The Transformative Power of Health

Every Child's Aid to Empowerment in India

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Divya

My first patient from 1997

Allow me to deconstruct

- India's story which includes the story of her children's health

- Positive disruptors & persistent barriers when it comes to many girl children's health

- The cumulative cost of ill-health: compromised health, education, agency & autonomy to live fulfilled and fuller lives

- The COVID-19 Pandemic and whether in the midst of the pandemic there a window of opportunity we can seize to advance child health?

- Health: How health can be every child's aid to empowerment?

47,20,00,000
children in India
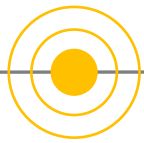
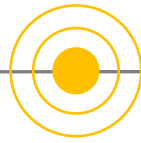| 2,50,00,000	908	18%	62%
Total number of births a year	0-18 years sex ratio	% of children with low birth weight	Immunization coverage for 12-23 month olds
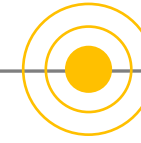
vs

943

Overall sex ratio
(2011 census)

India: The scale of things

Many states have child populations similar to the child population of large countries

India State	Country
Uttar Pradesh	USA
Bihar	Ethiopia
Maharashtra	Philippines
West Bengal	Vietnam
Madhya Pradesh	Russian Federation
Andhra Pradesh	Turkey
Rajasthan	Iran
Gujarat	Japan
Tamil Nadu	Kenya
Karnataka	Sudan
Orissa	Afghanistan
Kerala	Italy

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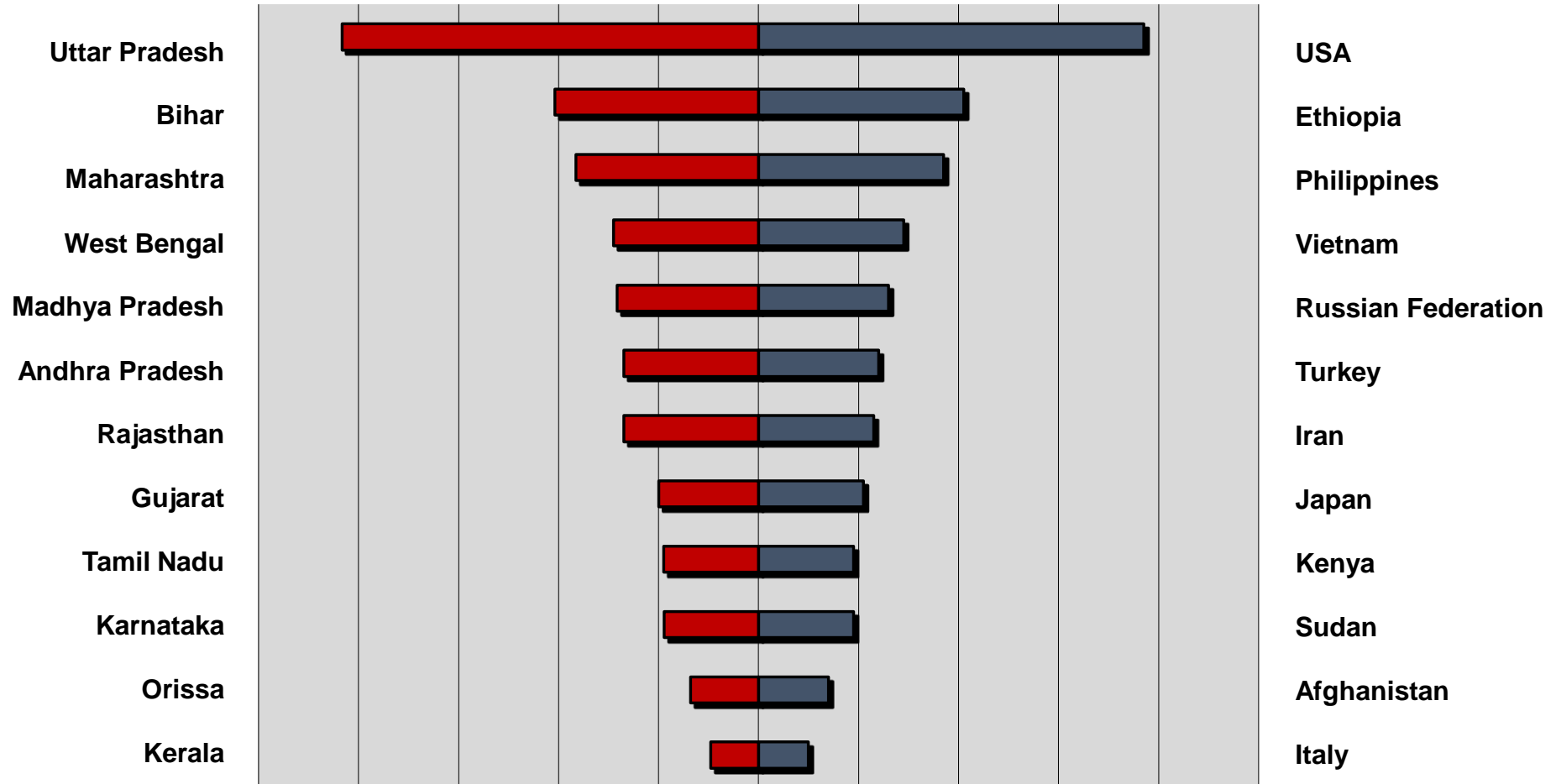
Positive disruptors

Vaccines

- The measles vaccine alone saved an estimated 1.7 crore lives between 2000 and 2015

- Immunisation currently prevents 45-55 lakh deaths every year

Education

- Social determinant of health

- Increased accessibility of public health interventions and challenged social norms against child marriage and teenage pregnancy

The cumulative cost of ill-health

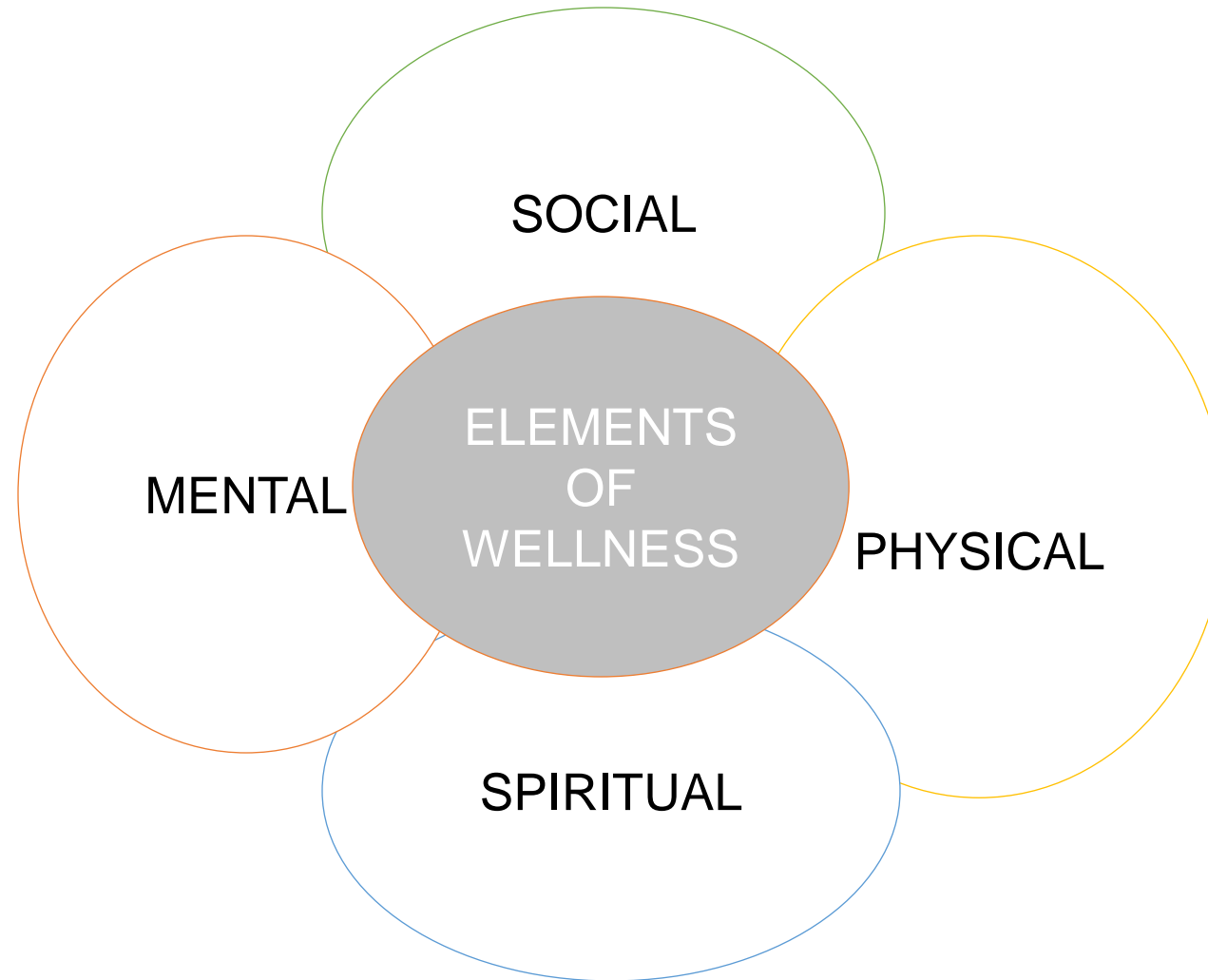**Compromised health**

Compromised education

Compromised agency and autonomy to live fulfilled and fuller lives

Dimensions of Health

SOCIAL

MENTAL

ELEMENTS
OF
WELLNESS

PHYSICAL

SPIRITUAL

Worldwide 10-20% of children and adolescents experience mental disorders.
Half of all mental illnesses begin by the age of 14 and three-quarters by mid-20s.

Does COVID-19 offer us a window?

37,901,241 people have tested COVID-19 positive in India

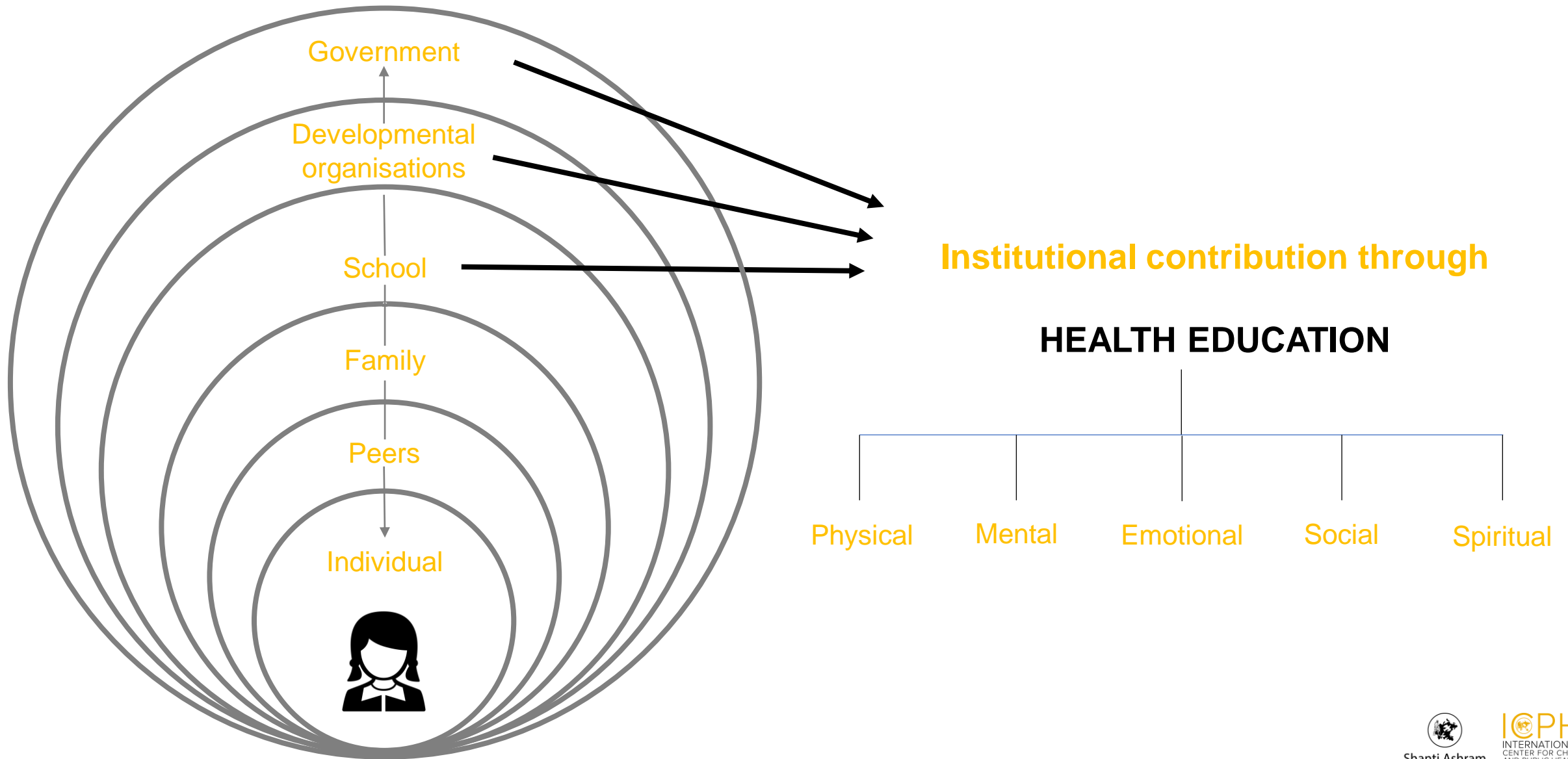**334,182,348** people have tested COVID-19 positive worldwide

18th January 2022
Johns Hopkins Global Dashboard

The burden of disease, deprivation, and powerlessness is placed disproportionately on our girls

We must reimagine public health to impact the future of our girls together!

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How can we contribute to advancing child health?

Government

Developmental organisations

School

Family

Peers

Individual

Institutional contribution through

HEALTH EDUCATION

Physical — Mental — Emotional — Social — Spiritual

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How can
HEALTH
be every child's aid to empowerment?

ALL FOR CHILDREN

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Mahatma Gandhi