



Convergent- Institutional Review Board

A Brief Profile

The Institutional Review Board of Convergent View Research & Consultancy (Convergent-IRB) (**IRB Registration Number: IORG0010818**) has been constituted to ensure quality of research and to prevent misuse of research on human subjects. The Convergent-IRB is registered with the Division of Assurance and Quality Improvement of the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP), USA. The Convergent-IRB has eminent experts as its panel members, from various fields of research including public health, gender, WASH, human development and law.

It has conducted reviews of several projects from organizations like Gallup India Private Limited, IDFC Institute, BBC Media Action, Dasra and UNICEF.

Convergent- IRB promotes the highest ethical standards in research by ensuring that each application is reviewed in a fair and meticulous manner.

Confidentiality Statement

Convergent-IRB is committed to strong client data confidentiality. The process and systems that are followed to protect the data confidentiality include:

- Centralized controls
- Centrally authorized circulation protocols,
- Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDA) with the reviewers and panel members and the administrative staff,
- Ensuring that client data is not archived,
- All the printouts/data taken are/is systematically destroyed, electronically.

Convergent IRB thus takes full institutional responsibility of data protection and confidentiality

Convergent- IRB: Panel Profile

Dr. Subrato Mondal- Chairperson



Dr. Mondal has a PhD in Population Studies. He is currently working as Advisor-Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning at USAID/India. He is a highly skilled health M&E specialist. He has 25 years' experience of academic research, public health research and operation research in the field of Human Development, Demography, Reproductive Health & Rights, and Health Care Financing. Dr. Mondal is also holding honorary Board Member position of national and international evaluation societies such as Development Evaluation Society of India (DESI); Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA). He is a founder member of the Community of Evaluators (CoE) in South Asia. Dr. Mondal has published widely on health and nutrition issues and M&E methodology in peer reviewed international journals and edited books. He has significant expertise of building sustainable relationships with stakeholders for imparting policy advice for research driven, evidence-informed and community-led projects. He is trained in Human Research Ethics.

Dr. Prerna Kumar – Member Secretary



Dr. Prerna Kumar has over 16 years of experience in the development sector. Presently, she is working in Convergent View Research & Consultancy Private Limited as the Head – Public Policy. She was working as a gender specialist she is leading economic empowerment programs for adolescent girls' and women at ICRW. Through her career she has designed and managed large-scale quantitative surveys and qualitative studies for impact measurement, generated insights to develop programs and social and behaviour change communication campaigns. She has strong multisectoral experience specifically in gender, economic empowerment, public health, education and climate change. In her work profile, she has always been responsible for translating research findings into actionable insights. Dr. Kumar is also trained in human research ethics and is on the research ethics board.

Dr. Sushanta Banerjee - Member

Sushanta is an M&E expert responsible for providing technical guidance and overseeing implementation of different research activities. His research and evaluation work on reproductive health particularly abortion and contraception, healthy ageing, behavior change communications, statistical modelling is widely published in edited books and peer-reviewed Journals including Asia Pacific Population Journal, Economic and Political Weekly (EPW), Encounter, Global Public Health, International Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health (IPSHR), BMC Health, and IJOG. Sushanta is also on the review board of many global journals and has reviewed many research papers on different statistical modelling on fertility, sexual and reproductive health specifically from the lens of gender. Sushanta has previously led several large-scale surveys in India including NFHS-2. He holds master's degree in economics and Demography, and a Doctoral degree in Demography. When not at work, he plays table tennis and mentors young research scholars.

Dr. Lopamudra Paul - Member

With a doctoral degree in Population studies, she has had about ten years of work experience in program monitoring and evaluation in addition to program monitoring with a focus on health, population & development. Her main strength consists in both technical skills (qualitative and quantitative analytics) on the one hand, and organizational ability in planning, monitoring and evaluation of programs and leading research studies, health management information system and capacity building activities, on the other.

As Director – Research & MEL, she is the focal point for the planning/development and management of Research and monitoring for the project. She oversees the research and feedback requirements based on the digital health platform of projects. Her role is to bring synergy between Research, IT and MEL which includes coordinating with external research and technology partners/developers and ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the implementation. She works closely with the thematic area advisors/specialists and the MEL team; focusing on the design and implementation of operations research, rapid assessments, and program evaluations using quantitative and qualitative methods.

Dr. Jitendra Kumar Mishra - Member

A PhD holder in Economics, Dr. Mishra's experience spread over a period of two decades in various facets of Academia. Being a vibrant learner, during his professional journey, he has gained proficiency not only in different aspects and nuances of teaching, research, administration and institution building but also in handling cross-cultural scenarios as he has worked with people having varied backgrounds. Dr. Mishra has been well connected with academia and other professional bodies. He has been on the National Executive Board of Association of Indian Management Schools since 2016 and has served as the Regional Vice-President (South) for the year 2018-19. He is also a member of the National Advisory board of CEGR, Delhi.

Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh - Member

Dr, Ajay Kumar Singh received his PhD from the International Institute for Population Sciences (2011) and is currently working as the Senior Expert-Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation & Knowledge Management at IPE Global, New Delhi, India.

He is working as a senior team member and leading the MLE vertical in an Urban Health Project of USAID.

His key responsibilities at this project are leading the M&E portfolio of the project, providing technical oversight to the program team on framing M&E framework, Designing and implementing, monitoring and supervision plan of program/interventions and recommend corrective actions, managing partnership with our collaborators for scientific data, leading the performance management process that measures and evaluates progress against goals of the project and spearhead scientific publications in peer reviewed journal and reports for project dissemination.

Mr. S N Achenta - Member

Mr. S N Achenta (Surendra Nath Achenta) completed his BL in 1997 and has been practicing law for the last 23 years, he was specialized in Civil and Corporate cases, he also attained the Mechanical Engineering diploma along with his BL degree. Currently he is a member of Advocates Bar Association and Andhra Pradesh high court advocates Bar. He has been a keen observer of Social Norms, and also has also specialized in professional ethics and

code of conduct.

