

Phoenix Rising: A Wellbeing Approach to Understanding Burn Recovery in the Indian Health System

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“The increased survival of burn patients has required clinicians and researchers to look beyond mortality statistics and to consider how a thermal injury affects a patients **long-term adjustment** and **quality of life**.”

(Yoder, Nayback, & Gaylord, 2010)

Contents:

- ▶ Brief background to burn injuries & the health system in India
- ▶ A Wellbeing Approach
- ▶ Study outline
- ▶ Journey through the continuum of care
- ▶ Key contextual findings
- ▶ Implications & Conclusion

Burn injuries & the health system in India

- ▶ Poverty, illiteracy, poor safety awareness, poor presence of prevention and awareness strategies
- ▶ 68% of population abide in rural areas
- ▶ Low public funding of healthcare and concerns regarding private sector service regulation
- ▶ High costs of acute burn care, little known about cost of post-acute care



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**HIGH VOLUME OF BURN INJURIES
AND POORLY MANAGED!**

A Wellbeing Approach

- ▶ Wellbeing: “A holistic sense of what it means to live a good life, which may be different for each individual” (White, 2014).

Wellbeing	Quality of Life
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Holistic- Subjective- Integrative- Broad- Process focused	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Narrowly defined- Fragmented- Clinical- Individual- Outcome focused

- ▶ Sen’s (1993) perspective on Wellbeing: ‘**Capability**’ to function meaningfully in everyday life

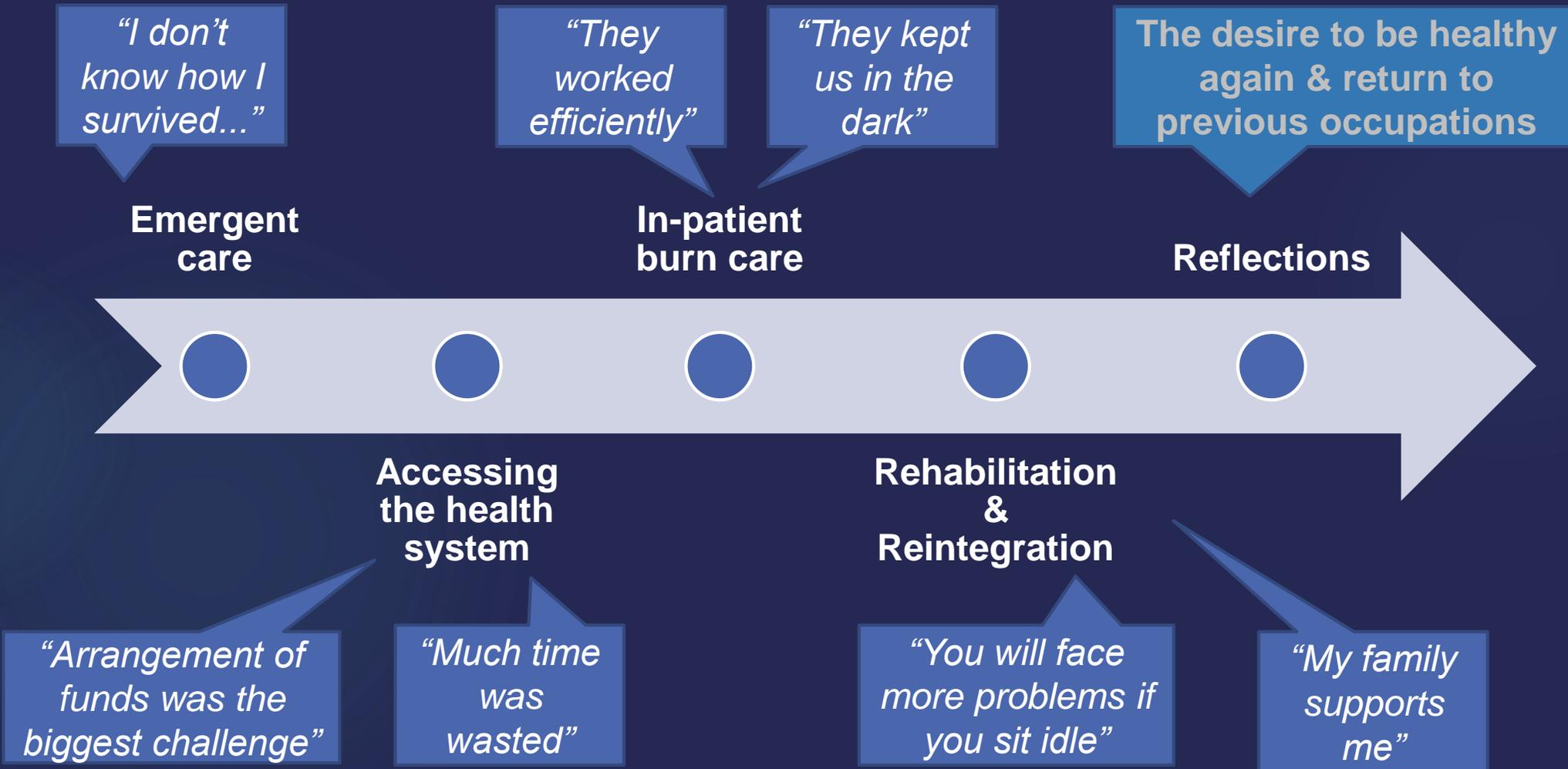


We need to comprehensively evaluate **opportunities** burn survivors have in the health system to achieve what they **value**.

Study Outline

- ▶ The larger study with WHO & TGI: a systems approach to health research – embracing complexity.
- ▶ Qualitative methodology
- ▶ 9 in-depth stakeholder interviews
 - ▶ 4 x males, occupational burns
 - ▶ 1 x female, self-inflicted burn
 - ▶ 4 x household burns (2 x males, 2 x children)

Journey through the continuum of care



Key contextual findings

1. Self-inflicted burns

- ▶ Gender disparities

2. Occupational burns

- ▶ Amputations
- ▶ Role of industry & safety standards
- ▶ Limited opportunities to return to work

3. Indigenous knowledge

- ▶ Traditional medicine
- ▶ Cultural complexity
- ▶ Local alternatives



Banana leaves used as dressings

Implications & Conclusion

Contributions:

- Identifies challenges
- Shapes holistic and person-centered policy
- Encourages development of appropriate, sustainable and effective interventions

'...rise like a phoenix from the ashes of injury with resilience and hope...'

