

## SATHI COPASAH HARPS Webinar

### Setting the Post-pandemic Agenda for Private and Corporate Health Sector Accountability

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2022

Time: 5.00 – 7.15 PM IST /11.30 AM – 1.45 PM GMT

Join in: <https://tinyurl.com/COPASAH-HARPS-Webinar>

#### Program Schedule:

	Speaker	Organisation	Topic
5.00- 5.05	Dhananjay Kakade	SATHI	Background and context setting, brief overview
5.05- 5.50	<b>Part A: Factors in escalating trends of privatisation &amp; corporatisation of healthcare across the world</b> <b>Moderator: Kanchan Pawar</b>		
	Anna Marriott	Oxfam UK	Post pandemic trends of privatisation and corporatisation of health care – what do we need to watch out for?
	John-Allan Namu	Africa Uncensored, Kenya	How have corporatisation and privatisation impacted access to healthcare during the pandemic in Africa? How effective were the Kenyan government's rate capping orders passed during the pandemic?
	Nick Dearden	Global Justice Now UK	Organisation of global economy and corporatisation of health care- What could be an agenda for national and global campaigns?
	Marco Angelo	WEMOS Netherlands	What role is Development Assistance playing in escalating privatisation and corporatisation of healthcare across the world?
	Dr Roman Vega	PHM	
5.50 to 6.00 pm	<b>Question and Answer session</b>		
6.00 – 6.50 pm	<b>Part B: Private and Corporate Health Sector Performance During the Pandemic – Evidence and documentation from the states</b> <b>Introduction to the session and Moderator: Dr Abhay Shukla</b>		
	Sulakshana Nandi	JSA Chattisgarh	
	Shishir Chand	People for Better Treatment, Delhi	
	Gouranga Mohapatra	JSA Odisha	
	Shweta Marathe	SATHI- Anusandhan Trust, Maharashtra	
	Amulya Nidhi	Swasthya Adhikar Manch, JSA Madhya Pradesh	
6.50 to 7.05	Question and Answer Session		
7.05 to 7.15	Dhananjay Kakade	Summary & Closure, Task setting	

## **Upcoming Webinar Alert!!!**

SATHI - COPASAH -HARPS WEBINAR

**“Setting the post-pandemic Agenda for Private and Corporate Health Sector Accountability”**

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The SATHI- COPASAH Hub on Accountability and Regulation of the Private Sector (HARPS) invites public health and health rights activists, social accountability practitioners and researchers to participate in a webinar on “Setting the post-pandemic Agenda for Private and Corporate Health Sector Accountability” scheduled on **Wednesday, 21st September 2022, from 5.00 to 7.15 pm (IST).**

### **Background:**

The unprecedented accountability crisis of private and corporate healthcare in different parts of the world which came to light during the COVID-19 pandemic warrant urgent policy attention and popular discourse. The scale of profiteering in the private health sector, overcharging, weak regulatory system, and poor government oversight are some key vignettes of how the pandemic unfolded from people’s point of view in India. Activists and public health researchers from other South Asian and African countries shared similar experiences in a global webinar SATHI - COPASAH HARPS organised in May 2021.

Given the widespread anger and outcry against profiteering in private sector hospitals, various state governments in India were forced to issue price capping orders for treatment of COVID-19 in private hospitals. This stop gap arrangement of emergency price capping yielded mixed results. Notably, in the state of Maharashtra, due to the combined efforts and persistent advocacy of various civil society organisations, the government instituted auditing of medical bills that exceeded stipulated price capping.

In a significant achievement, around 500 hospital bills are being jointly audited by SATHI and state officials since October 2021 and thus far, more than INR 16 lakhs (20,000 USD) which were found to be overcharged have been returned to 63 complainants. Through the audit process, SATHI has contributed to creating some semblance of discourse on deeply protracted issues like overcharging in private hospitals.

We have also realized that there are many other countries where the government took proactive steps to regulate the cost of healthcare over the past two years. Of course, the political economy of these decisions is variable and context-driven, but undeniably, the pandemic forced various states to at least think of regulating the private health sector. In some ways, it is a political opportunity for CSOs to strengthen demand for better regulation of the private health sector in their respective countries or regions.

Against this broad background, SATHI plans to organize an international workshop (in person) later this year, tentatively in Oct/Nov 2022. As a prelude to this workshop, SATHI is organising a webinar on 21st September 2022, from 5.00 to 7.15 pm (IST). Featuring an array of

international and national speakers who will present their research and experiences to connect the dots of this emerging challenge across the world.

The four broad themes that we would like to focus on in the webinar are as follows–

1. State measures to regulate private and corporate healthcare during the pandemic and its impact
2. CSO- led initiatives to ensure accountability of private health actors, if any.
3. Types of violations of patients' rights.
4. Health insurance and corporate hospitals - promise and reality.

We believe the webinar will act as a convening space to identify, discuss, and finalise themes for the physical workshop, including but not limited to possible activities that potential participants could conduct at the state and the national level before the workshop. Such activities could include compiling patient testimonies, analysis of state measures to introduce price capping, analysis of strategies to regulate the private health sector and protect patients' rights during the pandemic, and analysis of insurance schemes. It also aims to identify opportunities (e.g., research, regional advocacy, convenings, etc.) to deepen collaboration among organisations working on the above issues in South Asia, Africa and Europe.

In addition, the webinar will also serve the purpose of identifying participants who would be able to contribute to the workshop significantly- e.g., evidence-based reflections from state/country, new insights, replicable social action and advocacy ideas.

Join us in the webinar discussions and share your ideas to build equitable, accountable and transparent healthcare systems across the world!