COPASAH Global Symposium
on
Citizenship, Governance and Accountability in Health

Organized by
Community of Practitioners on Accountability and Social Action in Health (COPASAH)

Co-organisers:
People’s Health Movement (PHM)
Azim Premji University (APU), India
Accountability Research Centre (ARC) – American University, Washington DC
Institute for Development Studies (IDS) Sussex
Program on Global Health Justice and Governance (PGHJG), Mailman School of Public Health—Columbia University, New York

FOCUS, OBJECTIVES, THEMES AND OUTCOMES

The theme of the Symposium is **Leaving No One Behind: Strengthening Community Centred Health Systems for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals.**

Goal:

The symposium’s goal is to evolve an action-oriented agenda for practitioners by framing a social accountability strategy for the new era of international cooperation, which includes the expansion of the public-private partnerships, securitization of health care, purchase model of Universal Health Coverage, and opportunities like the Sustainable Development Goals.

Focus:

The overall purpose of the Symposium will be to provide a platform for learning, exchange and knowledge building on the issues related to theme by grassroots practitioners, programme managers, thematic experts, academics as
well as donors and international agencies. A unique element of the Symposium will be its focus on community level practice and bottom up knowledge building processes.

Objectives:

Through the processes of this symposium we will:

- Facilitate peer learning by showcasing diverse social accountability approaches and practices from different parts of the world.

- Introduce new paradigms and concepts to social accountability practitioners to help them analyze changes in the political economy of global health decision-making and the increased role of private actors in public health policy-making and its impact on the accountability ecosystem and equity.

- Discuss and debate the intersections between bottom-up grounded knowledge on participation and accountability with opportunities like SDGs, and changing landscape of global health between concerned stakeholders

- Generate greater conceptual clarity and new insights around the principles and practices of social accountability and community engagement and how these elements could be made integral to strategies for achieving global health goals.

Sub-themes:
The overall contents of the Symposium will cover a set of broad themes. These will include

- Community Participation in Governance and Accountability for Health systems strengthening
- Improving access to quality health services for Indigenous Communities and other marginalized Ethnic Groups
- Revisiting Reproductive Health - Completing the unfinished agenda of securing reproductive health and rights for all
- Setting the framework and agenda for demanding people centric accountability of the private and corporate health care sectors
- Forging Alliances between the Community and the Health Care Workers
KEY OUTCOMES OF THE SYMPOSIUM

We believe the symposium will do applied, strategic and enabling value addition to COPASAH as a community of practice. The symposium will assume a place of importance for COPASAH members, communities, and global actors thinking and working on social accountability.

A. **Strategic value addition**- Clarity on the strategic context within which COPASAH functions-

1. **Adapting to changing accountability ecosystem** - Creation of a contemporary social accountability discourse by aligning social accountability conceptualization and praxis to new accountability challenges as articulated in the rationale and objectives;

2. **Developing action agenda**- Improved understanding, introduction of new strategies, and thereby ability to act upon the accountability of public and private actors in health systems;

3. **Reaching to diverse constituencies**- Developing a charter on accountability in health at the end of the symposium for policy-makers, funders, governments, and CSOs, underscoring the importance of taking into account community needs and aspirations in accountability debates.

B. **Applied value addition**- refers to inspiration, connections, and relationships

1. **Strategic alliance**- Networking and relationship building between practitioners of different regions.

2. **Addressing marginalization**- Voices of the marginalized and indigenous people will be reflected in the symposium sessions to provide context of marginalization and accountability deficits in different health systems of the world.

3. **Contesting ideas** - Showcasing the 'state of the social accountability field' by providing practitioners an opportunity to share their experiences of working on issues related to participation, social accountability, citizenship and governance.
C. **Enabling value addition** - refers to strengthening support processes of COPASAH.

**Sustainability of COPASAH as a network** - Bringing a critical mass of COPASAH members along with potential new members to set a direction for social accountability practice in health sector going forward, and maintain COPASAH as the key forum and support network.