



REPORT OF 40TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF POPULATION (IASP)

December 12-14, 2019

University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram

Conference Sessions

The 40th Annual Conference of IASP was held during December 12-14, 2019 with six plenary sessions, 12 technical oral sessions with 62 presentations, 2 poster sessions with 135 posters and 3 UNFPA-IASP skill development workshops on three different topics.

Conference Delegates

The conference was attended by academicians, researchers, students, administrators, development practitioners, NGO representatives, et al from IIPS, NIHF, JNU, TISS, ISI, University of Kerala, CDS, Delhi University, NIT, Utkal University, ISEC, IEG, ICMR, NIMS, SV University, Hyderabad Central University, Gulbarga University, IIMAD, CMID, UNFPA, USAID, IPAS, SIGMA, Population Council, IHAT, WISH foundation and several international participants from University of Manitoba, Laurentian University, Canada, University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh, Nepal and Iran also attended the Conference.

George Simmons Memorial Oration

The Conference started on 12th Dec 2019 morning with Prof George Simmon's memorial lecture which was delivered by Prof Siva Halli on "Fertility Transition in Uttar Pradesh and India." This session was chaired by Dr. U V Somayajulu, President of IASP. Prof Halli presented the current fertility and family planning situations of different districts of UP. He talked about an almost two -fold increase in the use of traditional methods of family planning in Uttar Pradesh compared to India and also pointed out an increase in the use of spacing method especially the rhythm method in Uttar Pradesh particularly in the Muslim population.

Prof. Siva Halli also discussed the unmet need and its associated factors in districts of Uttar Pradesh. Lastly, Prof. Siva Halli mentioned the need to explore reasons for high fertility in eastern and Tarai region Uttar Pradesh compared to western and central Uttar Pradesh and policy and program to overcome unmet needs of family planning in eastern Uttar Pradesh.

Inaugural Session

After Prof. George Simmons memorial lecture, the conference had the inaugural session. Dr. S Anil Chandran welcomed the dignitaries. Dr. V P Mahadevan Pillai, Vice-Chancellor, University of Kerala presided the function. Dr. U V Somayajulu, President of IASP gave the presidential address. He spoke about the SDGs and the correlates of their attainment. He also spoke about the importance of nutrition in the context of Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and also talked about the initiatives of the Government such as poshan abhiyan. He urged the Demographers and members of IASP to pay attention to the data needs and gaps in the data in nutrition and food security.

Dr. T M Thomas Isaac, Honorable Finance Minister, Govt of Kerala and the chief guest of the function delivered inaugural address highlighting the situation of Kerala in terms of economic and demographic relationships.

The keynote address was given by Ms. Argentina Matavel Piccin, Representative India and Country Director Bhutan UNFPA. She has given emphasis to developing strong relationships between IASP and UNFPA. Chief guest Dr. T M Thomas Issac released the conference souvenir and book entitled "Handbook of Internal Migration in India" edited by S. Irudaya Rajan and Sumeetha M.

Guest of honor Ms. Argentina Matavel Piccin, Representative India and Country Director Bhutan UNFPA released the IPC 2021 Call for Papers and Posters. Prof V K Tiwari, General Secretary, IASP announced Prof K B Pathak memorial award for the best paper published in the field of population and health and Prof. K Srinivasan Award for best papers published in Demography India. Mr Arun Balachandran received Prof Pathak award. Dr Alok Ranjan Chairasia and Dr Neha Singh were the recipients of Prof Srinivasan award.

Prof. Suresh Sharma, Treasurer, IASP proposed Vote of Thanks and thanked all the dignitaries, participants, delegates and media for their participation. He thanked all the funding agencies, viz, UNFPA, IHAT, IIPS, Population Council, WISH Foundation, Population Foundation of India, ICSSR, Dr Surender etc for the generous financial support to IASP.

First Plenary Session

The first plenary session was on "Quality of Demographic, Health and Nutrition Data in India : Evidence of Challenges and Emerging Solutions". This was chaired by Dr. K.G. Santhya and Discussant was Dr. Subrato Kumar Mondal. The first speaker, Prof. S. Unisa raised the issues of missing information of reporting of age in the census and during biometric tests for weight and height data in NFHS. She also pointed out that age-wise missing information issue is more profound among males and urban population.

Mr. Akash Porwal from Population Council mentioned about data quality assurance measures adopted in CNNS and how monitoring, supervision and feedback at every stage, majorly during biomarker tests helped in quality assurance of the data.

Dr. Rajib Acharya, Population Council gave a brief introduction to National Data Quality Forum that raises quality issues in survey and administrative data and purposed practice of capacity building programs and training for data quality assurance methodologies and procedures. The discussant Dr. Subrato Kumar Mondal explained that once data will be in the public domain then only we will be able to comment about the quality issues. He also mentioned that the use of gold-standard clinical examination method is not feasible in the field.

Second Plenary Session

The second plenary session on "IIPS Gender Project" was chaired by Prof. K S James and discussant was Dr. K.G. Santhya. The papers of this session highlighted that gender discrimination still exists in India and the author provided evidence of high sex ratio at birth which favors the male. Dr. Abhishek Singh mentioned about recent diffusion of sex-selective abortion in southern India and the need for regular monitoring of sex ratio at birth. Adding further to this, Dr. Kaushlendra Kumar talked about gender bias against females in hospitalization financing. Dr. Subrato Kumar Mondal raised the issue that based on the evidence that women are going for sonography test, it is not good to justify that women prefer sex-selective abortion. Dr. Nandita Bhan presented on Freedom of movement and adolescent sexual violence in India and talked about the change in the culture of silence regarding sexual violence among married and never-married women and raised the issue of women's safety and mobility.

Third Plenary Session

The third plenary session was on "Nutrition and Other Issues". The session was chaired by Dr. Shireen Jeejebhoy and co-chaired by Dr. Arup Das. Dr. Laxmi Kant Dwivedi highlighted the clustering of under-nutrition among selected group of women and author presented statistical evidence of sibling linkages of stunting status and stated the chances of the index child being stunted increases by the odds of 1.93 indicating the need of inclusion of multiple births in any maternal and child health program particularly in poor performing villages and CEBs to improve the under-nutrition among children aged five years or below. Dr. Praveen Nangia highlighted the Discrimination against Visible Minorities in Canada, indicating race and ethnicity as the most common basis of discrimination. Dr. Subrata Lahiri made an attempt to develop a technique for estimating life expectancies at older ages in a destable population following Generalized Population Model (GPM) of age-structure applicable to any population (Preston and Coale, 1982). The author developed a technique

for estimating life expectancies at older ages in a destable population following Generalized Population Model (GPM) of age-structure applicable to any population.

Felicitations of Senior Demographers

The first-day conference ended with felicitation ceremony of senior demographers viz Prof PM Kulkarni, Prof Kamla Gupta, Dr RB Gupta, Prof NP Das, Prof Jyothikamalam, Prof N Audinarayana and Prof A Subbiah followed by the general body meeting of IASP.

Fourth Plenary Session

Second-day of the conference began with the fourth plenary session on "Improving maternal and child health outcomes in Uttar Pradesh: Learnings and Innovations" by the IHAT team which was chaired by Prof Shiva Halli. The session highlighted how Technical Support Unit supports the government to improve maternal health care services Dr Marissa Becker provided an overview of the technical support provided to the Government of UP. Dr. Bidyut Sarkar discussed about improving the caesarian facility, TSU log framework, nurse monitoring programs and FRU strengthening and activation as preferable key interventions for strengthening health facilities to improve maternal health outcomes. Mr John Anthony highlighted the role of community-level interventions and key activities of Home Based New Born Care (HBNC) to improve antenatal and postnatal care in Uttar Pradesh. Dr Ravi Prakash mentioned about learnings in terms of evidence based decision making for assessment of programme.

Prof Ramkumar Memorial Oration

The Conference also had Prof Ramkumar memorial oration, organised by the Demography department, which was delivered by Prof KS James on "Measuring Demographic Dividend in India: What does it Convey" He talked about three main approaches to measure demographic dividend as dependency ratio approach, growth rate approach and potential support ratio, focusing on the need for micro-level measurement to understand the demographic dividend with attempt to understand the dividend at household level. He also mentioned how age structural transition is leading the demographic dividend and government interventions through capacity building training and programs can positively impact the economic growth of the country.

The two poster sessions had 52 posters on display. The posters were on different topics related to fertility, health of women, sex ratio at birth, nutrition and mathematical models. The poster evaluation committee selected the best poster for the Prof SN Singh award.

Fifth Plenary Session

The fifth Plenary Session was on Kerala's Demography which was chaired by Prof. K. Srinivasan and co-chaired by Prof. SK Mohanty. This session highlighted the concern over Kerala's demographic future, financial crisis, International and Internal migration. First speaker of the session, Prof. P.S Nair talked about Kerala's demographic future and concluded that Kerala is currently experiencing advanced stage of demographic transition where fertility and mortality levels have declined. He also added that migration is the only component which can significantly alter the emerging demographic scenario of Kerala. Dr. B. A Prakash mentioned that the state has been facing financial resource crunch and lack of sufficient funds to invest in welfare programs. Prof U S Mishra talked about international migration issues and highlighted that emigration rate shows the declining trend but still major revenue for the people of the state is the income generated by migrants. Dr. Benoy Peter talked about issues of internal migration majorly from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh for various skilled and unskilled jobs.

Skill Development Workshops

Three capacity building workshops supported by UNFPA-IASP were conducted with 165 participants altogether. The first workshop on "Ethical aspects of Social and Behavioral Research" was conducted by Dr. Subrata Mondal and Dr. Sushanta Banerjee discussing key ethical issues arising in social research and possible measures to overcome these challenges. The second workshop was conducted by Prof N Audi Narayana and Dr. KVR Subrahmanyam on "Data for Policies and Programmes for Elderly" where topics such as data source for research in ageing, health care challenges among elderly population and policies were key highlights of the workshop. The last workshop of the conference was conducted on "Qualitative Research Methods" by Dr. U V Somayajulu and Dr. S Anil Chandran. This workshop focused on methodologies for qualitative research and group exercises for generating research design as well as tools. A lot of enthusiasm was found among the participants – mostly by the young scholars and students of Demography in asking questions and participating actively in the discussions. The feedback received from the participants indicates that the young scholars want such skill-building sessions to be continued by IASP either as part of the conference or as pre-conference sessions.

Technical Sessions

A lot of enthusiasm and active participation was found among research scholars and students during the technical sessions. Many of them presented papers from their M Phil/Ph.D. dissertations. Total 12 technical oral sessions with 62 presentations were conducted successfully under the following categories:

- Nuptiality, Fertility and Family Planning

- Reproductive and Sexual Health
- Morbidity, Mortality, and Longevity
- Nutritional Status of children and adolescents
- Population Ageing
- Kerala's Demography
- Migration and Urbanisation
- Population and Health: Policies and Programmes

The Technical sessions on fertility and family planning highlighted age at marriage as a major factor for the decline in fertility even when family planning use is stagnant and suggested the need for government's interventions for promoting use of spacing methods through various measures.

The Morbidity and Mortality sessions focused on the increasing burden of non-communicable diseases coupled with economic burden. Population ageing session highlighted the need for a multidimensional approach to measure the health status of elderly which will help in formulating better policies for elderly with respect to their health and overall wellbeing. It also highlighted that caregiving for older adults results in greater health burden particularly mental health more so for women relatives of men, indicating the call for elderly programs with special focus on mental health. Session on health status of children and adolescents highlighted that institutional delivery without antenatal and postnatal care will not be beneficial and it was found that mortality was high among those women who missed ANC or PNC. This indicates the need to enhance monitoring and supervision of the implementation of antenatal and postnatal health care programs to ensure decline in infant and maternal mortality rates.

Dr Chandrasekharan Award Papers

The third day of the conference started with the presentations of Dr Chandrasekharan Award. Interesting papers were presented by young scholars on the effect of maternal and child health care programs, condition of slums in Mumbai, Indo-Chinese Community in Kolkata and demographic dividend.

Sixth Plenary Session

The last plenary session was by the Wish Foundation team and the session was chaired by Prof P M Kulkarni with Dr. A.G Khan as the co chair. The speakers included Dr Ambey Srivastava and Dr Arup K Das. The session highlighted the challenges in implementing PPP models of primary health care in Rajasthan. Application of Machine Learning (ML) in predicting treatment appropriateness of prescriptions was discussed as health care systems have huge data set which can be used by machine learning in a better and effective way. The author also talked about how the random forecast model having high accuracy can be used for building machine learning-based automation by including specific variables like

symptoms type, diagnosis, type of test recommended etc. This session highlighted the need for monitoring the programs for improving the functioning of primary health centers and the role of machine learning as a tool for a better understanding of health care data.

Valedictory Session

The conference concluded with valedictory session. Prof SN Singh award for best poster was given to Ms. Sunita Patel, Ph.D. scholar, IIPS, Mumbai for her poster on "Gender inequalities in nutrition and their association with hypertension in India" and Dr Mahadevappa Megeri for his poster on Elimination of Infectious Diseases and Gain in Life Expectancy.

Dr LK Dwivedi, Rapporteur general made a brief presentation of the three day conference proceedings. Dr U V Somayajulu, president of IASP thanked all the members for their active participation and urged all the members to actively contribute towards making the IPC 2021 a success. Prof Chandrasekhar, Dean, University of Kerala gave the valedictory address and highlighted the need for adopting management principles in population studies and research Prof Suresh Sharma, Treasurer of IASP proposed vote of thanks to all the funding agencies (UNFPA, IHAT, IIPS Gender project, Population council, Wish foundation, Population Foundation of India, ICSSR) and staff of University of Kerala, PRC, Sigma, NIMS, and IEG, paper and poster presenters, abstract reviewers, poster evaluators, paper presenters, chair persons and co-chair persons, coordinators, media et al.

The end