

Scientist Profile



Name Dr BEENA ELIZABETH THOMAS

Designation Scientist 'B'

Date of Birth 10.06.1957

Date of Joining 14.08.1982

Date of joining present post 18.06.2007

Discipline Socio behavioral research

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Educational Qualifications

DEGREE	INSTITUTION	YEAR	FIELD
BA (Psychology)	University of Madras	1977	Psychology
MSW (Master of Social work)	University of Madras	1979	Medical & Psychiatric Social work
Ph D (Social Work)	University of Madras	2001 - 2005	Psychosocial and Sexual Impact of HIV – Gender Differentials
Fogarty Postdoctoral AIDS International Training and research Program	University of Los Angeles-UCLA	April-June 2003	Behavioral aspects of HIV/AIDS

Research Experience

Duration	Institution	Particulars of work done
November 2000	Christian Medical College,	Training Programme in HIV/AIDS
April 2003	CHIPTS (Centre for Identification, Prevention and Treatment Services) Los Angeles, USA	HIV Research: The Next Generation,
February 2007	TRC/NIH/ICER and University of Alabama	Qualitative Research Methodology
September 2007	ICMR, New Delhi	Clinical and Translational Research for Prevention, Care and Treatment of HIV –related Co-Morbidities
February 2008	TRC organized by Brown University	Ethical Issues in Biomedical Research

Experience Profile:

1979 – 1982	Case Worker in `Save the Children Fund', Chennai
1982 – to January 2006	Social scientist in Tuberculosis Research Centre, Indian Council of Medical Research, Chennai
February 2006 - October 2006 (on deputation)	State Project Manager, ICMR, NIE-Integrated Behavioral and Biological Assessment (IBBA) - Avahan Project with support from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
November 2006 – till date	Social scientist in Tuberculosis Research Centre, Indian Council of Medical Research, Chennai

I head the social work section in the National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis. My expertise is as a social scientist dealing with various psychosocial issues around TB and HIV. A major part of my work is in designing and conducting studies on these aspects. Some of the areas have been on gender differentials in TB and HIV, stigma, disclosure issues, health care seeking behavior, integrating TB and HIV care and interventional studies in TB and HIV. I have collaborative studies in HIV/AIDS with the University of California (UCLA) and The Harvard Medical School / Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). These studies have aimed at sensitive populations such as Mothers Living with HIV (MLH) and Men having sex with Men (MSM). The findings of these studies have led to interventional studies based on the needs of these populations. I have also been involved in an alcohol intervention study for TB patients with alcohol use disorder (AUD). As part of the team that supports the randomized clinical trials in the treatment of Tuberculosis and HIV my focus is in dealing with their behavioral issues. This includes counseling, evolving strategies to improve patient compliance, working with families, rehabilitation of patients and documentation. My interests in training and advocacy programs in TB and HIV involves regular training activities to a wide range of trainees from paramedical, medical, students of social work and NSS program officers.

I also had the opportunity of working as a State Project Manager for Tamilnadu for the Integrated Behavioral and Biological Assessment (IBBA) project funded by Bill and Melinda Gates foundation through the Family Health International (FHI). This project aimed at evaluating the intervention program for HIV/AIDS by Avahan supported NGOs to

study the impact of their intervention on HIV/AIDS control. My work was in coordinating and in monitoring the work in Tamilnadu.

Membership/Fellowship of Professional Societies/Associations:

- ▶ Member of the National Consultation committee on HIV social Research Priorities in India TISS(Tata Institute of Social Sciences), Mumbai, India
- ▶ Member of the Academic Counsel in Madras School of social work
- ▶ Member of Institutional Review Board- GHTM(Government Hospital of Thoracic Medicine)
- ▶ Member of project Advisory Committee (PAC)-Family Planning Association of India (FPA) for people living with HIV stigma Indexed roll out in Tamil Nadu.
- ▶ Abstract reviewer for the 6th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis
- ▶ Non Academic Member in the Board of Studies in Social Work, University of Madras
- ▶ Member of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease
- ▶ Member of the Review committee on Indo-US collaborative projects of ICMR
- ▶ Member of the TORCH panel –TANSACS
- ▶ Member of Advisory Committee in APAC(Aids Prevention and Control Society) – VHS(Voluntary health Services) for BSS Wave XII
- ▶ Member of AroGyan- I-TECH (International Training and Educational Center for Health)
- ▶ Member of the National Consultation committee on HIV Social Research Priorities in India” TISS, Mumbai.
- ▶ Technical Consultant for Hindustan latex Family Planning Promotion Trust (HLFPPT) is a trust promoted by HLL life care ltd, a Public sector Under taking of GOI.
- ▶ Reviewer for AIDS Care and AIDS & Behavior (International Journals)
- ▶ Reviewer for the New Investigator Awards (NIA) from the UW/FHCRC Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) Developmental Core.

Workshops/Conferences/Symposiums

International

- Presented and chaired a session at VI International Conference on social work in Health and Mental Health, “Changing Health 2010 at Dublin, Ireland on June 28th to July 2nd 2010
- Participated in 5th International Conference on HIV Treatment Adherence 2010, Miami, Florida, USA on May 23rd to 25th 2010
- Attended CFAR Social and behavioral Sciences Research Network (SBSRN) 4th National SBSRN Scientific Meeting State of Science issues. Boston, Massachusetts on 30th Sept to 2nd Oct 2009.
- Oral presentation on “Impact of HIV/AIDS on Mothers in Southern India: A Qualitative Study” at NIMH International Research Conference on the Role of Families in Preventing and Adapting to HIV/AIDS, Providence, Rhode Island, USA on October 6th to 8th, 2008
- Poster presentation on “Psychosocial and demographic predictors of HIV risk and HIV infection in men who have sex with men (MSM) in Chennai, India”, at XVII International AIDS conference, Mexico city, Mexico on August 3rd to 8th, 2008
- Presented a paper on “ Understanding of Gender differences in sex and sexuality among HIV positive individuals – A study from Chennai”, organized by The 15th ICSD Symposium, Dept of Applied Social Sciences, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, China on July 16th to 20th, 2007
- Presented a paper on “ Understanding of Gender differences in sex and sexuality among HIV positive individuals – A study from Chennai”, organized by The 15th ICSD Symposium, Dept of Applied Social Sciences, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, China on July 16th to 20th, 2007
- Paper presentation on “How stigmatizing is Stigma in the life of people living with HIV- A study on HIV positive individuals from Chennai, South India” at NIMH Annual International Research Conference on the Role of Families in Preventing and Adapting to HIV/AIDS Sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health, NIH, New York between July 20th –22nd, 2005

- Visited Rakai Project, Uganda, South Africa on October 16th to 23rd, 2004
- Attended Regional Workshop-Symposium on AIDS in India: Research, Trials and Treatment, held at the JNCASR and NIMHANS, Bangalore, organized by AIDS International Training and Research Program (AITRP) of Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York on July 31st to August 6th, 2004
- Presented a paper on “A Study of Marriage and Sexuality in HIV Positive and HIV Negative Women of South India” – Annual Conference on the Role of Families in Preventing and Adapting to HIV/AIDS, Los Angeles, USA. on July 25 to 27, 2001
- Presented a paper on “Global Health Emergencies in the New “ Need for People Oriented Strategies – 11th International Symposium on Social Development for the New Millennium – Visions and Strategies for Global Transformation organized by the Inter-University Consortium for Social Development, Cape Town, South Africa on July 4th to 8th, 1999

National

- Chaired a session on “Facing the Reality of Multi Drug Resistant tuberculosis challenges and potential in India at Indian National Science Academy (INSA) New Delhi between 18th April 2011 and 19th April 2011
- Participated and presented in workshop on Stigma organised by Tata institute of Social Science (TISS) at Mumbai between 28th - 31st March 2011
- Attended a workshop on Indo-US Joint Statement of STI and HIV a Grantsmanship and peer workshop at ICMR New Delhi on 28th and 29th 2010
- Participated in orientation training program on Medical and Psychiatric social work for 2nd year MSW students at MSSW Chennai, on 22nd June 2010
- Participated in Dissemination Workshop on Key Findings of Integrated Behaviour and Biological Assessment (IBBA) Round 2 2009 Chennai organised by NIE& TANSAC 10th June 2010
- Attended Roundtable meeting organised by REACH to discuss MDR-TB partnership to strengthen RNTCP, Chennai on 19th Feb 2010
- Participated in the National Consultation on HIV Social Research Priorities in India” TISS, Mumbai on 17th to 19th December 2009

- Presented a Paper on Socio-Behavioral Studies in MDP Dissemination workshop, at TRC on December 9th & 10th 2009
- Participated in the Dissemination meeting on “HIV Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey (BSS) 25th November 2009
- Participated in the Dissemination meeting on “Roll out plan for Integrating Nutrition as part of care and support Treatment of HIV, World Food Program/HIV TANSAC, Chennai on 23rd October 2009
- Participated in the Research Dissemination Workshop on Clinical, Behavioral and Pharmokinetic Studies with Tamilnadu State AIDS Control Society at ICSA Programme Centre on 19th May 2009
- Presentation and Panelist for the discussion on “Is there a 3rd gender” – organized by Young Women’s Christian Association of Madras (YWCA), Chennai on 12th March 2008
- Attended the Survey dissemination meeting for stake holders and policy makers the IBBA – (Integrated Behavioral and Biological Assessment) on high risk groups at Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society (TNSACS), Chennai on 29th February 2008
- Presentation on “Need for Acceptance of Transgender” for Inner wheel Rotary members at Presidency Club, Chennai on 4th January 2008
- Participation on “Clinical and Translational Research for Prevention, Care and Treatment of HIV – related Co-Morbidities” at the Indo-US workshop by ICMR, New Delhi between September 24th – 25th, 2007
- Presented a paper on “A study on the feasibility of HIV screening among TB patients through VCTC”, organized by the Dept. of TB and Chest Diseases, RNT Medical College, Udaipur between February 2nd-4th, 2007
- Presented a paper on “Feasibility of HIV testing among TB patients” at the International HIV/AIDS conference organized by NACO at New Delhi on April 2006
- Presented a paper on “Impact of nutritional intervention on Quality of life” at Research dissemination workshop organized by Tuberculosis Research Centre on 2nd March 2006

- Attended the Third Southeast Asia and Western Pacific Bi-Regional TEPHINET Scientific Conference organized by National Institute of Epidemiology between January 9th to 12th 2006
- Presented a paper on the topic of “Sociological Issues on HIV and TB” at the National CME on HIV and Tuberculosis at Chennai, organized by TRC and The National Academy of Medical Sciences, New Delhi between September 11th – 12th, 2004
- Chaired a session –13th International Symposium-Inter-University Consortium for international Social development-Towards Democratic Pluralism; Challenges for Social development in the 21st century between December 29th ‘03– January 2nd, ‘04
- Presentation on ‘Eunuchs – We are human too’. An insight into their history, psycho - social problems and an urgent need for their acceptance in society – to students of city colleges in Chennai organized by Shristhi, Madras School of Social Work on April 15th, 2003
- Presented a paper on the topic of “To hell with Stigma”-4th International HIV/AIDS Conference organized by MGR university on November 9-12, 2003

Faculty /Guest Lecture/ Trainer :

1. Faculty for NACO Specialist Training on “Confidentiality and treating minors” on HIV Care and Treatment – organized by GHTM, Tambaram Sanatorium, Chennai May 22nd, 2008
2. Faculty for NACO Specialist Training on “Psychosocial Aspects and Counseling “ on HIV Care and Treatment – organized by GHTM, Tambaram Sanatorium, Chennai April 22nd, 2008
3. Faculty for NACO Medical Officer Training on “Stigma and Discrimination” – organized by GHTM, Tambaram Sanatorium, Chennai April 11th, 2008
4. Guest Lecture on “Socio-behavioral Research” – Students of MSSW, Chennai March 10th, 2008

5. Resource person for the Religious leaders training on “Human Sexuality and Church’s response” held at Gurukul, Chennai organized by National Lutheran Health & Medical Board November 22nd, 2007
6. Resource person for the State Level Seminar on “Social Work Research in the Indian Context organized by Loyola College, Chennai February 10th, 2007
7. Resource person for the Pastor’s training on “Human Sexuality and Church’s response” held at Gurukul, Chennai organized by National Lutheran Health & Medical Board January 8th, 2007
8. Guest Lecture on “What young girls need to do for HIV/AIDS?” at C.P.T. College for Women at Velachery December 12th, 2004
9. Resource person for the workshop on “Counselling Skills in Sexual Health – Through Skill Enhancement Training” organized by the Department of Psychiatry, Madras Medical College August 10th, 2004
10. NACO Medical Officer Training on HIV care and Treatment organised by GHTM, Tambaram Sanatorium, Chennai. December 6th, 2007
11. Training for NTI field investigators on “Routine referral of TB patients to Integrated Counselling and Testing centres” in Bangalore October, 2007
12. Invited for the planning meeting as resource person “Redesign and planning meeting for conducting BSS Wave XII” – organized by APAC – VHS, Chennai March 18th, 2008
13. Member of the Alumni Association Board meeting held at Madras School of Social Work, Chennai February 16th, 2008
14. Review the proposals (REP) organized ICMR by Expert Group meeting June 30, 2007
15. What do youngsters need to know about HIV/AIDS? Talk for HIV/AIDS awareness program organized by Tamilnadu Aravanigal Association (THAAI) January 12th, 2007
16. Women and Development-A seminar organized by The Madras school of Social work-invited as a member of the Jury February 16, 2004

Miscellaneous

17. Organized a Rally on the move against TB in Marina beach at Chennai on 15th March 2011
18. Conducted Dissemination workshop titled on TB for ST/STLS at TRC , March 12th 2010
19. Panel Member for a panel discussion on ‘Social Work Research’ - *Medical & Psychiatric Social Work* UGC sponsored National seminar on Social Work Research: Challenges and Perspectives at MSSW, Chennai January 29th &30th 2010
20. Conducted Dissemination workshop titled Challenges facing MSM in India in the context of HIV/AIDS prevention and intervention Challenges facing MSM at TRC January 7th 2010
21. Conducted “Facilitation Skill training” workshop with Fenway Institute, Boston at TRC October 20 &21st 2009
22. External Examiner for the students of Post Graduate Students of Department of Social Work at Mar Gregorios College of Arts and Science, Chennai. April 21st, 2009
23. Panelists in the National Study Conference on “Social Work Profession – A Future Perspective” at the Department of Social Work of Loyola College, Chennai March 17th, 2009
24. Invited for the meeting to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and Bye-laws of our society “Association of MSSW Alumni” at Madras School of Social Work, Chennai. September 3rd, 2008

Publications from 2005

1. Mohanarani Suhadev, **Dr Beena E Thomas**, Murugesan, Niruparani Charles, Dr. Chandrasekaran V, Durga, Auxilia, Dr Aleyemma Thomas and Dr Fraser Wares. *Screening for Alcohol Use Disorders (AUD) among Tuberculosis patients attending Chennai Corporation Health Centers, Tamilnadu*, PLoS ONE , May 2011 , Volume 6 ,Issue 5
2. M J Mimiaga , **B Thomas** , K H Mayer , S L Reisner , S Menon , S Swaminathan , M Periyasamy , C V Johnson and S A Safren *Alcohol use and HIV sexual risk among MSM in Chennai, India*, Int J STD AIDS 2011;22:121-125

3. Mohanarani Suhadev,Udaya Mahadevan, Meenalochani Dilip,, Devaraj Suryanarayanan, Rajasekaran Sikhamani,and **Beena Thomas** *“Percentages,Process and Patterns of HIV Disclosure among the spouses of HIV infected men in South India”*, Journal of the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care, 2011,10(1) 26-29
4. K Jaggarajamma , **Beena Thomas** . *Challenges in dealing with the problem of Tuberculosis-Experiences from Tuberculosis Research Centre (ICMR), Chennai, India'* Proceedings of 2010 International Conference on Humanities, Historical and Social sciences (CHHSS2010) ISBN: 978-1-84626-025-4; 474-477
5. Mohanarani Suhadev, Udaya Mahadevan, **Beena E Thomas** & Soumya Swaminathan *Women as carers: Burden of the wives of HIV infected men in South India.* Proceedings of 2010 International Conference on Humanities, Historical and Social sciences (CHHSS2010) ISBN: 978-1-84626-025-4; 454-458
6. Niruparani Charles, **Beena Thomas**, Basilea Watson, Raja Sakthivel M., Chandrasekeran V, Fraser Wares, *Care Seeking Behavior of Chest Symptomatics: A Community Based Study Done in South India after the Implementation of the RNTCP*, PLoS ONE September 2010, Volume 5 , Issue 9 , e12379
7. C.Padmapriyadarsini, S.Swaminathan, MJ Karthipriya, G Narendran, Predeep Aravindan Menon, **Beena E Thomas**, *Morphology and body composition changes are Different in Men and women on generic combination Antiretroviral Therapy – An Observational Study*, JAPI, June 2010 Vol 58(375-377)
8. Steven A. Safren Beena Thomas, Matthew J. Mimiaga, Kenneth H. Mayer., Sunil Menon, V. Chandrasekaran, P. Murugesan, Soumya Swaminathan, *“Depressive symptoms and HIV risk among MSM in Chennai, India”* Psychology, Health & Medicine Vol. 14, No. 6, December 2009 705-715
9. **Beena E Thomas**, Puneet K. Dewan, Sophia Vijay, Aleyamma Thomas L S Chauhan, ChandrasekaranV, Preetish Vaidyanathan, Soumya Swaminathan,. *Perception of Tuberculosis patients on provider-initiated HIV testing and Counseling- A study from South India*, Plos One December 2009, Volume 4, Issue 12 , e8389
10. **Beena Thomas**, Matthew J. Mimiaga, Kenneth H. Mayer., Sunil Menon, V. Chandrasekaran, P. Murugesan, Soumya Swaminathan, & Steven A. Safren. *“HIV Prevention Interventions in Chennai, India: Are MSM Being Reached?”* :AIDS patients care and STDsVolume 23 Number 11,2009

11. Sophia Vijay, Soumya Swaminathan, Preethish Vaidyanathan, Aleyamma Thomas, L.S. Chauhan, Prahlad Kumar, Sonali Chiddarwar, Beena Thomas, Puneet K. Dewan *Feasibility of Provider- Initiated HIV Testing and Counselling of Tuberculosis Patients Under the TB Control Program in Two District of South India* Nov 2009, Vol 4, Issue 11, e7899
12. Beena Thomas, Soumya Swaminathan, Adeline Nyamathi. *“Impact of HIV/AIDS on Mothers in Southern India: A Qualitative Study”* – AIDS Behav(2009)13:989-996
13. Beena Thomas, Matthew J. Mimiaga, Sunil Menon, V. Chandrasekaran, P. Murugesan, Soumya Swaminathan, Kenneth H. Mayer, Steven A. Safren. *“Unseen and Unheard: Predictors of sexual risk behaviour and HIV infection among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Chennai, India”* – AIDS Education and Prevention, 24(4), 372-383, 2009, submitted in JAIDS – Epidemiology.
14. Beena E. Thomas, Chandra S, Josephine K, Suriyanarayanan D and Soumya Swaminathan *“Gender differences in marriage and sexual behavior among people living with HIV in Chennai, India”* Indian Journal of Medical Research 129(6), June 2009, pp 625-724
15. Adeline Nyamathi, Beena Thomas, Barbara Greengold and Soumya Swaminathan, *Perceptions and health care needs of HIV -positive mothers in India, Progress in Community Health Partnerships*, The Johns Hopkins University Press 2009 Vol 3.2, 99-109
16. K. Jaggarajamma, R. Balambal, M. Muniyandi, M. Vasantha, Beena Thomas, C. Nirupa, G. Sudha, V. Chandrasekaran and Fraser Wares, *Perceptions of Tuberculosis Patients about Private Providers Before and After Implementation of Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme*, Indian J Tuberc 2009; 56:185-190
17. Thilakavathi S, Mohan D. G, Ramesh S, Paranjape, Ginnela N.V.B, Lakshmi R, Rajatashuvra A, Boopathi K, Thomas, B. E., et. al. *“HIV, sexually transmitted infections and sexual behaviour of male clients of female sex workers in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, India: results of a cross-sectional survey”* AIDS 2008, 22 (Suppl): S69 – 79.
18. D. Somma, B. E. Thomas, F. Karim, J. Kemp, N. Arias, C. Auer, et. al, *“Gender and Socio-cultural determinants of TB-related stigma in Bangladesh, India, Malawi and Colombia”* Int J Tuberc Lung Dis 2008 12(7): 856 – 66
19. Soumya Swaminathan, C. Padmapriyadarsini, B. Sukumar, Sheik Iliayas, S. Ramesh Kumar, C. Triveni, P. Gomathy, Beena Thomas, Minnie Mathew, P. R.

- Narayanan *“Nutritional Status of Persons with HIV Infection, Persons with HIV Infection and Tuberculosis, and HIV-Negative Individuals from Southern India”* CID 2008; 46: 946-9.
20. Sudha Ganapathy, Beena E. Thomas, M.S. Jawahar, Josephine Arockia Selvi, K. Sivasubramaniam, Mitchell Weiss *“Perceptions of gender and Tuberculosis in a South Indian urban community”* Indian J Tuberc, 2008; 55: 9-14.
 21. Beena E Thomas, Ranjani Ramachandran, Anitha Suresh, Soumya Swaminathan *“Feasibility of routine HIV testing among TB patients through a Voluntary, Counseling and Testing Center (VCTC)”* IJTLD 2007; 11 (12): 1296-1301.
 22. Mohanarani Suhadev, Soumya Swaminathan, Rajasekaran, Arun Kumar, Muniyandi, Beena E Thomas, Meenalochani Dilip. *“Feasibility of Community DOT providers for TB treatment among HIV infected persons – a pilot study”*. I J Tuber. 2005; 52: 171 – 183
 23. Meenalochani Dilip, Beena E Thomas, Fathima Rehman, Vani Sundaram, Mohanarani Suhadev, Soumya Swaminathan. *Status of AIDS Orphans in Chennai, South India*. SAARC Journal of Tuberculosis, Lung Diseases and HIV/AIDS: 2005; II (2): 28-33
 24. Beena E Thomas, Pradeep Menon. *The sounds of the waves are frightening - Experiences of school going children affected by the Tsunami-A report from India*. (Published as a Web Page in Lancet, March 18th 2005)
 25. Beena Elizabeth Thomas, Josephine Arockiaselvi, Suryanarayanan D, Fathima Rehman, Padmapriyadarsini, Soumya Swaminathan. *Gender differences in perceived health related quality of life among persons living with HIV – A study from Chennai, South India*. SAARC Journal of Tuberculosis, Lung Diseases and HIV/AIDS: 2005 II (1) 15-22
 26. Beena E Thomas, Suryanarayanan D, Muniyandi M, Meenalochani Dilip, Rajasekaran S, Soumya Swaminathan. *Is awareness of HIV enough to alter high-risk behaviour? What do HIV positive individuals have to say? A study from South India*. SAARC Journal of Tuberculosis, Lung Diseases and HIV/AIDS: 2005 II (1) 1-9
 27. Beena E Thomas, Fathima Rehman, Suryanarayanan D, Josephine K , Meenalochini Dilip, Durairaj V.S , Soumya Swaminathan. *“How stigmatizing is Stigma in the life of people living with HIV- A study on HIV positive individuals from Chennai, South India”*. AIDS Care, October 2005; 17 (7):795 – 801