

Dr. Manmeet Kaur, Ph.D.

Manmeet is a social scientist whose journey in public health and academia is a story of dedication, resilience, and unwavering commitment to creating meaningful change.

From the very beginning, she was drawn to the complexities of health systems, recognizing that real impact lay not just in research but in policy reform and implementation. With over 15 years in the development sector and 20 years in academia, she has shaped the field in ways few have. As an Adjunct Faculty member at the University Institute of Public Health Sciences, Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak, she is dedicated to mentoring the next generation of public health professionals, equipping them with the skills and insights needed to drive systemic change.

Her career path has been defined by transformative roles. As a Professor of Health Promotion at PGIMER Chandigarh, she instilled the importance of advocacy, evidence-based intervention, and community engagement. Holding honorary fellowships at The George Institute for Global Health, Australia, she contributed to global research on health promotion and policy effectiveness.

Her work has spanned continents and institutions. As a Consultant for Process Change at the European Commission, she drove efficiency in health programs between 2002 and 2006. As Program Manager for SRHM/RCH at the Directorate of Health Services in Haryana, she oversaw crucial reproductive health initiatives, ensuring policy translated into practice. Her technical coordination role at CARE INDIA, as well as her contributions to the United Nations Population Fund, further solidified her expertise in grassroots health interventions.

But her work doesn't stop at institutional roles. She has successfully led multiple research initiatives addressing public health challenges in India. From analyzing factors contributing to the decline in stunting—funded by Gates Venture—to investigating HIV testing behaviors through an ICMR supported randomized control trial, her research has directly shaped national health strategies. Her policy assessments, such as the National Multi-sectoral Action Plan for NCDs, developed in coordination with WHO and the Ministry of Health, have provided vital insights for decision-makers.

She thrives in collaboration, understanding that meaningful health reform requires a network of stakeholders. Whether coordinating large-scale nutrition studies with UNICEF or working with NGOs and government bodies to enhance maternal care in Punjab, her ability to bring people together has been integral to her success. Beyond research and policy, her academic contributions are substantial—150 publications, a book, multiple book chapters, and case studies showcase her commitment to knowledge dissemination.

Her efforts have not gone unnoticed. She has received prestigious fellowships, including recognition from WHO and The George Institute. She continues to apply her expertise in capacity building, training, and health systems strengthening, ensuring that public health interventions are not only well researched but effectively implemented.

Through years of experience, she has woven together research, education, and advocacy into a singular mission: transforming health systems for a better future. And in doing so, she has built a legacy—one that continues to shape public health

discourse today.