



XXXIX ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF POPULATION (IASP)

SEPTEMBER 18-20, 2018

Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi

Rapporteurs General Report

The 39th Annual Conference of IASP was held during September 18-20, 2018 with five plenary sessions, one panel discussion, and 31 technical oral sessions with 120 presentations, and 3 poster sessions with 75 posters in conjunction with Emerging Methodologies in Theoretical and Applied Statistics conference by Department of Statistics, BHU, Varanasi.. The conference was attended by academicians, researchers, students, administrators, development practitioners, NGO representatives etc, from UNFPA, USAID, UNICEF, Save the children, PSI, Swasti, WISH foundation, IIPS, JNU, TISS, ISI, Lucknow University, BHU, Delhi University, Utkal university, Ravenshaw University-Cuttack, IEG, ICMR, NIMS, SV University, Hyderabad Central University, Gulbarga University, etc.

The conference started with the inaugural function that was held on 18th Sept 2018 in the morning, Prof. B B Khare (HOD of Statistics department, BHU) welcomed the dignitaries. Prof. KK Singh, Convener of the local organising committee briefed about the statistics conference. Dr. U V Somayajulu, President of IASP gave the presidential address. He mentioned about the challenging task taken up by the IASP in hosting the IUSSP's International Population Conference in 2021 in Hyderabad. He highlighted the need for gender equity, gender and development, and explained the role of demographers in research on these issues. For instance, he mentioned about time use studies that can help us in understanding the health, nutrition and development implication of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and availability of clean fuel. He also talked about various programme initiatives of the Indian Government towards gender equity and equality. He particularly expressed his concern regarding presence of female demographers in IASP's executive council, for taking up active role. He also informed about support from UNFPA on Skill Development workshops. Dr Jenifer Butler, UNFPA chief and the Chief Guest gave the key note address. She added that we can't talk of Demography if we can't talk of Gender. She praised intellectual force of India and suggested that investment on young people in the country can get demographic dividend. She emphasized for gender analysis of census data. Prof. Joshi, Director Institute of Science, BHU talked of Pitambar Panth and his contribution in Statistics. Prof PMC Nair, General Secretary, IASP announced the awards. Prof KB Pathak award for best paper published in peer reviewed journals was given to Mukesh Ranjan. Prof K Srinivasan award for best technical and substantive paper published in Demography India was awarded to S.K. Singh, Arpita Das & Deepanjali Vishwakarma and Binod Kumar Singh.

The conference souvenir and two books viz, Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health Programmes in India, A Programme Science Approach, by BM Ramesh, Shiva S Halli, Krishnamurthy Jayanna and Mohan HL, and Morbidity in Kerala, Levels, Determinants and Differentials by P Mohanachandran Nair, Asha T Chacko, Rajeev V and Arun Kumari VS were released by the chief guest. Dr 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, UNICEF, USAID, IHAT, IIPS, PSI, Swasti, WISH Foundation, Save the Children et al for the generous financial support to IASP.

Immediately after the inaugural session, Prof George Simons memorial lecture was delivered by Dr Shireen Jeebhoy on “Keeping the promises of the SDGs for adolescents and youths in India: What needs to be done?” This session was chaired by Dr U V Somayajulu, President of IASP. Dr Shireen talked about 7 key markers of a successful transition from adolescent to adulthood with evidences from India and other parts of the Globe. She raised major questions that whether India will meet the SDG on health and well-being and gender equality during the stipulated time period. She suggested some possible solutions like entitlement for school going adolescents, Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) to promote school completion, comprehensive skilling programme, school based comprehensive sexuality education, focused programme for the married girls and programmes to engage the parents of the adolescents to improve outcomes.

The first plenary session was on Health Status of the Urban Poor in UP and it was chaired by Prof Arvind Pandey. The speakers were from Govt of India, Govt of UP, Varanasi district administration, USAID, PSI and Swasti. Dr. Basab Gupta, Dy. Commissioner- NUHM, Govt. of India talked about Govt’s newly launched programme “Ayushman Bharat” and showed State level disparities in indicators and said that urban health is a socio-economic problem. Dr. Sanjay Pandey of PSI emphasized on use of evidence on decision making. Ms. Shyama from Swasti discussed on i4We Investment for Wellness Model. Dr Singh from State Health department of Govt. of UP said that in spite of having urban health and wellness centers, people still prefer to visit well established Govt. hospitals. Dr Dipankar Bhattacharjee talked about Knowledge Catalyst, Learning for impact.

Prof S N Singh memorial oration was delivered by Prof. R C Yadav of BHU on Prof Singh’s contribution to Stochastic Model.

The second plenary session was chaired by Prof. F. Ram. The presentations were made by the IHAT- UP team on improving MCH outcomes in the State, Dr. Shiva Halli talked about theory of changes and approaches. It was explained how UP- TSU is supporting to improving access to FP services. System Strengthening for better governance and improved service delivery in UP was presented by Sandeep Srivastava. MNCH interventions for better and improved outcomes in UP was presented by John Anthony. UP-TSU’s support to improving access to Family Planning Services in UP was presented by Preeti Anand. UP-TSU’s support to Poshan Abhiyan roll out in UP was Presented by Manish Kumar.

There was a brainstorming session on “Emerging opportunities for IASP, how to tap?” . It was chaired by Dr ME Khan and coordinated by Dr Subrato Mondal. Several suggestions were given by the panelists and these include proactive role by IASP in advocacy to Govt. on alarming demographic situation in the country, strengthening association with Govt., increasing study of population in the universities and institutes and most importantly how to generate more fund and resources for IASP. Most part of the discussions went on how to generate fund for IASP so that the association can take up several activities (regional workshops, skill building workshops, etc.) in different regions of the country in addition to the Annual Conference.

Four skill Development workshops (three of them supported by UNFPA) were conducted by the resource persons with about 75 participants altogether. The four workshops were 1. Applied Research Methods in Evaluation conducted by Dr M Hanimi Reddy and Dr S Rajaram, 2. Use of data for urban planning conducted by Prof RB Bhagat and Dr Archana Roy, 3. Research methods for Applied or Business Demography, conducted by Dr U V Somayajulu and Dr KVR Subrahmanyam and 4. How to Write Scientific Papers for Peer-reviewed Journals was conducted by Prof P C Saxena and Prof Sayeed Unisa .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 indicate 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.

The third plenary session was by the IIPS team and it was chaired by Prof Leela Visaria. This session was interesting and very informative. Prof L Ladu Singh, Acting Director of IIPS talked on the social security issues for the elderly in India. He showed the trends and inflows and out flows in National Transfer Accounts (NTA). Prof Sayed Unnisa talked on understanding the childhood stunting, Dr Archana K Roy talked on out migration from Bihar and Prof. R B Bhagat discussed about demographic transition and public policy in India and gave a strong insight into it.

The 4th Plenary Session by Unicef, Uttar Pradesh Field Office, Lucknow was on gendered messaging and Swachha Bharat Mission (SBM) Gramin programme in UP. Mrs. Piyush Antony, Inclusive Social Policy Specialist and Mr Chiranjivi Tiwari, WASH Specialist talked about the gendered views of sanitation and mentioned that economic impact per household is available but not available for the society. They suggested some of the opportunities for research as follows:

- Are we promoting gender stereotype?
- If and how women and socially excluded groups are given scope to participate and influence SBM decisions
- Are we putting enough efforts on generating evidence and empowering women and girls?

The fifth plenary session of Wish foundation was chaired by Prof Aravind Pandey. There were presentations and discussion on operationalizing Health and Wellness Centers for comprehensive primary health cares across the States. The panelists included: Dr Rahul Bhawsar, Mr. Dinesh Songara (State Program & Technical Head) Mr. Anand Panjiyar (Program Specialist). The learning from different States was discussed to arrive at practical solutions to the issues.

A lot of enthusiasm and active participation was found among the research scholars and the students during the technical sessions. Many of them presented papers from their M Phil/PhD dissertations. The following technical sessions were conducted successfully:

- Safe Abortion/MCH
- Ageing
- Child Health and Survival
- Family Planning
- Fertility
- Food Security / Child Nutrition
- Gender
- Livelihood/Education
- Mathematical models/ Large scale surveys
- Migration, Health/ Mental Health

Interesting and innovative papers were presented by the young scholar for Dr. Chandrasekheran award.

Poster sessions: 75 posters were displayed in the three poster sessions. The poster evaluation committee selected three posters as the best posters. The authors of these posters, were given Prof SN Singh award in the valedictory session held on 20th September, 2018.

The valedictory session was held on 20th September, 2018. Prof KNS Yadava. Was the Chief Guest and in his address, he highlighted the role of Demographers in research. Dr U V Somayajulu, President of IASP mentioned about the plans to strengthen IASP further and sought the cooperation of all the members. He added that earnest efforts are needed to strengthen IASP financially and requested all the members to actively participate in the same. Nilima and Mani Deep Govindu were given Prof Chandrasekharan award for best paper presented in this category. Prof KK Singh talked about the conference. Prof Gyan Praksh gave vote of thanks on behalf of BHU. Dr KVR Subrahmanyam, Vice President of IASP proposed vote of thanks on behalf of IASP and thanked all the funding agencies, BHU, staff of Sigma, NIMS, IEG, abstract reviewers, chair persons, poster evaluators, paper presenters, SDW coordinators, poster presenters, media et al.

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