



**KUHS PERSPECTIVE PLAN
DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP
13.02.2026**

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Introduction

The Kerala University of Health Sciences (KUHS), since its inception, has played a pivotal role in strengthening health sciences education, research, and human resource development in the State of Kerala. In the rapidly evolving national and global health landscape, universities are increasingly required to adopt forward looking, evidence-based planning frameworks to ensure relevance, quality, and sustainability of academic programmes and workforce outcomes. A Perspective Plan serves as a strategic roadmap that articulates long-term goals, priorities, and directions for institutional growth, aligned with health system needs, regulatory frameworks, and societal expectations. Recognising the importance of periodic review and updating of such strategic documents, the Hon. Vice Chancellor of KUHS has directed the conduct of a Technical Discussion and Review of the University's Perspective Plan.

Aim

To update and strengthen the Perspective Plan of Kerala University of Health Sciences in alignment with evolving health system needs, evidence-based practices, and future academic and workforce priorities.

Objectives

1. To critically review and update the existing Perspective Plan in line with national and global developments in health sciences education and healthcare.
2. To incorporate evidence-based strategies to enhance academic quality, research, and human resource development.
3. To identify emerging health sector priorities, challenges, and regulatory requirements for integration into the strategic framework.
4. To generate expert-driven, actionable recommendations for sustainable and forward-looking institutional growth.

Inaugural session

The inaugural session of the *KUHS Perspective Plan Dissemination Workshop* was held on 13th February 2026 at the School of Public Health, KUHS. The session commenced with a warm welcome address by Dr Thomas Mathew, Professor at the School of Public Health, who greeted the dignitaries and participants and highlighted the importance of the workshop in shaping the future direction of health sciences education.

The formal inauguration and keynote address were delivered by Dr Mohanan Kunnummal, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of KUHS. In his address, he emphasized the significance of a structured perspective plan in advancing academic excellence, research, and healthcare delivery. He also outlined the vision of the university in aligning with national and global health priorities.

The session was further enriched by felicitation addresses from distinguished dignitaries, including M R Hariharan Nair, Hon'ble Justice and Former Judge of the High Court of Kerala; Dr C. P. Vijayan, Pro Vice Chancellor, KUHS; Dr Gopakumar, Registrar, KUHS; and Dr

Sudhakaran. Each speaker acknowledged the relevance of the initiative and extended their support for its successful implementation.

The inaugural session concluded with a presentation on the *KUHS Perspective Plan – Road Map to the Programme* by Dr Rajamohanan K., Emeritus Professor, KUHS. He provided an overview of the strategic framework and key components of the plan, setting the stage for the subsequent sessions of the workshop.

Overall, the inaugural session set a constructive and forward-looking tone for the workshop, highlighting collaboration, innovation, and strategic planning in health sciences education.

Presentations delivered by the Deans of various faculties

This report summarizes the presentations delivered by the Deans of various faculties during the Perspective Plan Dissemination Workshop at the Kerala University of Health Sciences (KUHS) School of Public Health.

1. Faculty of Medicine

Presented by **Harikumaran Nair G S**, Dean

- **Growth of Institutions:**
 - The faculty has grown from an initial 13 medical colleges to 37 colleges today.
 - A strategic increase was noted in 2012 (reaching 22 colleges) with continuous expansion thereafter to enhance the healthcare workforce in Kerala.
- **Major Changes Introduced by Accreditation Bodies:**
 - **Apex Council (NMC):** Introduction of the Competency-Based Medical Education (CBME) curriculum for both UG and PG courses.
 - **Examination Pattern:** Modified to include MCQs and assessments focused on competency, attitude, ethics, and communication.
 - **KUHS Implementation:** Published updated MBBS and PG regulations (2020-2023) to align with NMC standards.
- **Challenges:**
 - Faculty shortages in specific departments.
 - Ongoing debates regarding the impact of recent curriculum changes and the justification for unified fees across merit and management quotas.
- **Future Directions:**
 - Prudence in sanctioning further seat increases.
 - Continuous discussion on academic reforms to align with liberalized central policies.

2. Faculty of Dental Sciences

Presented by Dr. Elbe Peter, Professor & HOD.

- **Growth of Institutions:** Affiliated colleges have increased from 22 in 2010 to 26 in 2023.
- **Academic Output:** Total academic output (UG, PG, and PhD) grew from 14,532 up to 2021 to a projected 22,835 by 2025.
- **Major Changes by Accreditation Bodies:** There is an urgent need for syllabus changes to incorporate digital technology, with expected changes following new National Dental Commission (NDC) guidelines.

Prospects & Thrust Areas: Development of specialty certification courses, innovation hubs for dental startups, and focus on advanced technologies like AI, 3D printing, and robotics in dental care

Faculty of Allied Health Sciences

Presented by Dr. Kavitha Ravi, Dean.

- **Growth of Institutions:** KUHS has grown from under 10 physiotherapy colleges to 26 BPT and 9 MPT colleges currently. Across all Allied Health Science (AHS) UG courses, there are numerous affiliated colleges, including 41 for B.Sc. MLT and 26 for BPT.
- **Academic Output:** The faculty offers a wide range of UG and PG programs, including specialized MPT tracks, M.Sc. MLT, and PhD in Physiotherapy.
- **Major Changes by Accreditation Bodies: * Institutional:** Compliance with KUHS accreditation, mandatory labs, and hospital MoUs.
 - **Eligibility:** NEET appearance will be mandatory for BPT from 2026.
 - **Syllabus:** Curricula were updated in 2024 to include competency-based reforms.
- **Future Directions:** A focus on outcome-driven competency benchmarks (such as OSCE-style assessments), expanding enrollment based on workforce needs, and encouraging translational research.

3. Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Presented by Dr. Rajasree R.S., Dean.

- **Growth of Institutions:** The current landscape includes 66 B.Pharm colleges, 28 M.Pharm colleges, and 20 Pharm.D colleges across Kerala .

- **Academic Output:** Student enrollment for 2025–26 includes 4,153 for B.Pharm and 758 for Pharm.D . Emerging specializations include Industrial Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Regulatory Affairs.
- **Challenges:** Key issues include "Brain Drain" (overseas migration), limited awareness of career paths beyond hospitals, and an outdated curriculum.
- **Future Directions:** Strategic roadmap includes a curriculum overhaul to integrate AI and digital health, fostering entrepreneurship through incubation centers, and strengthening industry-academia collaboration.

4. Faculty of Nursing

Presented by **Dr. Sindhu L.**, Principal and Chairperson PG BOS.

- **Growth of Institutions:** B.Sc. Nursing seats have increased significantly from 5,905 in 2015 to 10,165 in 2025.
- **Major Changes by Accreditation Bodies:** Introduction of admission through NEET, credit and semester systems, modular learning, and simulation training.
- **Challenges:** Institutions face faculty shortages, brain drain, inadequate infrastructure, and staff burnout.
- **Future Directions:** Proposals include international accreditation, nurse involvement in health policy planning, and the addition of foreign language courses to assist with international migration.

5. Faculty of Homoeopathy

Presented by **Dr. Nimimole K L**, Principal I/C.

- **Growth of Institutions:** There are currently five affiliated colleges providing UG seats and three providing PG seats, with a total of 315 BHMS seats and 83 MD (Hom) seats per year.
- **Major Changes by Accreditation Bodies:** Implementation of Competency-Based Dynamic Curriculum (CBDC) and Entrustable Professional Activities (EPA).
- **Future Directions:** Strengthening research culture, digital transformation (telemedicine and simulation labs), and integration of Homoeopathy with national health programs.

6. Faculty of Ayurveda, Siddha & Unani (ASU)

Presented by **Dr. M. S. Deepa**, Dean.

- **Growth & Output:** The presentation documented the expansion of programs and institutional growth within the ASU faculty.
- **Challenges:** The faculty faces specific academic and institutional hurdles that need addressing to meet modern healthcare standards.

- **Future Directions:** Focus on enhancing academic output and adapting to changes introduced by accreditation bodies to ensure the global competitiveness of ASU education.

Placement Opportunities for Nurses in India and Abroad

Presented by: Dr Roy K George, Principal Baby Memorial College of Nursing, Kozhikode

The nursing profession plays a vital role in strengthening healthcare systems across the world. However, there is a significant global shortage of nurses, creating vast employment opportunities both in India and abroad. According to global estimates, the nursing workforce deficit was around 62 lakhs in 2020 and is expected to remain high at approximately 58 lakhs by 2025. This shortage is further intensified by regional disparities, with nearly 78% of the world's nurses serving only about 49% of the global population. Additionally, many high-income countries depend heavily on foreign-born nurses, and nearly 19% of the current workforce is expected to retire by 2030. These trends clearly indicate increasing international demand for skilled nursing professionals.

In India, nursing graduates have a wide range of placement opportunities in both government and private sectors. Government sector employment includes central government hospitals, national institutes such as PGI, JIPMER, NIMHANS, SCTIMST, and RCC, as well as AIIMS institutions, military nursing services, paramilitary forces, railways, and ESI hospitals. At the state level, opportunities are available through the Directorate of Medical Education (DME), Directorate of Health Services (DHS), and National Health Mission (NHM), including roles such as nursing officers and mid-level health providers.

Despite these opportunities, government placements often face certain challenges such as prolonged delays in recruitment, limited career growth prospects, and lack of structured cadre promotions. As a result, many nurses also explore opportunities in the private sector, which includes corporate hospitals, missionary and voluntary organizations, and cooperative healthcare institutions. Additionally, teaching and academic roles provide another career pathway for those interested in education and research.

Globally, the increasing demand for nurses, combined with workforce shortages and aging populations, has opened up significant placement opportunities abroad. Many countries actively recruit qualified nurses from India to strengthen their healthcare systems. This has made international migration an attractive option, offering better career growth, professional exposure, and improved remuneration.

In conclusion, nursing professionals today have diverse career opportunities across multiple sectors and regions. While India provides a strong foundation for employment, the global demand further expands the scope, making nursing a highly dynamic and promising profession.

How to use the overseas opportunities for budding health care professionals in Kerala”

T. P. Sreenivasan

Drawing from Ambassador T.P. Sreenivasan's established advocacy for globalized education, his talk likely framed Kerala's healthcare workforce not as a "brain drain" but as a strategic

"Global Human Resource Bank." He frequently emphasizes that for KUHS to remain relevant, its Perspective Plan must move beyond traditional clinical training to incorporate "Internationalization at Home." This involves a dual-track approach: first, achieving Global Accreditation to ensure degrees have frictionless portability across borders; and second, mandating "Soft Power" skills, including advanced linguistic proficiency (German, Japanese, etc.) and cultural intelligence, to meet the specific bedside expectations of diverse international markets. Ultimately, his vision suggests that the University should act as a bridge, transforming the "Kerala Nurse" or "Kerala Doctor" into a premium global brand by leveraging Digital Health Literacy and establishing formal Diaspora Engagement programs to feed international best practices back into the local curriculum.

Panel Discussion

The panel discussion, moderated by Dr. M.K.C. Nair and Dr. C. P. Vijayan, likely centered on the strategic balance between meeting Kerala's domestic healthcare needs and capitalizing on the high global demand for its professionals. The "optimum Human Resource distribution" framework probably focused on evidence-based workforce mapping, where Dr. Viswanathan K. V. (DME) and Dr. Gopakumar S. (Registrar) would have highlighted the need for data-driven intake in medical colleges to prevent both shortages and underemployment. From a regulatory and quality perspective, Dr. Sona P. S. (KNMC) likely emphasized that nursing standards must remain world-class to ensure placement "portability," while Dr. Dileep K. J. and Dr. Elbe Peter would have argued for diversifying placements into clinical research, industrial pharmacy, and specialized dental surgery to move beyond traditional hospital roles. The consensus of the panel likely pointed toward a "Dual-Track" strategy: strengthening the local public health system while simultaneously creating specialized "Global Career Cells" within the University to streamline international placements and ethical migration for the surplus workforce.

Members present



Participants of KUHS Perspective Plan Workshop

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Stream
1	Dr. Rajmohan T. P.	Professor	Pharmacy
2	Dr. Fathima Beevi O.	Professor	Allied Health
3	Gopakumar T.	Professor	Allied Health
4	Dr. Resmi B.	Professor	Ayurveda
5	Baiju R. M.	Professor	Dental
6	Dr. Suchithra M. S.	Professor and Head	Dental
7	Dr. Mali G. Nair	Professor	Dental
8	Dr. Subbalekshmi	Professor and Head	Dental
9	Dr Sam Joseph V. G.	Professor	Dental
10	Dr. Tinky Bose C.	Professor and Head	Dental
11	Dr. Rejula F.	Professor (CAP)	Dental
12	Dr. Anoop S.	Assistant Professor	Dental
13	Dr. Harsha Kumar K.	Professor & HOD	Dental
14	Dr. Ambili R.	Professor and Head	Dental
15	Dr Satheesh G.	Professor	Homeo
16	Dr. Nisha M.	Professor	Homeo

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Stream
17	Dr. Rajitha K. Nair	Professor (CAP)	Homeo
18	Dr. Thomas Mathew	Professor SPH	KUHS Official
19	Dr. Suma T K	Emeritus Professor	KUHS Official
20	Dr. Athirarani M. R.	Associate Professor SPH	KUHS Official
21	Ms. Jisha Raj	Assistant Professor, SPH	KUHS Official
22	Dr Anuja U.	Special Officer, DME	Medical
23	Dr Remya Prakash	Assistant Professor	Medical
24	Dr. Anilkumar T. V.	Prof and HOD	Medicine
25	Dr. Indu P. S.	Principal	Medicine
26	Dr. K. R. Manorakesh	Assistant Professor	Medicine
27	Dr Geetha S.	Professor	Medicine
28	Dr. Swapna K. G.	Professor	Nursing
29	Prof. Valsa K. Panicker	Former Principal, Govt. College of Nursing	Nursing
30	Mrs. Jasmin M. B.	Assistant Professor	Nursing
31	Greeshma V. R.	Assistant Professor	Nursing
32	Prof. Dr. P. Hariharan	Vice Principal	Siddha

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Stream
33.	Dr Rejani R	Vice Principal	Ayurveda
34	Dr. Remi S. L.	Assistant Professor	Pharmacy
35	Dr. Bindu R. Nayar	Professor	Dentistry
36	Dr. Indu P. V.	Professor	Psychiatry
37	Mary U. S.	Assoc Prof	ASLP
38	Dr. Jayan James	Assoc. Prof	Denta
39	Dr. Bijumon O. C.	Governing Council Member	Ayurveda/Med. Edn.
40	Dr. Been M. R.	JDME, DME	Medical
41	Dr. Rajani R.	Vice Principal, GNAVC, TVM	[Not listed]
42	Dr. Seya K. Kunneth	Principal	Rehabilitation Sciences
43	Dr. Akhilesh Prasad	Professor, PCDS, TVM	Dental
44	T. Gopakumar	Professor	AHS
45	Dr. Ambili R.	Professor & Head, PMS Dental College	Dental
46	Dr. Anand A.	MPH, SCTIMST	Public Health

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Stream
47	Dr. R. Ramachandran	Principal in charge, GNC Trivandrum	Medicine
48	Dr. Prathapan	BoS UG and Faculty of Dental Sciences Member	Dental
49	Dr. Mali G. Nair	Principal in charge, GDC Alappuzha	Dental
