

Book: COVID-19 A View From The Margins

“COVID-19 - A View from the Margins” is a volume of essays documenting the experiences of people from different walks of life at the front-line of the COVID-19 response in India. This volume is a narration of the response as viewed by current and former civil servants, doctors in rural and urban India, journalists from across the country, new and seasoned public health practitioners, economists, and lawyers, of the million mini-battles being fought at the margins against COVID-19.

In this anthology we introduce readers to the Indian health system and the country's history of fighting epidemics, discuss the disease epidemiology and then we travel to different corners of India to hear experiences and opinions ranging from managing a non-profit hospital or running an ICU in an under-resourced setting to detailed analysis of state and national-level pandemic response strategy. This is a first-of-its kind attempt to view our country's response not only to the novel coronavirus but also its impact on communicable and non-communicable diseases, life and livelihoods, human rights, and the role our country's institutions played in it.

This book is a celebration of the little successes on the ground and a reminder of numerous lessons for the next time humankind is faced with an unprecedented health emergency. But most importantly, it's an attempt to acknowledge, remember and reflect on the unfair burden of suffering borne by those living at the margins of society.

Notable contributors:

- Ms. Sujatha Rao, former union health secretary of India
- Niharika Barik Singh, State health secretary of Chhattisgarh during the first wave of COVID-19
- Jean Dreze, Economist
- Ritika Khera, Economist
- Vidya Krishnan, Journalist
- Kiran Kumbhar, Medical Historian
- T Sundararaman, Professor & Dean, Tata Institute of Social Sciences
- S P Kalantri, Director Professor, Mahatma Gandhi Institute of medical Sciences
- Sulakshana Nandi, Public Health Resource Network and National Joint Convener, Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (People's Health Movement), Chhattisgarh

Bio: Dr. Yogesh Jain, Editor

Yogesh Jain is a Pediatrician by training and a practicing public health physician. He is one of the founding members of Jan Swasthya sahyog where he worked for 20 years. Based on his lived experience from rural Chhattisgarh, he has advocated from provincial to international levels to highlight the causes and burden of the poorest in the world. He has served in multiple health commissions at the national and international level.

Bio: Sarah Nabia, Co-editor

Sarah Nabia studies Public Health and business at the Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University. She has previously worked in advocating for HIV

prevention for marginalized populations, especially vulnerable women at the grassroots and national policy space.

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