



# **AHEAD 2025**

## **Annual International Conference**

on

### **Global Disruptions in Healthcare and Development: Challenges, Innovations, and Pathways for the 21st Century**

**Dec 15-17, 2025**

**IIT Roorkee, Uttarakhand, India**

## **Overview**

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The 21st century has ushered in unprecedented challenges and transformations in healthcare and development, particularly within India and other developing nations. The connections between health economics and development remain crucial for shaping sustainable policies.

The most important worldwide challenges are the health system, mental health crisis, substance abuse, malnutrition and food security, sexual and reproductive health challenges, environmental pollution, climate crisis, cancer, and diabetes. At least 50% of the world population doesn't have access to essential health services. According to the National Health Accounts (NHA), India's total health expenditure as a percentage of GDP stood at 3.8%, with out-of-pocket expenditure still constituting a high 39.4% of the total health expenditure.

Moreover, health financing mechanisms remain a pressing concern, as around 60% of the population is not covered under any form of health insurance. Given the disparities in healthcare access and economic constraints, the application of health economics to development policies has become a pressing need, especially for developing countries. Addressing these concerns requires rigorous policy discussions, interdisciplinary collaborations, and evidence-based strategies that can bridge gaps in healthcare delivery and financial sustainability.

## **Tracks**

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### **Track 1: Health Risk and Financing**

Amid global disruptions in healthcare and development, managing health and financial risks is more urgent than ever. Over 930 million people worldwide spend more than 10% of their income on healthcare, pushing many into poverty. Strengthening health financing through risk pooling, insurance, and strategic purchasing, is essential to achieving universal health coverage. Effective risk financing enables systems to absorb shocks, while financial protection ensures access to care without catastrophic costs.

*Sub-themes:*

1. Equity in health financing and risk protection
2. Technology and health financing
3. Monitoring and Evaluation of Health Financing Policies
4. Gender and Health Financing
5. Health Financing Reforms
6. Universal Health Coverage and Insurance Accessibility
7. Behavioural Economics in Health Insurance Choice



## **Track 2: Occupational Health**

Occupational health is crucial for ensuring worker well-being, productivity, and economic sustainability. The economic burden of occupational diseases and injuries poses significant challenges, affecting both workers and industries. Effective policy analysis can drive interventions that enhance workplace safety, especially in the informal sector and among vulnerable groups. Strengthening occupational health frameworks contributes to sustainable development, mental well-being, and resilience in times of crisis.

### *Sub-themes:*

1. Economic Burden of Occupational Diseases and Injuries
2. Policy Analysis in Occupational Health
3. Occupational Health and Sustainable Development
4. Mental Health in the Workplace
5. Informal Sector and Occupational Health Financing
6. Aging Workforce, Gender and Occupational Health
7. Economic Resilience in Workplace Health during Pandemics

## **Track 3: Climate Change, Environmental Health, and Governance**

Climate change and environmental degradation pose significant health risks, affecting vulnerable populations disproportionately. Rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and pollution contribute to the spread of infectious diseases, respiratory issues, and mental health concerns. Environmental governance frameworks, such as DeGrowth, LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), Green Transition, and Green Recovery, aim to mitigate these impacts by promoting sustainable policies and responsible resource use. Addressing these challenges requires a multidimensional approach that integrates climate resilience, gender-sensitive health policies, and international collaboration to ensure equitable health outcomes.

### *Sub-themes:*

1. Climate Change, Energy Poverty, and Health Equity
2. Environmental Governance and Public Health: Policy and Practice
3. Green Transitions and Their Impact on Health Systems
4. Health Risks of Air Pollution and Industrialization
5. Climate Resilience and Community Health Adaptation
6. Role of Global Institutions in Health and Environmental Governance
7. Behavioural Responses to Climate-Induced Health Risks

## **Track 4: Health Behaviour and Cognition**

Addressing the economic dimensions of health behaviour among the vulnerable population is imperative for creating resilient health systems and societies. This conference will serve as a platform for interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration, driving forward evidence-based solutions to reduce the burden of health through strategies.

### *Sub-themes:*

1. Exploring Health Behaviours among the Ageing Population
2. Health Behaviours and Women
3. Health Behaviours and Non-communicable Diseases
4. Cognitive Health
5. Medical Humanities



## **Track 5: Gender, Health Inequities, and Care Injustice**

This track explores the persistent gender inequalities in health and development, which hinder equitable well-being worldwide. Women and girls continue to face disparities in healthcare access, nutrition, reproductive rights, and economic opportunity, often resulting in poorer health outcomes. These are shaped by discriminatory social norms, unequal resource distribution, limited decision-making power, and gaps in financial protection, etc. The track also emphasizes the critical role of institutions in shaping reproductive health and child well-being, focusing on how socio-economic, cultural, and environmental factors impact health across the life course. We invite contributions that examine structural determinants, propose gender-sensitive policy reforms, and highlight innovative strategies for improving healthcare access, quality with a focus on women and children.

### *Sub-themes:*

1. Gendered Disparities in Healthcare Access and Quality
2. Gendered Burden of Non-Communicable and Communicable Diseases
3. Gendered Violence and Well-being
4. Reproductive Justice, Autonomy, and Quality Maternal and Child Health Care
5. Climate Change and Gendered Health Outcomes
6. Policy, Governance, and Gender-Sensitive Health Systems

## **Track 6: Perspectives on Aging, Health, and Wellness**

Aging is a global challenge and increasingly shaped by worldwide disruptions like pandemics, climate change, and geopolitical instability with significant economic, social, and policy implications, requiring societies to reassess healthcare, legal rights, housing, and social services while promoting society's engagement and inclusivity. Medical advancements continue to redefine aging management, while social and cultural perspectives shape family roles, community support, and end-of-life care. On a personal level, aging brings shifts in relationships, independence, and living arrangements, necessitating adaptation and comprehensive support systems.

### *Sub-themes:*

- Economic and Healthcare Demands for Older Adults
- Aging-Friendly Policies, Public Health, and Social Services
- Social Support, Networks, and ICT in Aging
- Nutrition, Disease Management, and Well-being in Older Adults
- Lifestyles, Quality of Life, and Aging Population Impact

## **Track 7: Efficiency, Productivity, and Performance in Healthcare**

Healthcare systems face growing pressure to improve efficiency and productivity amid rising costs and healthcare demand driven by global disruptions. Measuring and optimizing resource use, financing mechanisms, and service delivery are essential for equitable and affordable healthcare access. This track emphasizes analytical methods, evidence-based methodology to improve decision making, fairness, and delivery of healthcare at different settings.

### *Sub-themes:*

1. Efficiency and Performance Measurement in Healthcare
2. Efficiency and Productivity in Health Financing
3. Healthcare Resource Allocation and Input-Output Optimization
4. Productivity Change in Healthcare: Indices in Health
5. Equity-Adjusted Efficiency Analysis in Healthcare Delivery



### **Track 8: Nutrition and Human Capital**

Nutrition is a crucial maker of human capital. Early age nutrition plays a significant role in lifelong health, education, the labour market, and other socioeconomic outcomes. As we approach the final year of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016–2025, it is crucial to assess progress made and explore emerging nutritional challenges for policymakers in both developing and developed countries.

*Sub-themes:*

1. Child (mal)nutrition in LMICs
2. Nutrition transition
3. Double burden of malnutrition
4. Nutritional outcomes and human capital
5. Political economy of health and nutrition

### **Track 9: Health System, Technological Disruptions and Governance**

This track explores health system governance, IKS, policy reforms, and institutional frameworks, innovation (IPR) with a focus on health system responsiveness, equity, and digital transformation. We invite studies on ICT-enabled care, AYUSH, patient-centred strategies, and regulatory challenges to advance inclusive, accountable, and effective health systems amid global hindrance in growth and development.

*Sub-themes:*

1. Health governance, policy and institutional frameworks for health system
2. Health System Responsiveness
3. Health literacy: Individual and organizational
4. Institutions and Injustice in care and healing
5. Healthcare and technological disruptions (ICT)
6. Health Technology Assessment (HTA)
7. Indian Knowledge System (IKS) and Indigenous Medicine
8. Innovation and Property Rights in Health Care

### **Track 10: Development Disconnect: Education, Labour, and Informal Enterprises**

This track examines how rapid disruptions in education, labour markets, migration flows, and social structures are reshaping global development, with a special focus on informal enterprises. Economic uncertainty, climate change, technological advancements, and the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have heightened vulnerabilities, particularly for youth, informal workers, migrants, and marginalized communities. The track delves into the structural challenges and inequalities these disruptions create, with particular attention to the role of informal enterprises in shaping inclusive development.

*Sub-themes:*

1. Labour Market Transformations, Informality, and Enterprises
2. Education Disruptions and Human Capital Development
3. Migration, Displacement, and Development Gaps
4. Social Protection, Labour Rights, and Inequality
5. Structural Inequality: Caste, Gender, and Class in Development Outcomes
6. Digital Humanities
7. Regional Inequalities with a focus on Uttarakhand and North-East regions



## Important Dates (IST)



- April 23, 2025 – Open for call for papers (using conference website of AHEAD Lab)
- **May 31- Deadline to submit abstract with extended abstract/abstract with full paper** (preference will be given to full papers)
- 15 June 2025- Notification of Acceptance
- 1 July 2025- Submission of registration fee waiver for Students from India and LMICs\*
- 5 July 2025- Decision on fee waiver
- 15 June 2025– 30 July 2025- Early Bird Registration (Fees non-refundable)
- 31 July 2025- 15 November 2025- Late Registration (Fees non-refundable)
- December 15-17, 2025- Conference Duration (Pre-conference workshop on 15th Dec) \*\*

\*Limited number of scholarships for registration fee waiver to be provided to PhD students having no fellowships/scholarships (proof letter from HoD/Dean/Registrar/ Director is required).

\*\*Final duration may change if unavoidable.

## Registration Charges

Participation Category	Early Bird Charges*	With Accommodation** (For Early Bird only)	Late Charges* (without accommodation)	Online
Foreign Nationals	\$200	\$300	\$300	\$150
LMIC Nationals	\$100	\$200	\$150	\$50
Foreign Students	\$100	\$200	\$150	\$50
LMIC Students	\$50	\$150	\$100	\$20
Indian Nationals	INR3000	INR6500	INR4500	INR 1000
Indian Students	INR2000	INR4500	INR2500	INR500

\$ = USD

\* Includes conference kit and food during sessions.

\*\* Also includes food (breakfast, lunch, evening snacks/tea/coffee, and dinner).

Social excursion/ Networking / Gala Dinner (\$15)

Note: GST Extra. For the single presenter (Separate registration is required for the co-presenter, if any).

## Instructions for Submission

- Only one submission as presenting author will be allowed in the Call for Papers for AHEAD 2025 conference.
- Authors should submit a short abstract (200 words) and an extended abstract (1500 words, including tables), or a full paper (5000 – 8000 words) describing the topic, theoretical focus, data, research methods, and expected findings. Preference will be given to full paper submissions.
- The submitting author should provide authors' details in the registration form but not in the manuscript as we follow blind review process.
- Abstracts should be submitted to either a theme topic or a session topic. These are specified on the AHEAD 2025 conference tracks.



- Poster sessions: Authors who only want to present a poster should submit to the specific track and select 'poster' under 'presentation type'. Papers submitted to a track which are not selected for a regular oral session may be considered for a poster session of AHEAD 2025 conference.

**Submission Link:** <https://ahead.iitr.ac.in/ahead2025/index.html>

## Organizing Committee:

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- **Dr. Pratap C. Mohanty (Convenor)**
- **Dr. Manish K. Asthana (Co-Convenor)**

## Scientific Committee:

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| • Prof. Sukumar Vellakkal, IIT Kanpur                              | • Prof. Souvik Banerjee, IIT Bombay                 |
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| • Prof. Shailendra Hooda, ISID                                     | • Prof. Shabana Mitra, Shiv Nadar University        |

## Advisory Committee:

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| • Prof. Jan Priebe, Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Germany |   |



## Contacts:

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Hosted by: **Applied Health Economics and Development (AHEAD) Lab**, IIT Roorkee.

Details of the conference: <https://ahead.iitr.ac.in/ahead2025/>

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### ➤ **Weather Condition and Tourist Hotspots**

The temperature in Roorkee in December ranges around a high of 25°C to a low of 12°C.

<http://uttarakhandtourism.gov.in/>; <https://www.euttaranchal.com/tourism/roorkee-excursions.php>