



**POPULATION RESEARCH CENTRE
INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH**
jointly with the
INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF POPULATION
observed
WORLD POPULATION DAY
11th JULY, 2023

The Population Research Centre, Institute of Economic Growth, in collaboration with the Indian Association for the Study of Population (IASP), organized an event to observe World Population Day on July 11, 2023. The event was financially supported by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India (Statistics Division). The event saw in participation a total of 178 participants from various institutions and agencies like JNU, NIMS-ICMR, University of Delhi, NIHF, IPE Global, USAID, Population Council, UNFPA, Paarth, Arman, etc. Many eminent demographers, who have contributed extensively to the field of population and health sciences, also graced the occasion with their valuable presence.

The event commenced with the ceremonial Lamp Lighting, followed by a tribute to Prof. V.K.R.V Rao, the honorable founder of the Institute of Economic Growth. Following this, the distinguished guests were welcomed to the dais, including Ms. Anjali Rawat, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; Professor Chetan Ghate, Director, Institute of Economic Growth; Professor K. Srinivasan, a renowned demographer; Ms. Andrea Wojnar, Resident Representative - India, UNFPA; Dr. Niranjan Saggurti, Country Director - India, Population Council; Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, Indian Association for the Study of Population; and Professor Suresh Sharma, President Indian Association for the Study of Population, Head, Population Research Centre Delhi. The distinguished guests were welcomed and regarded with a symbolic memento.

Prof. Suresh Sharma delivered the welcome address, setting the tone for the event. Prof. Chetan Ghate formally declared the event open and spoke about population dynamics and the economics of population growth.

Professor K. Srinivasan, a prominent demographer, and former-director for IIPS, Mumbai was felicitated for receiving the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) Laureate award 2023. Soon after the felicitation proceedings, the first session of the day was commenced. The first session of the event focused on the theme "Unleashing the power of gender equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world's infinite possibilities." Ms.

Anjali Rawat, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, chaired the session.

During the first presentation of the session, Professor K. Srinivasan, discussed the continuing stability of the institution of marriage in the context of improving gender parity in India. His talk shed light on the dynamics and implications of marriage in relation to gender equality and offered an insightful gendered lens into the marriage dynamics of the country.

In the presentation to follow, Dr. Niranjana Saggurti talked about adolescent rights in India. His talk prominently shed light on the status quo of adolescents, their aspirations, their deprivations, and what key sectoral areas need to be strengthened to promote a holistic growth of adolescents in the country. His talk emphasized on asking the question – “are we doing enough?”

To conclude the first session, and deliver the keynote address, Ms. Andrea Wojnar spoke extensively on the “hope” that the human population must be envisaged as, while planning for sustainable development and growth. Ms. Wojnar’s address emphasized on the need to look beyond population stabilization and focus on a holistic development approach for the upliftment of women and girls primarily. The first session was concluded by thanking the distinguished speakers, and opening the house for questions from the participants.

The second session broadly focused on perspectives related to population and health governance. Dr. Subrato Mondal, an expert in Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Learning in the health sector, affiliated with the USAID, shared his thoughts on the role of the private sector in promoting health and wellbeing for all. His presentation included important insights into the CSR landscape of India, and the need to strengthen collaborations and partnerships through a strategic framework for enhanced public welfare.

The concluding presentation for the second session was delivered by Ms. Anjali Rawat, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, who shared her valuable insights on the role of real time monitoring systems in surveilling public health programmes. Her presentation included an informative background on the development of Health Management Information System (HMIS), and its design. The presentation highlighted the centrality of leveraging technology in strengthening the public health planning in India.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Jeetendra Kumar, Treasurer, IASP, expressing gratitude to all the participants and attendees.

Overall, the event was fruitful in encouraging active participation from representatives from various sectors in health and family welfare. The day indeed served as a catalyst for rethinking population dynamics in India, and promoted dialogues for strengthening women and girls’ rights in the country.

