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Dr. Anitha received M.D. in Preventive and Social Medicine from St. John's Medical College, Bangalore (2003) and Master's in Public Health from University of South Florida, USA (2008). She is currently a faculty member at the School of Medical Sciences, University of Hyderabad since 2014. She has nineteen years of experience in diverse areas of public health such as infectious disease, RMNCH+A, women, work and development, food safety and security. She teaches Public health policy and management, Public Health Nutrition, Environmental health, Work and Health Ethics at graduate level. Her current research examines the environmental and occupational hazards among municipal solid waste workers, work place intervention for health and well-being of workers, micronutrient supplementation among target groups, Non Communicable Disease (NCD) risk assessment and intervention at work place.

She has trained mid-career professionals, doctors, nurses, community health workers in Public Health Management and mentored medical and nursing interns, graduate students and scholars in Public Health. She has been PI/ Co-PI on research projects funded by DST, ICSSR and DBT. Anitha has published peer reviewed articles in national and international journals. She was a recognized Grade 'A' resource person for the National Institute for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (NIRD & PR) in the theme Food, Nutrition, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (2017-2021). At the invitation of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), she developed training modules on food safety at Public Health Foundation of India in collaboration with the Royal Society for Public Health (UK) and National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) with funding FSSAI, MoHFW, GoI. She designed and implemented a training program on adolescent reproductive and sexual health for Rajiv Vidhya Mission (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan), Department of Education (for erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh Government). She provided technical assistance and supervised the UNICEF funded 'operationalization of Maternal Death Review in the State of Andhra Pradesh'. She led her team in an evaluation of Community Health Insurance Scheme- Aarogyasri in Andhra Pradesh. She was actively involved in the epidemiological surveillance of HIV/AIDS epidemic in and supervised the medical component of Integrated Biological and Behavioral Surveillance in five districts of Karnataka under the 'Avahan' India project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Dr. Anitha was awarded the Indo-US Scientific & Technology Forum (IUSSTF) research fellowship by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, 2013-2014. She is a recipient of partial scholarship award by Royal Society for Public Health (UK) to present her work in 'Food safety' at the Food Safety Management Conference, Campden BRI, Chipping Campden in 2012. Awarded Australasia Leadership Award Fellowship (ALAF) at University of Sydney, NSW, Australia, culminating in a presentation on "Concentrated Epidemic: Approaches & Challenges in Different HIV Epidemics" at Australasian HIV/AIDS Conference, September 2011.

Research area: Public health policy and management, Food and nutrition security, RMNCH+A, Gender and Health, Environment and occupational health.