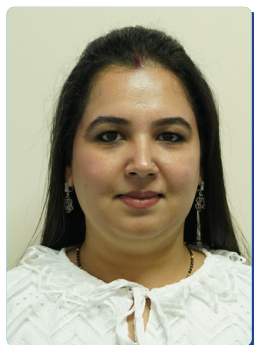
Effects of extreme heat on maternal, placental, and foetal physiology, lactation, and newborn health in India (HiP-India)

**TALKS
PRESENTATIONS**

1. Rekha Shanmugam, Vidhya Venugopal, Impact of inadequate sanitation on urinary tract infections and adverse pregnancy outcomes: A public health concern, International Conference on Gynecology, Obstetrics, and Infertility, UAE (May 2025)
2. Rekha Shanmugam, Vidhya Venugopal, Heat stress and pregnancy, unveiling risks for working women in tropical climates, OCCUCON "The 75th National Conference of the Indian Association of Occupational Health (IAOH), Chennai (Jan 2025)

AWARDS

Best paper award for the paper "Heat stress and adverse pregnancy outcome – The epidemiological evidence from South India" international conference conducted by Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research.

**Sahiba Kohli**

George Institute for Global Health, India

[in Dr. Sahiba Kohli | LinkedIn](#)

[ID 0000-0003-4281-6772](#)

Sahiba Kohli is a public health nutrition researcher with a decade long experience across a broad range of thematic areas, including food systems, nutrition security, infant and young child feeding (IYCF), maternal nutrition, community health workers competency and performance, national health and nutrition initiatives, and health systems research. Dr. Kohli is a research fellow at the George Institute for Global Health and an honorary research fellow at the department of primary care & public health at Imperial College London. Her research focusses on developing, evaluating, and implementing bottom-up, sustainable food systems interventions



CURRENT PROJECT

1. Food systems interventions in India integrated with community engagement to address non-communicable diseases with better environmental outcomes
2. Development and evaluation of effectiveness of improved take home food in combination with behavior change intervention to improve nutritional status in children in selected six districts of India: A cluster randomized control trial

TALKS/ PRESENTATION

Sharma, V., Kohli, S., Dhasmana, A., Devarsetty, P., Jha, V., Millet, C. & Ghosh-Jerath, S. Food Environment, Food Security, and Dietary Quality of Rural Communities of andhra Pradesh, India: An Exploratory Study. 10th annual Agriculture, Nutrition and Health (ANH) Academy Week 2025 Research Conference (Hybrid Mode) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (June 2025)



Widya Rahmawati

University of Brawijaya, Indonesia

www.linkedin.com/in/widya-rahmawati/

[0000-0003-4139-5064](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4139-5064)

Widya Rehmanawati is a lecturer and researcher at the department of nutrition, faculty of health sciences, Universitas Brawijaya. She also holds an honorary research fellow position with the department of primary care and public health at Imperial College London. She obtained her master's degree in nutrition from Universitas Indonesia (2008), and PhD in nutrition and public health from Deakin University, Australia (2022). She is proficient in both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies. Her research interests include nutrition and health education and promotion, as well as maternal and child nutrition and health

CURRENT PROJECTS

Primary Health care strengthening in Indonesia, Promoting healthy eating habits: behavioral nutrition education in adults with metabolic syndrome

TALKS/ PRESENTATIONS

1. Widya Rahmawati, Nurul Muslihah, Hayu Iyaka Nastaina- Food and nutrition literacy among preconception women in Indonesia, presented in The 5th International Nursing and Health Sciences Symposium (INHSS), October 2024 (oral presentation).
2. Widya Rahmawati, Hayu Iyaka Nastaina, Intan Yusuf Habibie, Nurul Muslihah (2024)-Improving preconception nutrition knowledge through webinars, modules and tiktok, presented at the National Seminar on Community Service, Faculty of Medicine, Brawijaya University (November, 2024)

AWARDS

Best paper award- "A Review of Digital Nutrition Education for Pregnant Women in Indonesia" - 7th International Conference on Health Polytechnic Surabaya, Indonesia (September 2024)



SELECT GRANTS

1. NutriTikTok: Improving preconception health through E-booklets and TikTok videos, community service grant from the research and community service agency, Faculty of Health Sciences, Brawijaya University, 2024. (Principal Investigator)
2. Strengthening food and nutrition literacy for the first 1000 days of life, community service grant from the research and community service agency, faculty of health sciences, Brawijaya University, 2025. (Principal Investigator)



Noshin Farzana

iccdr,B, Bangladesh

[www.Linkedin.com/in/noshin-farzana-25b2a0162/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/noshin-farzana-25b2a0162/)

[0000-0002-6280-3904](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6280-3904)

Noshin Farzana is public health researcher at iccdr,b with a background in medicine and a Master of Public Health from the University of Sydney (Australia awards scholarship). She also holds an honorary research associate position with the department of primary care and public health at Imperial College London. Her work focusses on strengthening primary health care systems for the prevention and management of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), with a growing emphasis on climate-sensitive health interventions and child and adolescent health. She played a key role in coordinating the development of the national treatment protocol for pediatric NCD service delivery in Bangladesh and served as a trainer to build the capacity of local healthcare providers in delivering protocol-based pediatric NCD care.

Currently, she coordinates research activities in Bangladesh under the NIHR Global Health Research Centre for NCDs & EC where she is leading efforts to design a multi-sectoral intervention for communities in coastal regions affected by high salinity in drinking water. Driven by a strong commitment to equitable health systems, she aims to generate evidence that informs policy and improves health outcomes for vulnerable populations.

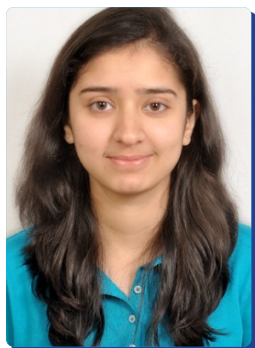
CURRENT PROJECTS

Water salinity-NIHR-GHRC (NCD & EC)

TALKS/ PRESENTATIONS

Poster presentation on water salinity & panellist for RCS session at the NIHR-GHRC Annual Symposium (Leicester, UK) 2025.

PHD STUDENTS



Ayushi Dhasmana

The George Institute for Global Health, India

PhD institution: Lady Irwin College, University of Delhi

www.linkedin.com/in/ayushi-dhasmana-1034791a7

[0009-0008-0910-2392](https://orcid.org/0009-0008-0910-2392)

Ayushi Dhasmana is a public health nutrition researcher with five years of experience in the field and holds a master's degree in food and nutrition. She is currently pursuing her PhD at the University of Delhi, in collaboration with the The George Institute for Global Health, India. Her research interests focus on evaluating food systems, particularly public food programs, aimed at enhancing their effectiveness for improved nutritional outcomes among vulnerable communities along with environmental co-benefits. She has also worked on evaluating the potential of indigenous foods for improving food security and nutritional status of vulnerable communities of Jharkhand, India.

TALKS/ PRESENTATION

1. Enhancing Diversity and Environmental Sustainability of Supplementary Nutrition Program under Integrated Child Development Services Scheme: Stakeholders' Perceptions from rural Chhattisgarh, India. Accepted for short oral presentation. IUNS-International Congress of Nutrition, Paris, France August 2025
2. Sharma V, Kohli S, Dhasmana A, Praveen D, Jha V, Millet C, Ghosh-Jerath S. Association of food environment with food security and diet quality in rural communities of Andhra Pradesh, India: A cross-sectional study. Accepted for short oral presentation. IUNS-International Congress of Nutrition, Paris, France August 2025



Eko Teguh Purwito Adi

University of Brawijaya, Indonesia

PhD institution: University of Brawijaya, Indonesia

www.linkedin.com/in/eko-teguh-purwito-adi-b166a1a5/

[0000-0002-1347-1755](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1347-1755)

Eko is a doctoral student at Brawijaya University pursuing his PhD under the NIHR Global Health Research Centre for NCDs & EC. He graduated from Brawijaya University with a Bachelor of Science in physics in 2015. He completed a Master of Science in physics in 2019 from Brawijaya University focusing on particulate dispersion. He has been working as a research assistant in the laboratory of air quality and health impacts within the department of physics at Brawijaya University. His research interests include gaining expertise in emission transport models using dispersion models, artificial neural networks, deep learning models, and their applications to health.

TALKS/PRESENTATION

Identifying air pollution emissions behaviors during plastic burning: atmospheric dispersion modelling- NIHR annual symposium Leicester (April-2025)

AWARDS

PhD Students

NIHR Global Health Research Short Placement Award for Research Collaboration R4 (2024).



Harun Al Rasyid

University of Brawijaya, Indonesia

PhD Institution: Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

 <http://www.linkedin.com/in/harunalrasyid16>

 [0000-0002-1345-9668](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1345-9668)

Harun Al Rasyid is a medical doctor and public health specialist currently pursuing a Ph.D. at Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. He has obtained his medical degree from Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia and a Master of Public Health from Curtin University, Australia. Since 2005, he has served as a lecturer and researcher at the Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Brawijaya. His research focuses on the prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), particularly in relation to environmental risk factors. His current project is titled Evaluating primary health care interventions to tackle the burden of non-communicable diseases among populations affected by air pollution in Indonesia.

TALKS/ PRESENTATIONS

Harun Al Rasyid, Asri Maharani, Anna Palagyi, Hari Kusnanto Josef. Evaluating Technology-Enabled Primary Healthcare Interventions for Managing Non-Communicable Diseases Linked to Air Pollution in Indonesia: A Study Protocol, The 19th Postgraduate Forum (PGF) on Health System and Policy, June 2025, Yogyakarta, Indonesia (Oral presentation)

AWARD

NIHR Global Health Research Short Placement Award for Research Collaboration R5 (2024).



Renu John

The George Institute for Global Health, India

PhD institution: Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)

www.linkedin.com/in/dr-renu-john-9bb991165

[0000-0001-9652-034X](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9652-034X)

Renu is a dental surgeon with a master's in public health and has over nine years of experience in public health research. She is a research fellow at The George Institute for Global Health, India, where she has been working for seven years. Her research focuses on strengthening primary healthcare systems in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), with an emphasis on implementing and evaluating digital health strategies. She is passionate about developing pragmatic solutions to the challenges faced by community health workers and improving healthcare delivery and fostering global collaboration in LMICs.

Currently, she is also pursuing a PhD in public health at the Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) under the NIHR Global Health Research Centre for NCDs and EC. Her PhD research is on Innovating the delivery of nutrition services in the primary healthcare system in Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh: A co-created digital paradigm.

TALKS/ PRESENTATIONS

1. Common data platform to improve monitoring, evaluation, and learning for impact in addressing NCDs and environmental risks in India and Indonesia – Renu John, Sridevi Gara, Sabhya Pritwani, Devarsetty Praveen at International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE), Abu Dhabi May 2025 (Poster presentation)
2. Assessment of primary healthcare services for mitigating extreme weather events in India: A mixed-methods study – Sabhya Pritwani, Renu John, P Dinesh, Srilakshmi Reddy, Naveen Kumar, Devarsetty Praveen -International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE), Abu Dhabi May 2025 (Oral presentation)
3. Study design and baseline characteristics for a cluster randomized controlled trial of a mobile health-based primary health program for Type 2 diabetes in rural Thailand – Prince Mahidol Award Conference 2025 (Poster presentation)



Sekar Aqila Salsabila

University of Brawijaya, Indonesia

PhD institution: University of Brawijaya, Indonesia

[in https://www.linkedin.com/in/sekar-aqila-salsabila/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/sekar-aqila-salsabila/)

[ID 0009-0003-4215-6089](https://orcid.org/0009-0003-4215-6089)

Sekar has led and contributed to research projects in public health and policy implementation, with a focus on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and environmental health in the past four years. As a field researcher in the *SMARThealth* PDSA project, she has supported evidence-based strategies to enhance cardiovascular disease (CVD) care in primary health systems. She later contributed to scaling up a CVD intervention in Malang, Indonesia, using the triple-loop learning framework and realist evaluation to support implementation. Currently, she is pursuing a PhD with the NIHR Global Health Research Centre for NCDs and EC. Her research topic-Co-designing plastic waste management to mitigate environmental and health impacts in Indonesia, investigates the effects of plastic burning and air pollution on health. The research integrates policy analysis, stakeholder engagement, and participatory methods to develop community-driven, scalable solutions. She has shared her research findings at international forums in Indonesia, India, and Japan, advancing evidence-informed approaches to sustainable public health.

TALKS/ PRESENTATIONS

Sekar Aqila Salsabila, Sujarwoto Sujarwoto, Laura Downey, Assessing Indonesia's readiness to meet its commitment to the international plastic treaty: A policy analysis, HSR2024, The 8th Global Symposium on Health System Research, November 2024, Nagasaki, Japan. (Poster Presentation)

AWARD

NIHR Global Health Research Short Placement Award for Research Collaboration R5 (2024).

MASTERS DEGREE STUDENTS



Maria Pramundhitya Wishnu Wardhani

University of Brawijaya, Indonesia

Degree: Master of Science-Physics (Ongoing)

Project: Development of Website-Based Monitoring System and Analysis of Air Pollution from Plastic Waste Burning Case Study of Sumberejo Village, Malang



Azarine Aisyah Widhowati

University of Brawijaya, Indonesia

Degree: Master of Science-Physics (Ongoing)

Project: Analysis of particulate matter and chemical component characterization from plastic waste combustion using a cascade impactor



Achwan Sarwono

University of Brawijaya, Indonesia

Degree: Master of Computer Science (Ongoing)

Project: Risk Classification of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Based on Health Parameters and PM2.5 Exposure Using the Random Forest Algorithm



Candra Hernawan

University of Brawijaya, Indonesia

Degree: Master of Computer Science (Ongoing)

Project: Cardiovascular disease risk classification with PCA feature selection and genetic algorithm



Saran Kumar

Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, India

Degree: M.E. Industrial Safety Engineering (Ongoing)

Project: Efficacy of cooling vest in heat stress reduction among commercial kitchen workers



Kailasam K

Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, India

Degree: M. Tech (Completed-2024)

Project: Evaluation of Occupational Heat Stress Exposure and Potential heat mitigation strategies for process Industry workers



Ranjith S

Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, India

Degree: M. Tech (Completed-2024)

Project: Effectiveness of Water Rest & Shade Intervention in reducing heat stress among construction workers

This research was funded by the NIHR (Global Health Research Centre for Non-communicable Diseases and Environmental Change) using UK international development funding from the UK Government to support global health research. The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the NIHR or the UK government.