

Brief Curriculum Vitae
Dr. VENKATESAN CHAKRAPANI, MD, PhD

Contact details:

c/o Centre for Sexuality and Health Research and Policy (C-SHaRP), 100/383, Ground Floor, 36th Street, TVS Avenue, Anna Nagar West Extension, Chennai - 600 101. India.

E-mail: venkatesan.chakrapani@gmail.com

EXPERTISE IN RESEARCH & POLICY ANALYSIS

My applied and policy-oriented research projects, in collaboration with community agencies, have directly contributed to improving the health of marginalized communities such as sexual and gender minorities, and people living with HIV. Over the past two decades, my studies among hijras/transgender women and men who have sex with men (MSM) have covered a range of health-related issues (~90 peer-reviewed journal publications): contextual and structural influences on HIV risk; social/sexual networks and HIV risk; barriers to HIV prevention and treatment services, stigma/discrimination and structural violence; syndemics and HIV; impact of sexual/gender minority stigma on mental health and HIV risk; legal gender recognition for trans people, and acceptability of new HIV prevention technologies like pre-exposure prophylaxis. (See <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9998-9135>).

I serve as the Chair of Indian National AIDS Control Organisation's Technical Resource Group (TRG) on trans people and a member of TRG on MSM. In 2013/14, I served as a member of the 'Expert Committee on the issues relating to Transgender Persons' for the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Furthermore, as part of individual or agency consultancies, I have prepared 70+ policy/technical reports for NACO, UNDP-India, UNAIDS, WHO-SEARO, WHO-Geneva and other national and international organisations (e.g., IPPF, IAVI, FHI360, India HIV/AIDS Alliance) – especially on the issues of sexual and gender minorities and people living with HIV. I have conducted several trainings, including training of trainers, for a range of healthcare providers on LGBTQ+ health. Some training videos are available online: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3YLiYNfiMbrq8hQlh0PrjQ/videos>

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Institution and Location	Degree	Year of Completion	Field of Study
Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh	Ph.D.	Jan 2019	Public Health
Institute of Venereology/STD, Madras Medical College and Research Institute, Govt. General Hospital, Chennai	M.D.	2001	Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)
Madurai Medical College, Govt. Rajaji Hospital, Madurai, Tamil Nadu	M.B.B.S.	1998	Medicine & Surgery

RESEARCH/TRAINING EXPERIENCE

Positions and Employment

August 2024 to present	Adjunct Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru
2011 to present	Chairperson, Centre for Sexuality and Health Research and Policy (C-SHaRP), Chennai
Nov 2023 to present	DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance CRC Grantee, The Humsafar Trust (Host Institution), Mumbai
Apr 2019 to Dec. 2022	DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance Senior Fellow, The Humsafar Trust (Host Institution), Mumbai
April 2017 to March 2019	DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance Senior Fellow, Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health, PGIMER
2006 - 2019	Research Advisor [Hon.], The Humsafar Trust, Mumbai
2004 - 2010	Policy and Research Adviser, Indian Network for People living with HIV and AIDS (INP+), Chennai
2002 - 2003	Country Director, Solidarity and Action Against the HIV Infection in India (SAATHII), Chennai
2001 - 2003	Consultant Physician (STI/HIV), Social Welfare Association for Men (SWAM), Chennai

Other Experience and Professional Memberships

2000 -	Member, Indian Association for STD, HIV and AIDS (IASSTD and AIDS)
2006 -	Associate Member/Adviser, Integrated Network for Sexual Minorities (INFOSEM)
2007 -	Member, International AIDS Society (IAS)
2015 -	Member, World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH)
2015 - 2016	Member, Subcommittee on New HIV Prevention Technologies (NPTs) Task Force, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
2015 -	Member, Technical Resource Group on 'Men who have Sex with Men and HIV', National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), Govt. of India
2016 -	Chairperson, Technical Resource Group on 'Transgender People and HIV', National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), Govt. of India
2020	Member, 'Committee of Experts' constituted by UNDP-India to provide inputs to Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE), Govt. of India, on the Draft Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2020

Honors

2002	Scholarship to attend training on 'Research Design in Qualitative Social Inquiry', La Trobe University, Australia
2003	NIH Fogarty International Centre's AIDS International Training and Research Program (AITRP) award, Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on HIV/AIDS (CIRA), Yale University, USA
2005	IASSCS training fellowship, International Association for the Study of Sex, Culture & Society (IASSCS)
2005	Fund for Leadership Development (FLD) fellowship, The John D. and Catherine T. Mac Arthur Foundation, New Delhi

- 2010 Samudhram award for service towards marginalized [transgender] people, Transgender Rights Association, Chennai
- 2012 Recognition award for my work on transgender health care, Progressive Writers Association of India, Chennai branch
- 2016 IAS Educational Fund Scholarship to attend IAS 2017 conference in Paris
- 2017 - 2022 Senior Clinical/Public Health Research Fellowship, DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance
- 2018 Selected for Dr. R. V. Rajam Endowment Oration in 42nd National Conference of Indian Association for the Study of STD (IASSTD) & AIDS
- 2023 “Behind the Success” award from Sahodaran, an NGO that work with sexual and gender minorities in Tamil Nadu

RESEARCH SUPPORT

Ongoing Research Support

DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance

11/01/2023 – 31/10/2028

IA/CRC/22/1/600436

‘CARET: Consortium for Advancing LGBTQ+ Health Research, Policy Engagement & Training

Role: India PI

IAVI. Ref. No. A10548.

01/04/2022 – 31/12/2024

Understanding digitally-driven risk networks to inform user-centric target product profiles (TPP) for next-generation HIV vaccines.

Role: India PI

Past Research Support (Partial list)

NACO. Ref. No. T-11020/21/2022-NACO (R& E).

05/08/2022 – 31/03/2024

(NACO = National AIDS Control Organisation).

Development and assessment of a comprehensive/holistic intervention package to reduce HIV vulnerability & to maintain viral suppression among transgender women in India.

Role: PI

DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance, IA/CPHS/16/1/502667

04/01/2017-09/30/2022

Reducing Health Inequalities among Sexual Minorities in India: Generating Evidence for Action

Role: PI / Fellowship holder

National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), T-11020/48/2019

10/01/2020-7/31/2022

Reducing discrimination faced by MSM and Transgender Women in public hospitals: A pilot multi-level intervention using a quasi-experimental design

Role: PI

Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) - IMPRESS 09/1/2019-03/31/2021

Development and Evaluation of an E-Health Intervention to Promote HIV Prevention Behaviours & Mental Health of Transgender Women in India

Role: Co-PI

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

10/01/2014-08/01/2016

Multi-level Intervention among HIV-positive MSM in India: A Pilot Study

Role: PI

PEER-REVIEWED ACADEMIC JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS**(SELECTED LIST – 25 out of 80+ articles)**Orcid ID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-9998-9135>;

Scopus Author ID: 24437208400; ResearcherID: P-8056-2014.

1. **Chakrapani, V.**, Santos, H., Battala, M., Gupta, S., Sharma, S., Batavia, A., . . . Scheim, A. I. (2024). Access to transition-related health care among transmasculine people in India: A mixed-methods investigation. *PLOS Global Public Health*, 4(10), e0003506. doi:10.1371/journal.pgph.0003506
2. **Chakrapani, V.**, Loganathan, V., Saha, P., Bose, D. L., Khan, N., Aurora, T., . . . Dewan, C. (2024). Engagement of vulnerable communities in HIV prevention research in India: a qualitative investigation. *Research Involvement and Engagement*, 10(1), 12. doi: 10.1186/s40900-024-00542-w
3. **Chakrapani, V.**, Nair, S., Subramaniam, S., Ranade, K., Mohan, B., Nelson, R., . . . Kapoor, N. (2023). Efficacy of a Multi-Level Pilot Intervention ("Harmony") to Reduce Discrimination Faced by Men Who Have Sex with Men and Transgender Women in Public Hospitals in India: Findings from a Pre- and Post-Test Quasi-Experimental Trial among Healthcare Workers. *Venereology*, 2(3), 86-107. doi:10.3390/venereology2030009
4. Bhutada, K., **Chakrapani, V.**, Gulfam, F. R., Ross, J., Golub, S. A., Safren, S. A., . . . Patel, V. V. (2023). Pathways Between Intersectional Stigma and HIV Treatment Engagement Among Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) in India. *J Int Assoc Provid AIDS Care*, 22. doi: 10.1177/23259582231199398
5. **Chakrapani, V.**, Kershaw, T., Kaur, J., Shunmugam, M., Nelson, R., Vijin, P. P., . . . Subramanian, T. (2022). Associations between sexual stigma, enacted HIV stigma, internalized HIV stigma and homonegativity, and depression: testing an extended minority stress model among men who have sex with men living with HIV in India. *AIDS Care*, 1-9. doi: 10.1080/09540121.2022.2119467
6. **Chakrapani, V.**, Gulfam, F. R., Arumugam, V., Aher, A., Shaikh, S., Prasad, R., . . . Patel, V. V. (2022). Intersectional stigma and gender non-affirmation hinder HIV care engagement among transgender women living with HIV in India. *AIDS Care*, 1-9. doi: 10.1080/09540121.2022.2099511
7. **Chakrapani, V.**, Newman, P. A., Sebastian, A., Rawat, S., Shunmugam, M., & Sellamuthu, P. (2021). The Impact of COVID-19 on Economic Well-Being and Health Outcomes among Transgender Women in India. *Transgender Health*, doi: 10.1089/trgh.2020.0131. <https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/10.1089/trgh.2020.0131>
8. **Chakrapani, V.**, Scheim, A. I., Newman, P. A., Shunmugam, M., Rawat, S., Baruah, D., . . . Kaur, M. (2021). Affirming and negotiating gender in family and social spaces: Stigma, mental health and resilience among transmasculine people in India. *Culture, Health & Sexuality*, 1-17. doi: 10.1080/13691058.2021.1901991
9. **Chakrapani, V.** (2021). Need for transgender-specific data from Africa and elsewhere. *The Lancet HIV*. doi: 10.1016/S2352-3018(20)30344-1. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanhiv/article/PIIS2352-3018\(20\)30344-1/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanhiv/article/PIIS2352-3018(20)30344-1/fulltext)
10. **Chakrapani, V.**, Newman, P. A., Shunmugam, M., Rawat, S., Baruah, D., Nelson, R., . . . Tepjan, S. (2021). PrEP eligibility, HIV risk perception, and willingness to use PrEP among high-risk men who have sex with men in India: A cross-sectional survey. *AIDS Care*, 1-9. doi: 10.1080/09540121.2021.1887801
11. Newman, P. A., **Chakrapani, V.**, Williams, C., Massaquoi, N., Tepjan, S., ROUNGPRAKHON, S., . . . Rawat, S. (2021). An eHealth Intervention for Promoting COVID-19 Knowledge and Protective Behaviors and Reducing Pandemic Distress among Sexual and Gender Minorities: Protocol for a Randomized Controlled Trial (#SafeHandsSafeHearts). *JMIR*

Res Protoc. doi: 10.2196/34381

12. **Chakrapani, V.**, Shunmugam, M., Rawat, S., Baruah, D., Nelson, R., Newman, P.A. (2020). Acceptability of HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Among Transgender Women in India: A Qualitative Investigation. *AIDS Patient Care and STDs*. 34(2): 92-98.
13. Scheim, A., Kacholia, V., Logie, C., **Chakrapani, V.**, Ranade, K., & Gupta, S. (2020). Health of transgender men in low-income and middle-income countries: a scoping review. *BMJ Global Health*, 5(11), e003471. doi: 10.1136/bmjgh-2020-003471
14. **Chakrapani, V.**, Shaikh, S., Arumugam, V., Chawla, U., & Mehta, S. (2020). Factors Influencing Willingness to Use Human Immunodeficiency Virus Preexposure Prophylaxis Among Transgender Women in India. *Transgender Health*. doi: 10.1089/trgh.2019.0076
15. Yuvaraj, A., Mahendra, V. S., **Chakrapani, V.**, Yuniastuti, E., Santella, A. J., Ranauta, A., & Doughty, J. (2020). HIV and stigma in the healthcare setting. *Oral Diseases*, 26(S1), 103-111.
16. **Chakrapani, V.**, Kaur, M., Tsai, A. C., Newman, P. A., & Kumar, R. (2020). The impact of a syndemic theory-based intervention on HIV transmission risk behaviour among men who have sex with men in India: Pretest-posttest non-equivalent comparison group trial. *Social Science & Medicine*, 112817. doi: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2020.112817
17. **Chakrapani, V.**, Lakshmi, P. V. M., Tsai, A. C., Vijin, P. P., Kumar, P., & Srinivas, V. (2019). The syndemic of violence victimisation, drug use, frequent alcohol use, and HIV transmission risk behaviour among men who have sex with men: Cross-sectional, population-based study in India. *SSM Popul Health*, 7, 100348.
18. **Chakrapani, V.**, Subramanian, T., Vijin, P. P., Nelson, R., Shunmugam, M., & Kershaw, T. (2019). Reducing sexual risk and promoting acceptance of men who have sex with men living with HIV in India: Outcomes and process evaluation of a pilot randomised multi-level intervention. *Glob Public Health*, 1-14. doi:10.1080/17441692.2019.1675081
19. **Chakrapani, V.**, Willie, T. C., Shunmugam, M., & Kershaw, T. S. (2019). Syndemic Classes, Stigma, and Sexual Risk Among Transgender Women in India. *AIDS Behav*, 23(6), 1518-1529. doi:10.1007/s10461-018-2373-1
20. Kaur, M., **Chakrapani, V.**, & Vijin, P. P. (2019). Validity and reliability of an adapted social capital scale among Indian adults. *Cogent Social Sciences*, 5(1). doi:10.1080/23311886.2019.1593572
21. **Chakrapani, V.**, Kaur, M., Newman, P. A., Mittal, S., & Kumar, R. (2019). Syndemics and HIV-related sexual risk among men who have sex with men in India: influences of stigma and resilience. *Cult Health Sex*, 21(4), 416-431.
22. **Chakrapani, V.**, Kaur, M., Newman, P.A., Mittal, S., & Kumar, R. (2018). Syndemics and HIV-related sexual risk among men who have sex with men in India: influences of stigma and resilience. *Cult Health Sex*, 1-16.
23. **Chakrapani, V.**, Newman, P. A., Shunmugam, M., Logie, C. H., & Samuel, M. (2017). Syndemics of depression, alcohol use, and victimisation, and their association with HIV-related sexual risk among men who have sex with men and transgender women in India. *Global Public Health*, 12(2), 250-265. doi:10.1080/17441692.2015.1091024
24. **Chakrapani, V.**, Newman, P. A., Shunmugam, M., Mengle, S., Nelson, R., Rubincam, C., & Kumar, P. (2017). "Like Holding an Umbrella Before It Rains". Acceptability of Future Rectal Microbicides Among Men Who Have Sex with Men in India—A Modified Technology Acceptance Model. *Qualitative Health Research*. doi:10.1177/1049732317697947
25. **Chakrapani, V.**, Vijin, P. P., Logie, C. H., Newman, P. A., Shunmugam, M., Sivasubramanian, M., & Samuel, M. (2017). Understanding How Sexual and Gender Minority Stigmas Influence Depression Among Trans Women and Men Who Have Sex with Men in India. *LGBT Health*, 4(3), 217-226. doi:10.1089/lgbt.2016.0082

BOOK CHAPTERS (SELECTED LIST)

1. Jadav, S., & **Chakrapani, V.** (2023). Learning Without Fear: Supporting Inclusive Education for Sexual and Gender Minorities. In S. Pachauri & R. K. Verma (Eds.), *Transforming Unequal Gender Relations in India and Beyond: An Intersectional Perspective on Challenges and Opportunities* (pp. 305-314). Singapore: Springer Nature. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-99-4086-8_19
2. **Chakrapani, V.**, Newman, P.A., & Shunmugam, M. (2020). Stigma Toward and Mental Health of Hijras/Trans Women and Self-Identified Men who have Sex with Men in India. In LGBTQ Mental Health: International Perspectives and Experiences, N. Nakamura and C.H. Logie (Editors). Washington: American Psychological Association. <https://www.apa.org/pubs/books/4317532?tab=1>
3. **Chakrapani, V.**, Newman P.A., & Noronha, E. (2018). Hijras/Transgender Women and Sex Work in India: From Marginalization to Social Protection. In Nuttbrock (Ed.). *Transgender Sex Work & Society*. New York: Harrington Park Press. <https://harringtonparkpress.com/transgender-sex-work-society/>
4. **Chakrapani, V.** (2016). Sex Change Operation and Feminizing Procedures for Transgender women in India: Current Scenario and Way Forward. In Arvind Narrain and Vinay Chandran (Eds.). *Nothing to Fix: Medicalisation of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity: A Human Rights Resource Book*. New Delhi: SAGE Yoda Press. <https://www.sagepub.in/books/Book251842>
5. **Chakrapani, V.**, & Kumar, J. Kh. (2009). Drug Control Policies and HIV Prevention and Care among Injection Drug Users in Imphal, India. In D. Wolfe & R. Saucier (Eds.) *At What Cost? HIV and Human Rights Consequences of the Global War on Drugs* (pp. 62-76). New York: Open Society Institute - International Harm Reduction Development. Retrieved from https://www.soros.org/sites/default/files/at-what-cost_20090302.pdf
6. **Chakrapani, V.** (2015). Sex Change Operation and Feminising Procedures for Transgender women in India: Current Scenario and Way Forward. In Arvind Narrain and Vinay Chandran (Eds.). *Nothing to Fix: Medicalisation of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity: A Human Rights Resource Book*. New Delhi: SAGE Yoda Press. <https://www.sagepub.in/books/Book251842>

TRAINING MANUALS DEVELOPED (MSM/TGW) [PARTIAL LIST]

1. **Chakrapani, V.**, Mahalingam, P., & Newman, P.A. (2021). Training module for Peer Counsellors on COVID-19 and Mental Health of LGBTQ people. Project: #SafeHandsSafeHearts
2. **Chakrapani, V.** (2017). Intervention manual for peer research counsellors. A syndemically oriented motivational interviewing-based counselling intervention. Supplementary material with PhD Thesis. PGIMER.
3. **Chakrapani, V.** (2014). *Training for doctors*. Managing STIs among MSM: Providing sensitive and competent care. Facilitator Manual and Resource Material. Prepared for National AIDS Control Organization, India.
4. **Chakrapani, V.** (2010). Positive living for men who have sex with men (MSM) and Hijras/Transgender people. Commissioned by India HIV/AIDS Alliance.
5. **Chakrapani, V.** (2007). A crash course for counselors in voluntary [HIV] testing and counseling centres. Prevention Counseling for People living with HIV. Commissioned by AsiaPacific Council for AIDS Service Organisations (APCASO).
6. **Chakrapani, V.** (2005). Understanding men who have sex with men (MSM) and Hijras & Providing HIV/STI risk reduction information. Basic Training for Clinicians & Counselors in Sexual health/STI/HIV. Trainers (TOT) manual.