FOUNDATION OF HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGIES SOCIETY

New Blessing through technology empowered reforms

SMAART IMPACT Seed Grants

Inspirational Multidimensional Passionate Aspirational
Challenging Team work

EVENT REPORT

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BACKGROUND

SMAART IMPACT SEED GRANTS is a representation of an eccentric vision of Dr. Ashish Joshi to revolutionize the concept of innovation in the field of public health, especially POPULATION HEALTH INFORMATICS. He has launched this grant for students and recent graduates interested in designing, developing, implementing and evaluating digital health innovations to solve population health challenges.

DR. ASHISH JOSHI

Chair, Global Health Informatics Working Group at AMIA
Professor & Senior Associate Dean of Academic and
Student Affairs,
CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health
policy

"Obstruction is opportunity and innovation is struggle"

- **Dr. Ashish Joshi**

- **SMAART IMPACT Seed Grant gives new researchers around the plethora of Public Health the chance to define objectives and test hypothesis.**
- **The innovation and the ideas we fund provides budding public health enthusiast a better perspective of feasibility and direction for conducting researches in various domains of health, especially Health informatics.**

If you aim to design, develop and pilot test innovative digital health solution that enable behavior change strategies to enhance population outcomes, SMAART IMPACT Seed Grant will support your endeavor.

Introduction and overview

This report weighs up the ground-breaking approach, SMAART IMPACT to promote Public Health innovations by Foundation of Healthcare Technologies Society. The first round of the SMAART IMPACT Seed Grant Program was launched in January 2021 by Dr. Ashish Joshi, Chair, Global Health Informatics Working Group at American Medical Informatics Association, Professor and Senior Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs, CUNY School of Public Health and Health Policy. He has conceptualized this program for supporting the minds that dare to think out of the box and are ready to bring a change in the community. He aims to encourage bright minds with right spirits.

The overarching implementation strategy of the SMAART IMPACT Seed Grant program is to fund and shape exemplary innovation-based proposals which outstands itself beyond the conventional approaches and practices. The ultimate goal of the program is to enhance the role of informatics to conquer public health issues.

Three teams, selected through a process of panel review, were funded in **Cycle I of SMAART IMAPCT Seed Grant** for undertaking and diversifying the array of technology based healthcare agendas to bring a change in the dimension of population health. The pitches presented by the teams were assessed through multi-pronged evaluation technique.

The program focused on the thinking capabilities of public health aspirants, the ideas that can be transformed into reality and change the existing scenario that lacks implementation. The theme for the Cycle I of SMAART IMPACT Seed Grant was *"Develop innovative behavior change strategies using population health informatics approach to increase the uptake of COVID-19 Vaccine"*

EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

The initiative arrived at an opportune moment in the evolution of population health informatics approach to tackle worldwide pandemic, COVID-19. A time when entire world is coming up with strategies to contain and prevent COVID-19 infection, achieving herd immunity through vaccination seems to be best solution so far. Foundation of Healthcare Technologies Society brings this SMAART IMPACT Seed Grant for some of the aspirational minds to develop innovative behavior change strategies to increase the uptake of COVID-19 vaccine.

The evaluation framework for this SMAART IMPACT Seed Grant focused mainly on four areas of outcomes:

- Innovation based Models
- Sustainability
- Dissemination
- Potency of Grant program administration

The program is theme based and the inaugural cycle for the year 2021 focused on ideas pertaining to increase uptake of COVID-19 Vaccine, which happens to be the need of the hour amidst global public health challenge.

OUTCOME AREAS OF SMAART IMPACT SEED GRANT

- **Innovation based Models**
  Did this event ignite the development of brainstorming capabilities among young researchers in Public Health?
- **Sustainability**
  Were the innovation proposed and funded by SMAART IMPACT Seed Grant sustainable? Do the funded ideas generate interdisciplinary exchange to foster behavior change in community?
- **Dissemination**
  Were the learnings from the program able to be effectively disseminated to ground.
- **Potency of Grant program administration**
  Was the program SMAART IMPACT Seed Grant an effective initiative?

Key Outcome 1: Innovation-based Models

The cohort of three teams with ideas that were eccentric and unique in its own way to bring behavior change in the community regarding COVID-19 vaccinations were selected. The ideas submitted to SMAART IMPACT Seed Grant illustrated the difference an individual can make for health promotion and improving the health seeking behavior which plays a pivotal role in holistic improvement of health. The ideas were assessed on its ability to be reinforced, why it is important for public health researchers to keep striving, as a cadre collectively to maintain this difference as we aim to continue the story of innovation through public health informatics.

The models proposed by these teams were evaluated for the degree of power-sharing, i.e. the continuum of direct and indirect control over the implementation of the idea proposed.

Key Outcome 2: Sustainability

1. The participants attained new insight into the scientific yet creative thinking.
2. New approaches were developed with an eye over the effective implementation of the idea proposed.
3. A team-work attitude was inculcated among participants from diverse disciplines and they came together for generating sustainable results.
4. Participants shared the initiative of exhibiting their highest potential in alignment with the objective fulfillment.

The participants, though having different alma-mater and background reflected a paradigm shift in the conventional thinking and came up with sophisticated concept and partnership building that could engage community in large numbers with cost-minimization.

Key Outcome 3: Dissemination

Dissemination of any program is of utmost importance when public health is concerned. The ideas advocated in presentation needs to be diffused in the community. The participants of SMAART IMPACT seed Grant justified their potential ideas with effective strategies to bring behavior change in the community.

Key Outcome 4: Potency of Grant Program administration

The vision behind the program was to inculcate a habit of thinking out of the box among young public health researcher. The program showed a significant improvement in the process designing, developing and implementing a novice proposal with Population Health informatics approach.

THUMBNAIL PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

1. EVENT FRAMEWORK

- **Purpose**: Design, develop and pilot test innovative digital health solutions that enable behavior change strategies to enhance population health outcomes.

- **Eligibility**: Undergraduate or graduate students and recent graduates (within 12 months of their undergraduate or graduate degree), diverse back grounds with an interest in digital Health solutions

- **Selection criteria**: Digital health solutions with SMAART (Sustainable Multi-sector, Accessible, Affordable, Reimbursable and Tailored) approach

- **Frequency**: 4 times a year

- **Number of Awards**: 12-15 awards

- **Panel**: Multi-disciplinary national and global delegates and experts

APPLICATION CYCLE:

CYCLE	APPLICATION DEADLINE
January-March	
April-June	
July-September	
October-December	

The ideas submitted to SMAART IMPACT Seed Grant must illustrate the difference, an individual can make to revolutionize the existing Public Health Scenario, by targeting the health seeking behavior of the community for overall improvement using Population health Informatics.

2. **PREVIOUS EVENT:**

SMAART IMPACT Seed Grant Cycle I: inaugurated on January 15th 2021 by Dr. Ashish Joshi.

The event was focused towards developing innovative behavior change strategies using Population health informatics approach to increase the uptake of COVID-19 vaccine.

Theme: "Develop innovative behavior change strategies using population health informatics approach to increase the uptake of COVID-19 Vaccine"

3.   PREVIOUS AWARDEES:

Initiative name- Mobile outreach clinic and Pledges

TEAM A

Dr. Kavya Kumar, BDS
BRS Dental College,
Panchkula, Haryana
(India)

Sinjini Das, B.Tech
(Biotechnology)
VIT University, Vellore,
Tamil Nadu (India)

TEAM B

Dr. Suganthi D'Sylva
BDS, EDHCM
Loyola Institute of Business
Administration,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu (India)

Dr. Vibhusha
BHMS, MPH
JIPMER, Pudducherry
Pudducherry (India)

Initiative Name: ACT

TEAM C

Ngwa Franklin
MPH, Parul University,
Waghodia, Gujarat
(India)

Dr. Anuprita Nair
BDS, Manipal College of Dental
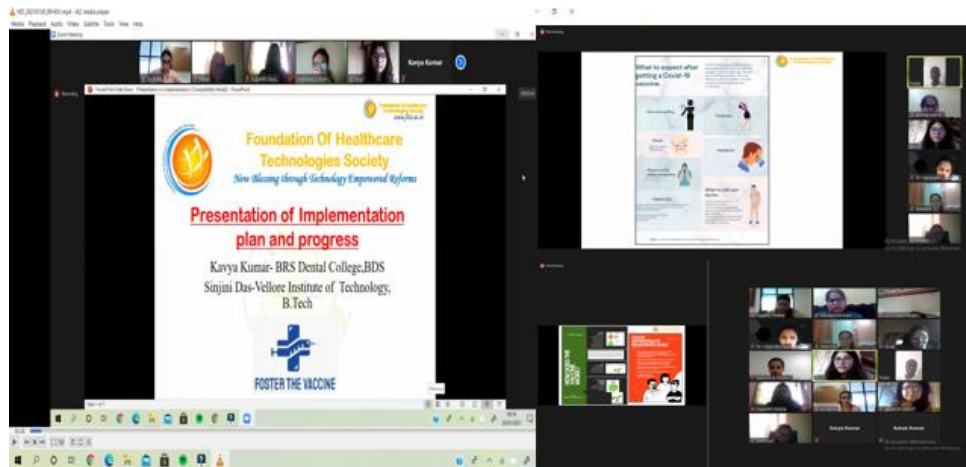Sciences, Manipal, Karnataka
(India)

Initiative name – KEY

Know - Know the right information, know what's going on and what to expect with and about the vaccine as well as the vaccination process.

Educate- Based on what you now know, educate others why vaccination is important and how it will keep their families and community healthy.

This will create a chain effect and make them more aware about the right information.

Yield- Yield the required result for creating a positive outlook towards the covid-19 vaccine in order to ultimately increase the vaccine uptake.

4. **HIGHEST SCORER**

5. Presentation Snapshots

Presentations by the selected Teams for SMAART IMPACT Seed Grant.

The presentation was attended by all FHTS team members and they engaged in valuable exchange of ideas and gave suggestions to the teams to take their projects forward.

6. <u>TESTIMONIALS</u>

Dr. Kavya Kumar, BDS
BRS Dental College,
Panchkula, Haryana
(India)

Has your participation in the SMAART IMPACT SEED GRANT helped you to innovate towards solving public health challenges?

"Yes it did, I am a Dentist and even though I had Public health in my curriculum this was doing an internship and project specially it taught me what exactly it takes to make a program and a project from a scratch to innovating and understanding specially, how a program will affect the population and the masses and it is what I have learned through seed grant".

Sinjini Das, B.Tech
(Biotechnology)
VIT University, Vellore,
Tamil Nadu (India)

Do you think this seed grant will help you in advancing your public health career?

Yes, it will. So, I am planning to start with my MPH program this year so doing a seed grant now, before even starting my MPH will give an impression that I am very interested and willing to pursue a career in Public Health. I am a person who is willing and has talent to create impact in the field. So yes it will definitely help me".

Has your participation in the SMAART IMPACT SEED GRANT helped you to innovate towards solving public health challenges ?

"Yes, I have come up with an innovative idea, and went through a lot of literature search even though I followed the health belief model and frame questions from the previous research I wanted to know what are the myths that are present in the Indian society regarding COVID vaccine so I read about COVID vaccination ideologies in India. I would definitely say it was innovative part from my side but only after implementing it and coming to know the success of it, I will be able to say if it was a well-done job. They

Dr. Suganthi D'Sylva
BDS, EDHCM
Loyola Institute of Business
Administration,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu (India)

"Initially I never expected such a massive thing from internship, I thought it will be doing some assignments and submitting it but I was very excited when impact was done and I am looking forward for a lot of things also I am looking forward to it".

Ngwa Franklin
MPH, Parul University,
Waghodia, Gujarat
(India)

Do you think this seed grant will help you in advancing your public health career?

"Yes, it will. No doubt about it. First of all, it is an additional experience for me because for me in particular being a foreigner I am learning something new in this project. Actually, it was my first time knowing how technologies can be used in healthcare and this distance learning, because what we normally do is we find out data but doing this virtually, distance learning and presentation now I know that anywhere I find myself, I must not be onsite to create an impact in a community or society or to solve a problem within my community now I can do it from here".

. Has your participation in the SMAART IMPACT SEED GRANT helped you to innovate towards solving public health challenges?

"Yes it has. Definitely helped me, for me this is like first time taking part in something which is core public health related. Although I was trained as a dentist by profession, I did not have exposure into what goes on in planning and how do you come with a solution for a particular problem and it helped me look and utilize the existing methods in a more innovative manner so as to bring about an

Dr. Anuprita Nair, BDS,
Manipal College of Dental
Sciences, Manipal,
Karnataka (India)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Am I eligible for SMAART IMPACT Seed Grant?

Any undergraduate or graduate student and recent graduates (within 12 months of their undergraduate or graduate degree), diverse back grounds with an interest in digital Health solutions are eligible to apply for SMAART IMPACT Seed Grant with a vision to bring innovation in Public Health.

2. Do I need to be an FHTS intern to apply for this grant?

No, not necessarily. Being an FHTS intern will definitely help you get familiar with the functioning and work principles of the organization but even if you are not interning with us and you fulfill the above mentioned criteria of eligibility, feel free to apply for this grant and pitch the idea of your own.

3. Is there a limit to the number of times I can apply?

FHTS conducts SMAART IMPACT Seed Grant four times a year as per the application cycle. If you have applied before and interested to apply again, you definitely can. The selection process is done by our panel-review board and it is purely based on the decisions of our jury after rigorous assessment of the pitched projects.

4. Are there any word or page limits for pitching the proposal?

FHTS provides you with the guideline to make presentations in sections and sub-sections. You have to follow that set protocol. For more information regarding presentation guidelines, visit our website @fhts.ac.in

5. Can I change my topic after I submit my application?

No, each cycle of SMAART IMPACT Seed Grant is theme-based. You need to propose as per the theme and once you submit a topic, you are not allowed to change it. We at FHTS respects novelty of each idea and follows ethics in research. Hence, it is appropriate to do all the brainstorming beforehand and come up with an idea you are decisive about.

6. Will I be notified when FHTS receives my application?

Yes, an auto-generated mail can be received by FHTS acknowledging your application, though it doesn't guarantee your selection for the fund provided under SMAART IMPACT Seed Grant.

7. I have more questions, who should I contact?

For the contact information, please visit our website @fhts.ac.in .