

India FETP



Training people according to the same principles and then having them work together as a team. That is how the system improves.

Dr. GNV Ramana, World Bank, Delhi

Chennai FETP

In 2001, the Indian government established a Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) based in the National Institute of Epidemiology in Chennai. This FETP is one of many programs within the Indian Council for Medical Research.

The FETP is a 2-year in-service training program in applied epidemiology. It trains public health leaders while providing epidemiologic services to health authorities in India. The program places emphasis on service as scholars pursue a 2-year Masters of Applied Epidemiology awarded through the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, in Kerala. Scholars spend 25% of their time in classroom instruction and 75% in field assignments.

FETP graduates serve as field mentors for current scholars and expand in-service training in disease detection and response regionally.

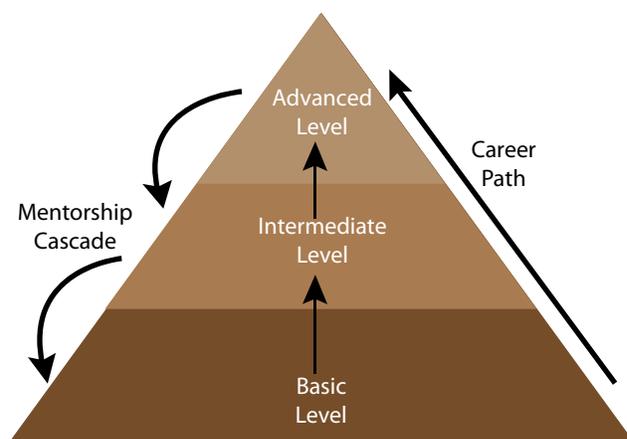
Linkages with other institutes and state partners enable the FETP scholars to undertake investigations of emerging infectious diseases and other acute and chronic public health threats and help foster linkages with the public health laboratories in the country.

Delhi FETP

In 2006, a second FETP was started in Delhi as a degree-granting program, offering a Masters of Public Health in Field Epidemiology. The program takes in recent graduates with an MBBS degree (but also non-medical graduates), typically in their late 20s and from the central and northern regions of India..

This program is based within the Ministry of Health, in the National Institute for Communicable Diseases. It is developing, in collaboration with the Integrated Disease Surveillance Program, a multi-tiered, multiple-

level, core competency framework. This tiered approach provides an appropriate amount of competency-based training for public health professionals serving at many different levels of government. At the base of the pyramid, training involves short courses and at the apex is the two-year FETP. Whatever the level, the goal is mentored competency-based training.



Partners

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta
- National Institute of Epidemiology, Chennai
- Various State Health Departments (Secretaries of Health and Directors of Public Health)
- World Health Organization, country office
- US Embassy, Delhi
- Indian Council for Medical Research, Delhi
- Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi



Programs Accomplishments

The FETPs have matured and contributed to the strengthening of the Indian public health system. Key achievements have been made in the areas of outbreak investigations, surveillance, operational research, health systems, and training methodology.

In addition, the curriculum is now online through the WHO Virtual Resource Center, which provides learning materials in the form of lectures, case-studies, presentations, and scientific articles; it is accessible at <http://searo.who.int/phi>.

The Chennai FETP scholars have investigated more than 75 outbreaks using analytical epidemiology methods. The FETP covered the classical outbreak-prone pathogens in India, including bacteria (e.g., cholera, anthrax,

leptospirosis), viruses (e.g., measles, hepatitis E, chikungunya), parasites (e.g., malaria, kala-azar), and toxic agents (e.g., organo-phosphorous). Timely investigations led to evidence-based recommendations to reduce morbidity and mortality.

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