



## **Eastern Regional Conference**

of the

# **Indian Association for the Study of Population (IASP)**

**Population, Health and Development: Perspective from  
Eastern India**

*organized jointly with*

**Population Research Centre  
Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha**

**October 17-18, 2024**



## About IASP

Indian Association for the Study of Population (IASP) is a professional body of Population Scientists, Demographers, Economists, Statisticians, Health Professionals, Development researchers and practitioners, Social Scientists and several other related experts. IASP promotes and enables demographic, health and development research, deliberates on emerging challenges in the field of population and health issues; advocates with central and state governments on policies and programmes, collaborates with national and international professional and academic bodies, provides an enabling environment for discussions on pertinent issues and publishes scientific peer-reviewed UGC-CARE journal Demography India.

To promote, disseminate and stimulate research on population issues at local levels, the IASP organizes regional conferences in different parts of the country. In this series, the IASP is organizing its Eastern Regional Conference, which is comprised of states Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, , and West Bengal. The Conference is being organized jointly with the Population Research Centre, Utkal University of Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The University regularly conducts and promotes research in various development studies and provides inputs to state and central government on various health and development issues.

## About The Utkal University of Bhubaneswar

Until 1936, all colleges in Odisha were under the jurisdiction of either Patna University or Andhra University. On March 2, 1938, the Odisha Province of British India, led by Prime Minister Shri Biswanath Dash, appointed a committee chaired by Pandit Nilakantha Das to explore the establishment of a separate university for the region. During Maharaja Krushna Chandra Gajapati's premiership, the committee's recommendations were acted upon, leading to the passage of the Utkal University Bill on June 30, 1943, and the enactment of the Utkal University Act, 1943 on August 2, 1943. Utkal University was officially founded on November 27, 1943, and began operating from room 15 of Ravenshaw College, Cuttack. Initially functioning as an affiliating body, the University expanded rapidly, establishing its own departments and constituent colleges, including the Madhusudan Law College, Cuttack, and later incorporating postgraduate departments in various fields. The Utkal University Act was amended in 1947 to define its territorial jurisdiction, which was further extended to cover the entire state of Odisha by 1950. The University's growth continued with the establishment of additional postgraduate departments and research centres throughout the 1950s and 1960s. In response to regional demands for more localized higher education, two new universities i.e. Sambalpur University and Berhampur University, were created on January 1, 1967, leading to a redefinition of Utkal University's jurisdiction. By 1998, two more universities, North Odisha University and Fakir Mohan University, were established to further regional educational needs. Today, Utkal University covers nine districts, spanning 24,973 square kilometres and serving a population of over 11 million, with twenty-seven postgraduate teaching and research departments and various constituent institutions.

## Theme of the Conference

Eastern India, comprising states like Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal, exhibits a complex demographic profile with diverse challenges and opportunities. Total Fertility Rates (TFR) in the region show a gradual decline but remain higher than the national average in states such as Bihar and Jharkhand. For instance, Bihar has a TFR of 3.3, significantly above the national average of 2.2 (National Family Health Survey, 2019-21). Fertility and mortality rates are intertwined with issues such as the high maternal mortality ratio (MMR), which stands at 118 per 100,000 live births in Odisha, and child mortality rates, which are notably high in states like Bihar and Jharkhand (SRS, 2022). The ageing population is a growing concern, particularly in West Bengal, where a substantial proportion of the population is over 60, posing challenges for healthcare and social services.

Public health in Eastern India faces considerable hurdles, including high morbidity rates and significant

expenditure on healthcare. Communicable diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, and dengue continue to burden the healthcare system, while non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like diabetes and cardiovascular diseases are on the rise, stressing the need for robust health information systems and the effective use of IT (ICMR, 2022). Despite improvements in educational attainment and women's empowerment, socio-economic development remains uneven. The demographic dividend, characterized by a large working-age population, presents an opportunity for economic growth if harnessed effectively, but regional disparities and inadequate infrastructure hinder progress (HDR, 2022). Nutritional status among children and adolescents remains critical, with high rates of malnutrition and stunting affecting states like Bihar and Odisha (National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau, 2021). Migration and Urbanization further exacerbate regional disparities, while climate change and natural disasters, such as floods and cyclones, disproportionately impact health outcomes, especially for vulnerable populations (World Health Organization, 2023). Addressing these issues requires integrated strategies encompassing demographic insights, health system strengthening, and targeted socio-economic policies.

The Conference brings together Students, policymakers, academicians, researchers, and social activists to share insights, exchange ideas, and collaborate on shaping India's sustainable future. The Conference aims to address critical topics related to population, economic growth, social development, environmental sustainability, and inclusivity in Eastern India.

The broad themes are as follows:

S.No.	Broad themes	Sub-themes
1.	<b>Demography of Eastern India</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Fertility preferences, intention, timing and childbearing, parity and parenthood, correlates of infertility, Abortion</li> <li>b. Marriage, marriage dissolution,</li> <li>c. Demand and unmet need for contraception</li> <li>d. Population ageing, health and longevity</li> <li>e. Men and sexual and reproductive health</li> <li>f. Covid pandemic and reproductive and sexual health</li> <li>g. Empowerment and equity in reproductive and sexual health</li> <li>h. Tribal Health, Emerging demography</li> </ul>
2.	<b>Public Health in Eastern India</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Maternal and child mortality and morbidity, causes of death</li> <li>b. Health Economics, Insurance coverage, Out of pocket health expenditure</li> <li>c. Health/epidemiological transition</li> <li>d. Health Information Systems and use of Information Technology, digital health,</li> <li>e. Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases</li> <li>f. Mental health and well being</li> <li>g. Programs and Policies</li> </ul>
3.	<b>Socio-economic Development in Eastern India</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Gender inequalities: drivers and impact</li> <li>b. Gender based violence.</li> <li>c. Child/Early Marriage: Policies, Causes and impact.</li> <li>d. Women empowerment</li> <li>e. Access to equitable and quality education</li> <li>f. Healthcare Access and Nutrition</li> <li>g. Demographic Dividend</li> <li>h. Sustainable Development Goals</li> <li>i. Overview of regional (state) economies viz GDP, growth and future prospects</li> </ul>

4.	<b>Migration, Urbanization and regional disparities in Eastern India</b>	a. Migration Patterns b. Migration and socio-economic inequality c. Migrant Rights, Discrimination and Migration Policy d. Health and migration e. Climate change, Urbanization and migration
5.	<b>Nutritional status in Eastern India</b>	a. Undernutrition among children, adolescents and pregnant women b. Anemia during pregnancy: Determinants and outcome
6.	<b>Data management and Quality for SDGs in Eastern India</b>	a. Data quality and management b. Creating and using data for program design c. Data gaps in measuring SDGs
7.	<b>Impact of Climate Change and Disasters on Health in Eastern India</b>	a. Increased Incidence of Climate-Related Diseases b. Impact of climate change on Food Security and Nutrition c. Vulnerability of Healthcare Infrastructure d. Climate change and Mental Health and Psychological Well-being e. Water and Sanitation Challenges

### Guidelines for Abstract Submission

Those who would like to submit papers for presentation at the Conference may click on the **link given below** and submit their abstracts. A short abstract with a maximum of 500 words is to be submitted. The text of the abstract should be copied and pasted into the box provided for the purpose. Each author can submit only one abstract using one registration. Those who wish to submit another abstract must use another email ID. One author can submit a maximum of two abstracts. The papers should be confined to issues related to Eastern Indian states. Please **click on the link** below to register as an author and submit your abstract:

<https://forms.gle/LyNIVahmEUXzabAz5>

The abstract should have following sub-heads;

- Theme of the paper (in Sentence Case)
- Title of the Paper (Bold-in Sentence Case)
- Author(s) name in Italic along with affiliation
- Background and Objectives (20%)
- Data and Methods (25%)
- Findings (40%)
- Policy Implications (15%)

The abstract should be typed in the form given above; font: 'Times New Roman', font size: 12.

### Registration Fee

A registration fee will be applicable to the conference participants.

Non-members of IASP	Rs. 3000/-
Member of IASP	Rs. 2000/-
Local participants who don't need travel support and accommodation	Rs. 1000/-

### Mode of Registration Fee Payment

Bank details for submitting the registration fee are as given below:

**Bank Name:** Canara Bank A/c No.: 0267101516126 **IFSC Code:** CNRB00084\61

**Branch Name:** Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi-110007

A copy of the payment receipt should be sent to [iasp.india@gmail.com](mailto:iasp.india@gmail.com)

### Important dates are as below

1. Last date for submission of abstracts	<b>20 September, 2024</b>
2. Notification to the selected papers	<b>25 September, 2024</b>
3. Registration begins	<b>26 September, 2024</b>
4. Last Date for Registration and fee payment	<b>10 October, 2024</b>
5. Conference	<b>17-18 October, 2024</b>

For more information, please send an email to [iasp.india@gmail.com](mailto:iasp.india@gmail.com). Please keep visiting our website: [www.iasp.ac.in](http://www.iasp.ac.in), for further updates

### Organizing Committee

#### IASP

1. **Prof. Suresh Sharma**, President, IASP
2. **Dr. Anil Chandran**, General Secretary, IASP
3. **Dr. Jeetendra Yadav**, Treasurer, IASP
4. **Dr. Emily Das**, EC Member and Coordinator, Eastern Region, IASP
5. **Dr. Rajesh Chauhan**, EC Member, IASP
6. **Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh**, Joint Secretary, IASP

#### Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

#### Contact:

1. **Prof. (Dr.) Debendra Kumar Biswal**  
Population Research Centre  
Department of Anthropology  
Utkal University  
e-mail: [prc.bhubaneswar@gmail.com](mailto:prc.bhubaneswar@gmail.com)

2. **Dr. Niranjana Rout**  
**Mobile: 9971703932**

**Dr. Liza Swain**  
**Mobile: 8984026431**  
e-mail: [prc.bhubaneswar@gmail.com](mailto:prc.bhubaneswar@gmail.com)  
**Population Research Centre**  
Utkal University

### Contacts:

For further queries related to the Conference please contact [iasp.india@gmail.com](mailto:iasp.india@gmail.com)