Fourth Prof. John Caldwell Memorial Lecture by IASSH

Professor John Charles (Jack) Caldwell’s seminal work included documentation of the role of mother’s education in fertility limitation and child mortality decline and the role of circumcision in inhibiting the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa. He is known for his “wealth flows” theory, which relates demographic transition theory to changes in intergenerational transfers within the family. He was associated with the Department of Demography of Australian National University (ANU) for many decades. He was a former President of IUSSP and a recipient of United Nations Population Award. He has encouraged and mentored many young scholars from India and a good number of them received their Ph.D from ANU under his able guidance. His anthropological demographic work on south India, particularly on marriage, fertility and contraception, received lot of research attention. Professor Caldwell died on 12th March 2016 at the age of 87 in Canberra. His students, colleagues and friends at the initiative of Prof. K.N.M. Raju approached the Indian Association for Social Sciences and Health (IASSH) in 2016 to institute a memorial lecture in his honour. Considering this request, the IASSH instituted the lecture series in memory of the most famous demographer of our times. The First Prof. John Caldwell Memorial Lecture was held during the 14th Annual Conference of IASSH in 2016 at Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, and the second Memorial Lecture was held at National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad in 2017. The third memorial lecture was held during the annual conference of IASSH held at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi in 2018.
The Fourth Prof. John Caldwell Memorial Lecture was organized during the 17th Annual Conference of IASSH held at IIT, Mandi on 8th December 2019. Distinguished Sociologist Prof. N Jayaram (Former Director, ISEC, Bangalore and Former Professor at TISS, Mumbai) delivered the Lecture on the theme - "Social Construction of Health and Illness: A Phenomenological Perspective". Prof. T.V. Sekher, President of IASSH, introduced the guest speaker Prof. N Jayaram and also spoke about the contributions of Prof. Caldwell to Demography and particularly on his research work on India. Dr. U V Somayajulu, (Vice President, IASSH) chaired the session. Prof. K N M Raju reflected upon his personal interactions with his PhD supervisor Prof. Caldwell. Prof. Jayaram in his lecture discussed about the sociological interpretation of health and illness and how the traditional and indigenous healthcare traditions in India addressed the problems of illness and morbidity. His talk was very much
appreciated by the participants and generated lot of discussion. IASSH is bringing out this lecture in printed form for wider circulation.