

CURRICULUM VITAE – DR. LAILA GARDA

Educational Qualification:

- MD (Preventive and Social Medicine) 1995 – Armed Forces Medical College
University of Pune
- MBBS 1992 - University of Nagpur – Mahatma
Gandhi Institute Of Medical Sciences –
Sevagram Wardha
- Diploma in Family Life Education 1998 - One year correspondence course conducted by
Parivar Seva Sanstha, New Delhi, India in collaboration with Marie Stopes, London.
- Human Subject Protection (CITI program site) and Good Clinical Practise (CITI program site) –
online
- Good Clinical Lab Practises at NARI by PPD in February 2007

I have an MD in Public Health with 14 years of experience working in the field of Social and Behavioral research. My interests are Maternal and Child Health, Adolescent Health, HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

I have experience in research tool development, both qualitative and quantitative for National and International Research Studies, conducting Training Programs, Designing and Developing Proposals, Documentation, Data Analysis, Monitoring and Evaluation, Conducting Clinics in Rural areas and Urban slums and Report Writing.

Professional experience:

- Worked in a Hospital and Corporate set up addressing issues related to community health
- Developing, Coordinating, Monitoring and Evaluation of various programmes both nationally and internationally funded as listed below.
- **Research Scientist at KEM Hospital Research Centre Pune** since 1995

Research Officer: Induced Abortion in Rural Women of Western India, Project funded by FORD FOUNDATION -Year 1995 to 1997

This was a descriptive study to understand abortion related decision making and behavior, post abortion complications and reasons for a particular provider choice in three districts in rural western Maharashtra Activities included qualitative and quantitative data collection in three districts. .

Tool formulation, data entry/analysis, monitoring systems

Project Co-ordinator - "Providing a Health Education Intervention Package in Rural Areas of Maharashtra with a View to Improve HIV/RTI Infections" funded by TATA THELMA TRUST Of Bombay. Year 1997 to 2000

This was an exploratory and intervention study to understand RTI/STI/HIV situation in rural Maharashtra and was carried out in 15 villages the target population being the reproductive age group. Activities included rural clinics

targeting STDs and RTIs and HIV, training of peer educators and Health education sessions in the community.

Impact evaluation, training programs, developing innovative health education programs, community rapport building rural clinics

Project Co-Investigator - " A Strategy For Addressing Reproductive Health issues Concerning Married Adolescents And Young Adults In A Rural Area Of Western Maharashtra" funded by Rockefeller Foundation and co-ordinated by ICRW Washington. Year 2000 to 2002

This project addressed young married adolescents in the age group 15 to 24 years (wife) in one village Dhamari in Maharashtra. It was intervention research and addressed the RH concern of the target population through a three pronged approach namely RH education, counseling and clinical referrals services. The project also involved training peer educators for carrying out the intervention

Impact evaluation, training programs, tool formulation, developing need based material, counseling skills

Project Consultant - "Care and Support for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS in Pune City and Vadu" funded by AVERT Society of Bombay Year 2000 to 2004

This was a rural and hospital based study to provide care and support of people living with HIV/AIDS. Activities involved medical care, counseling, orientation towards home based care, nutrition and appropriate referral to name a few.

Understanding issues faced by HIV positive persons, counseling, ethics in HIV, home based care feasible strategies, training different level of functionaries

Project Co-ordinator - " A Short Study To Understand The Needs OF HIV Positive Persons In Rural Maharashtra" funded by University Of Southampton London Year 2004 (4 months)

This was a short qualitative study to understand needs of HIV positive persons in rural Maharashtra and was undertaken over a period of 4 months.

Qualitative data collection, analysis of qualitative data

Project Co-ordinator – "Addressing High Risk Sexual Behaviour in two village in Vadu area" funded by University Of Southampton London Year 2004 to 2005

This was also an intervention study addressing high risk sexual behavior in the reproductive age group and essentially involved using for the intervention small group interactions and large mass communication activities like street plays and puppet shows. Clinical services were also provided and peer educator strategy used for the small group interaction sessions.

Impact assessment, development of indicators and impact assessment forms , monitoring system development, Addressing sensitive issues in the community

Project Co-ordinator – "Pathways to forming sexual partnership formation and resolving unintended pregnancy in youth of selected sites in Pune" funded by Population Council – New York Year 2003 to 2005

This was a descriptive study to document sexual partnership formation in youth in both rural and urban areas

Tool development, rapport building, addressing sensitive issues, coordinating team of 40 Medical Social workers

Project Co-ordinator Involving Parents: As Vehicles of Change in Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health in Urban and Rural India funded by DFID 2006 to 2007

This was an intervention study, which addressed parent child communication on sexual and reproductive health. It was conducted in both rural and urban areas and involved community members in the working of the project. The project addressed adolescents in the age group 10 to 19 years and was a pre post intervention design and during the intervention a number of activities like small group interaction session, home sessions, field clinics, and mass communication activities were carried out.

Impact evaluation, addressing parents and adolescents

- **QC/QA Co-ordinator at Sassoon Hospital Pune in the JHU MIT Project Pune** since 2006

QC/QA Co-ordinator - John Hopkins University Prevention Of Mother to Child Transmission Project from October 2006.

This was a prevention of Mother to child transmission of HIV project in which I have undertaken overall QA/QC activities of the project. I have undertaken counseling QC and taken corrective steps in that direction, also QC of clinical research files and interaction with Medical Research officers for resolution of queries has been undertaken by me. I have also assisted in QC of laboratory work and assisted in preparation of PPD Monitors visits.

*Worked as **Study Coordinator** ACTG studies in the Clinical trial Unit at BJ Medical College till July 2008.*

- **Research Consultant – KEM Hospital Research Centre Pune – since 2006**
Working as a Research Consultant in the Project Sexual Initiation In India: Among Married And Unmarried Youth And Further Experience Of Physical Violence Among Married Young Women funded by WHO. Project is secondary analysis of data already collected in the Population Council Study.
- **Director Programs – Helpline** since July 2008.
Coordinating and working of all activities of the organization, essentially an organization looking at Disability.
- **Research Consultant** - for developing funding grants both national and international for field based NGOs working in Health in Pune

Research Guide

Guided research student from Emroy University for MPH, whose dissertation work included a study on contraceptive decision making among rural women in Maharashtra

Workshops: Resource person:

Worked as Resource person during various workshops like West Bengal Training Workshop, RCH Training Program, RCH Sensitization Workshop, SOSVA Training Workshop For Different NGO's, Modeling To Evaluate Options For Diagnosis And Treatment Of STIs In Women, International workshop on Intervention Research and

Workshop on Issues in Social and Behavioral Methodology in Health with special reference to HIV/AIDS and Workshop on issues related to HIV/AIDS Infected children.

Represented KEM Hospital Research Centre at Nairobi in January 2005 and Addis Ababa in December 2005 at planning meetings for proposal development as member of the Research program Consortium (RPC) short listed for the DFID HIV and AIDS RESEARCH PROGRAMME CONSORTIA along with other RPC member countries.

Invited for a workshop on "Socio behavioural aspects of microbicide trials for HIV Prevention" at ICMR New Delhi

Referee: Indian Journal of Social Work

Visiting faculty at University of Pune to teach Public Health

Member of Project Advisory Committee for ICMR – Project funded by UNFPA on Maternal health providers

Domain Expert for – Alliance for Global Education for Public Health

Conferences Attended:

Attended International Conferences on HIV/AIDS held at Durban in 2000 and Barcelona in 2002 and presented papers and posters.

Relevant Papers Presented/ and Published/Accepted for Conference

- B.R. Ganatra, S.S.Hirve, S.Walawalkar, L.Garda and V.N.Rao, 1998, Induced Abortions in a Rural Community in Western Maharashtra: Prevalence and Patterns, Ford Foundation Working Paper Series.
- Presented a paper titled: - "Evaluation of Health Educational Package for AIDS Prevention among Adolescent School Children" at the International Conference on Reproductive Health from 15-19 March at Mumbai.
- Presented a paper titled: - "HIV/ AIDS related stigma and discrimination amongst vulnerable rural Indian women" at the XIII- HIV/ AIDS International Conference held at Durban, South Africa from 9th - 14th July 2000.
- Paper titled "Attitudes and Insights of a Rural Community In Western India Towards HIV/AIDS" accepted for poster presentation at Australian Society of HIV Medicine (ASHM) Conference in Melbourne from 4th to 7th October 2001
- Tilak VW and Garda Laila " AIDS awareness among Adolescent School Children of Selected Schools in Pune;" Proceedings of the XL Annual Conference of IPHA. New Delhi 09-11 Feb 96; 32.
- Garda Laila, V. N. Rao "Opportunistic Infections and Treatment Seeking among People Living With HIV/AIDS in Rural Maharashtra" accepted for poster presentation at the International Conference on HIV/AIDS in Bombay 17th to 19th December 2001.
- Presented a paper titled: - "HIV/ AIDS related stigma and discrimination amongst vulnerable rural Indian women" at the XIII- HIV/ AIDS International Conference held at Durban, South Africa from 9th - 14th July 2000.
- Dr. Laila Garda Dr V. N. Rao Dr. Arti Bopardekar Mr P.B.Raut "A Self-Help Group Of HIV Infected Or Affected Women A Care And Support Initiative In Rural India" paper presented as poster at the XIV th International Conference on HIV/AIDS in Barcelona Spain from 7th to 12th July 2002.
- Dr. Laila Garda Dr V. N. Rao Dr. Arti Bopardekar Mr P.B.Raut "Will I Ever Get Relief?"- Problems faced in Treatment Seeking by Persons Living with HIV/AIDS in Rural Areas of Maharashtra paper presented as poster at the XIVth International Conference on HIV/AIDS in Barcelona Spain from 7th to 12th July 2002.
- Dr. Laila F. Garda, Dr. V. N. Rao, Dr. A. Bopardikar, Mr. P. B. Raut "Gynecological Morbidities Prevalent In Infertile Couples In Rural Maharashtra" paper accepted for presentation at the International Conference on Infertility to be held in Goa from 23rd to 27th September 2002.
- Mr. Lokesh Gujjarappa Dr. Hemant Apte Dr. Laila Garda The Unseen Side of Infertility: A Study of Male Perspective on Infertility in Rural Western

- Maharashtra, India paper accepted for presentation at the International Conference on Infertility to be held in Goa from 23rd to 27th September 2002.
- Surinder Jaswal, Laila Garda and Ujjwal Nene “Promotion of Male Involvement in Adolescent Married Women’s Reproductive Health through Reproductive Health Education in a Rural Area of Maharashtra, India” Paper presented at Global Conference on Male Involvement in Washington in September 2003 organized by PATH Foundation.
 - Saseendran Pallikadavath, Laila Garda, Hemant Apte, Jane Freedman, RW.Stones “HIV/AIDS In Rural India Context and Health Care Needs “ – Journal Of Bio Social Sciences (first published online 2004)00,00-00 © Cambridge University Press.
 - Dr.Mallika Alexander, Dr.Laila Garda, Ms.Savita Kanade “ Exploring societal and familial factors that influence risk taking behaviour among youth in low resource settings in India-Evidence from qualitative study” Paper presented at Changing Asian Family Conference organized by Asian Research Institute, National University of Singapore, held at Singapore, May 2004
 - Paper accepted for oral and poster presentation at the 7th ICAAP (International Congress On AIDS in the Asia Pacific) to be held in Kobe from 1st to 5th July 2005. Oral presentation – “The other side of the pandemic – Affected children in rural India”. Poster presentation “ Condoms outlets - experience in rural India “
 - Dr.Mallika Alexander, Dr. Laila Garda, Ms.Savita Kanade, Dr. Shireen Jeejebhoy, Dr. B. Ganatra entitled ‘Love-ship and sex: exploring the formation of pre-marital partnerships among young females and males in urban slum settings, Pune, India’. Paper accepted for oral presentation at the IUSSP conference at Tours, France from 18th to 23rd July 2005.
 - Romance and Sex Premarital Partnership formation among Young Women and Men, Pune District, India - Reproductive Health Matters 2006; 14(28:1-12)
 - Pre Marital relationships in Traditional Setting in India: Underlying Factors. Dr. Mallika Alexander Dr. Laila Garda Ms. Savita Kanade Shireen Jeejebhoy and Dr. Bela Ganatra. Paper accepted in International Family Planning Perspective. 2007, 33(4):150–159 Also presented in International Conference on Emerging Population Issues In the Asia Pacific Region: Challenges for the 21st Century. 10 to 13th December 2006.
 - Shireen Jejeebhoy, Rajib Acharya, Population Council, New Delhi; Dr.Mallika Alexander, Dr. Laila Garda; Savita Kanade, KEM Hospital Research Centre, Pune; Dr. Bela Ganatra, Ipas. Agency among unmarried young people in India: Levels, patterns and gender differences – Paper presented at the IUSSP Seminar in Cholula Mexico on Sexual and Reproductive Transitions of Adolescents in Developing Countries, in November 2006.
 - Amita Gupta, Uma Nayak, Nikhil Gupte, Laila Garda, Sandesh Patil, Ramesh Bhosale, Arjun Kakrani, Arvind Bhore, Jayagowri Sastry, Robert Bollinger. Tuberculosis Screening for Active Disease among HIV-infected Indian Pregnant Women at Delivery is Feasible and Has Good Negative Predictive Value. Paper presented as a poster in the Conference on Retro Virus and opportunistic infections 2008 February 3rd to 6th Boston USA
 - Ms Savita Kanade, Dr Mallika Alexander, Dr Laila Garda, Shireen Jejeebhoy, Bela Ganatra “Exploring young people’s sexual behaviours in India: Addressing methodological and ethical challenges in field research” The Journal of Family Welfare, Vol 53, No 1, June 2007.
 - Laila Garda, Mallika Alexander “I Myself Don’t Know. What Will I Tell Them”? Exploring Awareness on SRH Issues of Urban and Rural Parents of Adolescents in Indian Context. Paper accepted as a poster in European Population Council 2008 July 9th to 12th Barcelona.

- The “Gendered” Risk Of Getting HIV - The Traumatic Reality Of Violence Against Women: - Evidence From A Large Community Based Survey In Urban And Rural Settings In Pune, India and Prevention of STI and HIV- for the people and by the people: findings from a village based intervention study in Western Maharashtra, India. Abstracts accepted at upcoming Mexico HIV/AIDS International Conference from 3rd to 8th August 2008.
- Women As Victims And Men As Perpetrators Of Intimate Partner Physical And Sexual Violence In A Community Based Study In India and The Gendered Risk of Violence among Young Married Women from Pune District, Maharashtra, India
Dr. Laila Garda; Dr. Mallika Alexander; Ms Savita Kanade papers accepted as oral and poster presentation at the International Conference on Gender based violence and Reproductive Health in Bombay in February 2009.
- Parent Child Connectedness a pressing need to be addressed in rural and urban India; Marriage related decision making among young people what influences their involvement and why should young people be involved evidence from a community based survey in Urban and rural Pune India Dr. Laila Garda; Dr. Mallika Alexander; Ms Savita Kanade . Papers accepted for poster presentation at the IUSSP conference in Morocco 2009.