

ICTPH Lecture Series 2010

Childhood Disadvantage, Mental Health Services, and the Importance of Health Financing

Health financing instruments, such as insurance coverage, are usually considered to be facilitators of access to services for populations. Increasingly, they have come to be seen as facilitators of quality of care. In this talk, Dr Raghavan describes the use of Medicaid, the health insurance mechanism for low-income individuals in the United States, to serve both an access and a quality agenda. Following an overview of health services research, he will begin by examining whether mental health inequalities observed among vulnerable child populations are primarily due to access barriers, and will demonstrate that the true cause of these inequalities lies in the quality of care these children receive. He will end with studies showcasing how Medicaid can improve the quality of its mental health purchasing.

by Dr. Ramesh Raghavan

Date: Wednesday, August 4, 2010

Time: 4:30pm

Venue: Kerala Conference Hall, IIT-Research Park, Chennai

Dr. Ramesh Raghavan's research focuses on mental health services and policies for vulnerable children, especially those in the child welfare system. He has studied the effects of Medicaid and Medicaid managed care on mental health service use, the longitudinal stability of health insurance coverage, and access to mental health care consistent with national standards among children in the child welfare system. His current work focuses on the economics of implementation of evidence-based mental health interventions, and on the costs of child maltreatment. Dr. Raghavan is a faculty associate at the Brown School's [Center for Mental Health Services Research](#), and the Washington University Center for Applied Statistics. Dr. Raghavan's work has received financial support from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Administration for Children and Families, the National Institute of Mental Health, and the State of Missouri. At the Brown School, he teaches courses on mental health policy and advanced statistics in the Masters program. Dr. Raghavan is a psychiatrist and health services researcher by training. Prior to joining the School, he was policy director for the National Child Traumatic Stress Network. His previous appointment was as a Public Health Fellow at the UCLA/RAND Center for Adolescent Health Promotion.

