

**Virtual Preconference Workshop Conducted by Institute for Research and  
Development in Health and Social Care (IRD)  
in collaboration with General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU)**

**28th August 2021 | 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm (SL time) | Mode - Zoom**

A Virtual Preconference Workshop on “Enhancing the Quality of Health and Social Care Research with Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE)” was conducted via Zoom on 28<sup>th</sup> of August 2021 from 14:00 to 16:30 (SL time) by the Institute for Research and Development in Health and Social Care (IRD) in collaboration with the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU), Sri Lanka.

This workshop was aimed at fulfilling one of the objectives of the project MRC Global Health Nutrition: Enhancing Training in Sri Lanka led by the Institute for Research and Development in Health and Social Care (IRD) in collaboration with the Kings College London, Keele University UK, funded by the Medical Research Council UK (MRC). This project was planned for training and capacity building of nutrition related research in Sri Lanka. Through this workshop, we were able to accomplish the objective of developing the PPIE capacity among local researchers.

Dr. Faiz Marikar, the Director of the Staff Development Centre, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University hosted the session. The keynote address on ‘Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE)’ concept was delivered by Prof. Athula Sumathipala, Director, IRD. Dr. Steven Blackburn explained the value of PPIE in the Ethical Design of Research. The usefulness of PPIE in Health and Social Care Research was described by Dr. Enoka Wickramasinghe, Consultant Community Physician, Estate & Urban Health Unit, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka. Dr. Duminda Guruge, Senior Lecturer, Department of Health Promotion, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka shared his experiences on PPIE in Health Promotion. Dr. Duminda also shared some videos on community engagement events conducted by the Health Promotion Unit, Rajarata University

of Sri Lanka which dragged the attention of the audience. Mr. Lasith Dissanayake, Research Associate, IRD explained the role of PPIE in research conducted by the IRD.

Participants were invited for a virtual group photograph. Around 90 participants had joined the workshop. Finally, participants were requested to give their feedback on the workshop, and was invited for a short *Q and A* Session facilitated by Prof. Athula Sumathipala. During the Q and A Session, participants raised questions on differences between PPIE and Community Involvement and Engagement. Many participants posted their feedback in to the chat. Participants had indicated that the workshop was a valuable, informative one. Participants thanked for organizing the workshop, and had also expressed their willingness to work together in future PPIE work with the IRD. The workshop ended successfully with the closing remarks by Dr. Kalpani Abhayasinghe, Senior Lecturer, Department of Nursing and Midwifery, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka.