



POLICY DIALOGUE

Organized by Faculty of Postgraduate Medicine,
Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan

Friday 23rd October, 2020, 2.00 – 4.30 PM BST (GMT+6)

Health Equity
in Bhutan:
Understanding
Equitable Access
and Improved
Health Outcomes

Chief Guest



**Her Excellency Dechen Wangmo,
Health Minister, Bhutan**

SPEAKERS



**Dr. Don Priso, London School of
Hygiene and Tropical Medicine**



Dr. Pem Namgyal, WHO-SEARO



**Dr. Karma Phuntsho,
Bhutanese Researcher**



**Hon'ble Ugyen Namgay,
Member of Parliament**



**Diki Wangmo,
Registrar, KGUMSB**

OBJECTIVES

Bhutan's unique and free healthcare system has achieved tremendous success for its population and is looked up by others as a good example. To reflect on these experiences, there is a need for further discussion. In this health policy dialogues, the focus will be on equity and outcomes, with the objectives of;

1. To deliberate on equity of access to health services from a global and Bhutanese perspective.
2. To deliberate on the health system, on how it responds to the socioeconomic and demographic changes and needs to ensure an equitable and effective delivery of service that is needs driven and humanistic.
3. To recommend innovative policy solutions in addressing the current gaps to equitable access to health care delivery

KEY QUESTIONS

- i. Introduction to important concepts: Equity in health services, Quality and effectiveness” of the health care services. Also share perspective on these terminologies? [What are the definitions of equity in health care? What are the measures of health equity?
- ii. What are the inequities and inequalities existing in the current health services and provide clearly some important examples from local context?
- iii. What are the pragmatic steps that must be infused within the current approaches in Bhutan to improve access to services?
- iv. What health care delivery reorganization may be undertaken to improve the equitable access to health services? Example: A Bumthap pregnant woman having to travel to Mongar or Thimphu enduring the harsh road conditions.
- v. Recommend 3-4 innovative policy solutions with clear rationale to provide equitable health care.

PROGRAMME

| Time | Activity | Resources |
|--|---|--|
| 2.00 – 2.05 pm | Introduction of Dignitaries, speakers and moderators | Dr. Karma Tenzin, Dy. Dean, FoPGM |
| 2.05 – 2.10 pm | Welcome address | Dr. Kinzang P Tshering, President, KGUMSB |
| 2.10 – 2.20 pm | Introduction to webinar | Prof. Dr. Tashi Tenzin, Dean, FoPGM |
| TENTATIVE MODERATORS and SPEAKERS: | | |
| Dr. Sangay Thinley (Former Health Secretary) | | |
| 2.25 – 2.40 pm | Dr. Don Prisno | London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine |
| 2.45 – 3.00 pm | Dr. Karma Phuntsho (PhD) | Bhutanese Researcher |
| 3.05 – 3.20 pm | Hon'ble Ugyen Namgay | Chairperson, Social and Cultural Affairs committee, National Council, Bhutan |
| 3.30 – 3.45 pm | Dr. Pem Namgyal | WHO SEARO, India |
| 3.50 – 4.05 pm | Diki Wangmo | Registrar, KGUMSB |
| 4.10 – 4.25 pm | Special remarks from Her Excellency Dechen Wangmo, Health Minister, Bhutan | |
| 4.30 – 4.40 pm | Valediction of the session | Dr. Karma Tenzin, Dy. Dean, FoPGM |

EXPECTED TARGET PARTICIPANTS

- Policy makers from Govt, MoH, Local Government and autonomous agencies
- Health systems experts, health economists, social planners (patient representatives)
- Health professionals including faculty members, Teaching Hospitals and districts Hospitals
- Students: PG Trainees, Interns, Nursing and allied health students

PARTICIPATE IN POLICY DIALOGUE WEBINAR

<https://drukren.zoom.us/j/63060505836>

MODERATOR



Dr. Sangay Thinley

CONVENERS

**1. Prof. Dr. Tashi Tenzin,
Dean, FoPGM**

**2. Dr. Karma Tenzin, Dy.
Dean, FoPGM**