

A group of people, including several women wearing colorful headscarves (red, purple, pink), are seated in a room, possibly a community meeting or a class. In the background, a sign on the wall reads "HINDI OUTREACH CENTRE". The scene is dimly lit, and the overall atmosphere is one of a community gathering.

# Public Health Competencies in Nepal: Current Status and Way Forward

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- Works collaboratively to advance public health education and training in Nepal
- 9 universities/institutions

## Consortium of Academic Institutions for Public Health in Nepal (CAIPHEN)

# Background



Public health education – 3 decades



Graduates – increasing each year



Regulatory bodies



Limited job opportunities



Job satisfaction – POOR



Lacking job-specific public health competencies

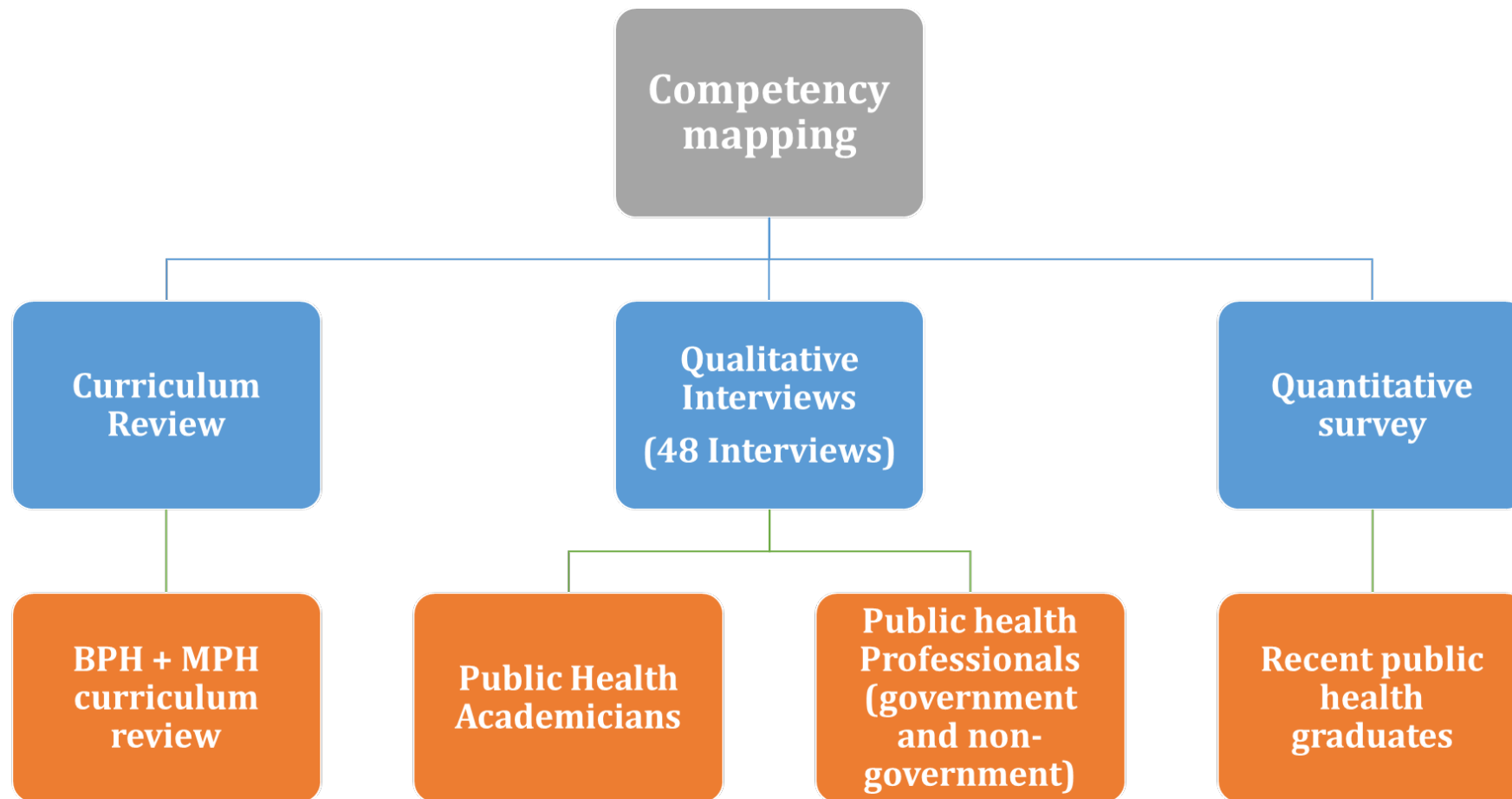


# Objectives

+ To assess public health competency in Nepal through curriculum review of academic institutions and measure perceived public health competencies being acquired and utilized by the public health graduates.







## Methodology

- Sequential mixed method study
- 9 public health universities/institutes
- 7 provinces of Nepal
- Thematic analysis – qualitative findings
- Descriptive analysis – quantitative findings

# Curriculum review - findings



Course content – varied significantly



Assessment methods - percentage and letter grades system



Program structure – Semester and yearly system



Research/thesis requirement – individual thesis



# Curriculum review

## *Areas of improvement*

Curriculum  
harmonization

Timely curriculum  
revision – emerging  
and relevant public  
health issues

Curriculum  
alignment with  
international  
standards and  
competencies

Inter-organizational  
collaboration

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# Qualitative findings

## 1. Roles of public health professionals

- Program management
- Coordination and collaboration
- Research and evaluation

## 2. Core competencies

- **Existing competencies:**
  - ✓ Theoretical knowledge; Leadership; Coordination, collaboration & communication; Decision making skills
- **Required competencies:**
  - ✓ Coordination, collaboration & communication; Data management; Leadership and management

## 3. Competency gaps

- Limited proficiency in utilizing advanced technologies
- Under utilization of research knowledge and skills
- Gap in education and training.
- Poor utilization of the training

## 4. Opportunities and challenges in public health field

- **Opportunities:**
  - ✓ Growing awareness on preventive and promotive care; Digitalization of health; Federalization
- **Challenges:**
  - ✓ Limited job opportunities; retention of competent PH professionals

## 5. Suggestions to the academic sector

- Emphasize on practical experiences
- Foster collaboration

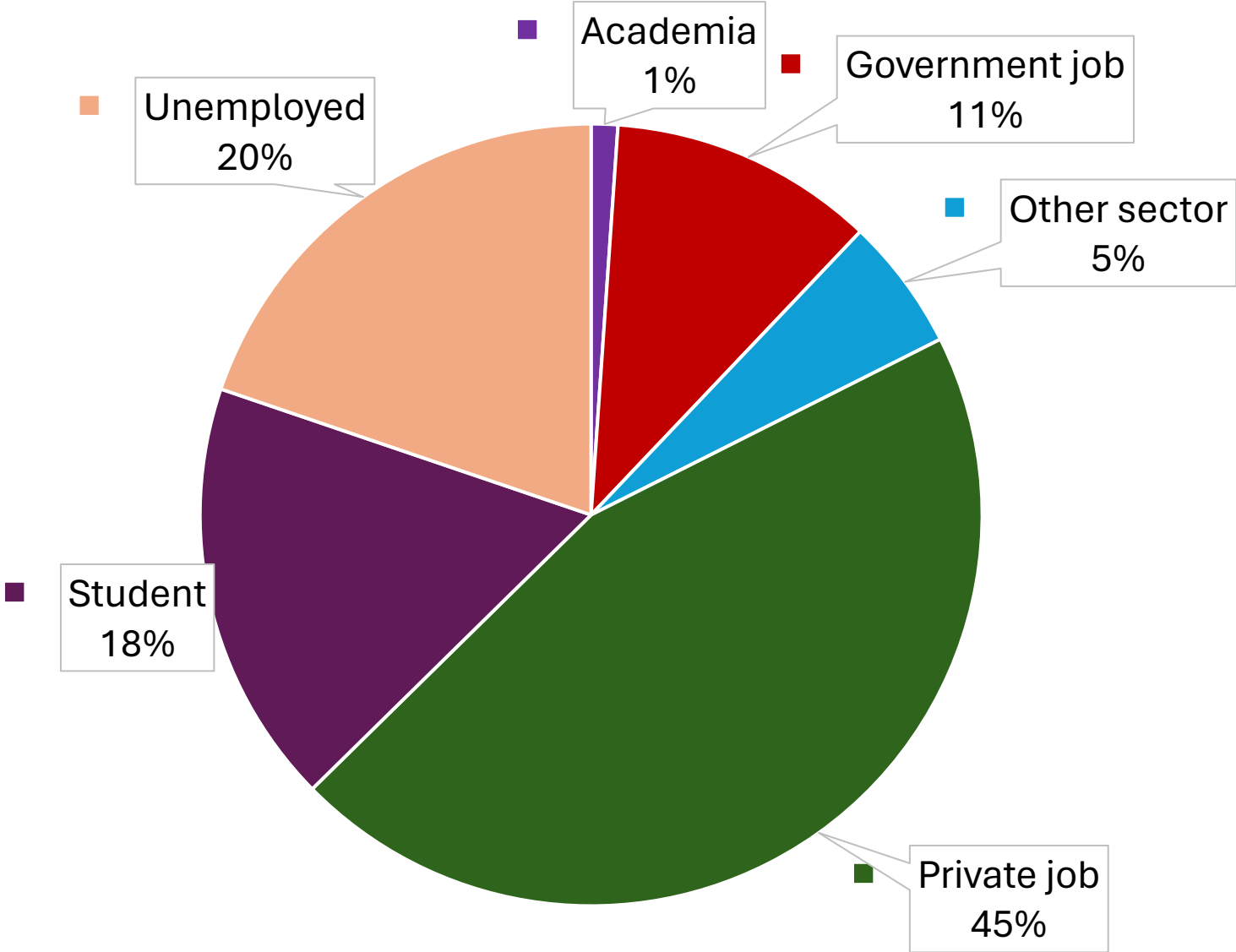


# Quantitative survey (Preliminary findings) (N=91)

Existing status of public health  
graduates in Nepal

S.N.	Characteristics	Frequency (%) (N=91)
1	Age (years) , mean± SD	27.4 ± 4.9
2	Gender	
	Male	55(60.4)
	Female	36(39.6)
3	Highest level of education	
	Bachelor of Public Health	74(81.3)
	Masters of Public Health	16(17.6)
	Others (with MBBS)	1(1.1)
4	University of education	
	Kathmandu University	1(1.1)
	Patan Academy of Health Sciences	2(2.2)
	Pokhara University	13(14.3)
	Purbanchal University	55(60.4)
	Tribhuwan University	15(16.5)
	Abroad	5(5.5)

# Current occupational status of Public Health Graduates (%)



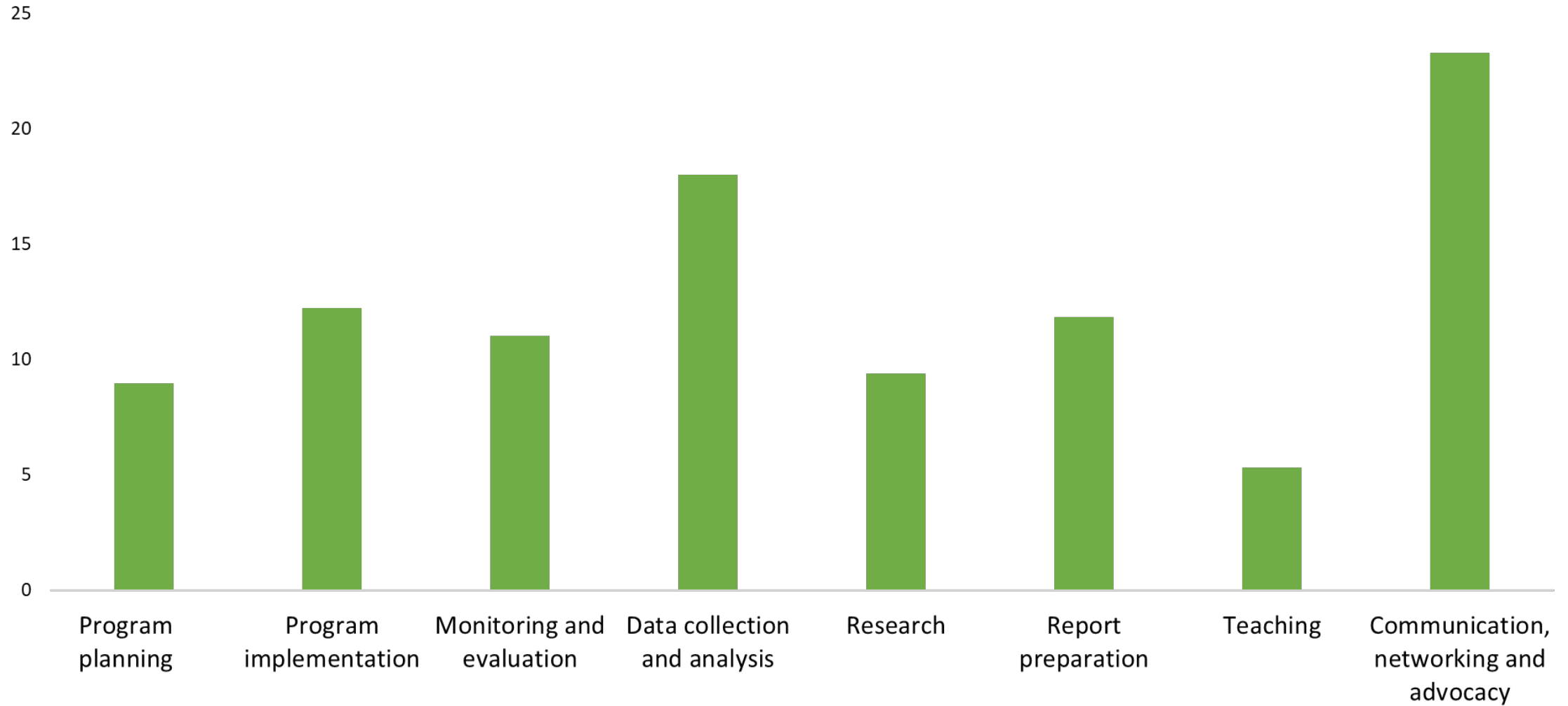
# Perceived public health competencies of recent graduates

S.N.	Domain	Total score	Mean	SD
1	Data analytics and assessment skills	35	24.3	5.2
2	Policy development and program planning skills	<b>25</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>4.8</b>
3	Communication skills	15	9.9	2.9
4	Health equity skills	15	10.2	3.0
5	Community partnership skills	25	15.9	4.9
6	Public health sciences skills	20	14.2	3.5
7	Management and finance skills	<b>40</b>	<b>31.4</b>	<b>9.4</b>
8	Leadership and systems thinking skills	30	19.1	5.8

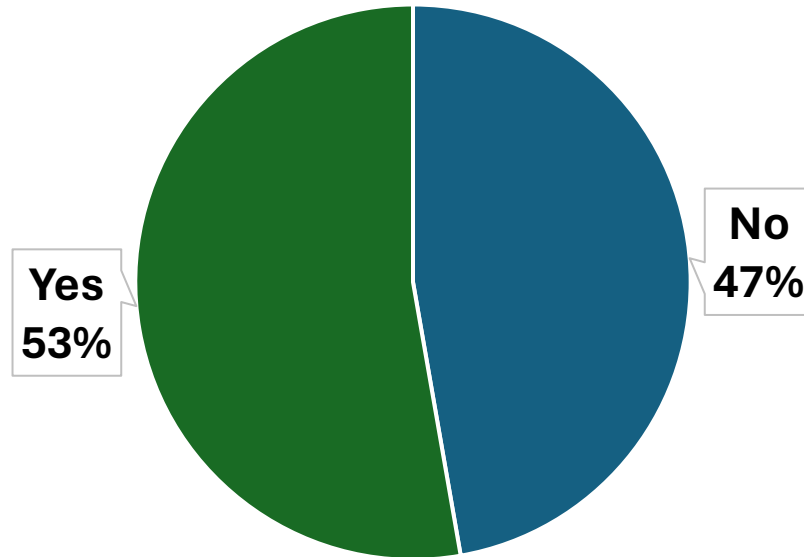
Adopted from the Public Health Foundation

([https://www.phf.org/resourcestools/Documents/Core\\_Compencies\\_for\\_Public\\_Health\\_Professionals\\_2021October.pdf](https://www.phf.org/resourcestools/Documents/Core_Compencies_for_Public_Health_Professionals_2021October.pdf))

## Perceived major responsibilities of a Public Health Professionals



## Job satisfaction (%)



### Aspects of job satisfaction

- Career growth
- Benefit and salary
- Positive work environment

### Reasons for job dissatisfaction

- Low salary
- Job insecurity

# Way forward



Networking



Capacity building



Cross learning opportunities



Enhancing public health education and practice in Nepal



THANK YOU

