

Indian Association for Social Sciences and Health (IASSH)

16th November 2017

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

The executive committee of IASSH met on 16th November, 2017 at NIRD, Hyderabad. The meeting was chaired by the President, Prof. S. Siva Raju. The meeting reviewed the activities of the Association for the past one year. Nearly hundred new life members have joined the Association during this one year.

General Secretary Prof. T.V. Sekher has stated that the selected papers of the 14th Annual Conference held at Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics at Pune were published as a special issue of the journal *Artha Vijnana*, the reputed and longstanding journal of Gokhale Institute. The first Dr. John Caldwell memorial lecture which was organized at Pune was published by the Association for wider circulation among academicians and members. The lecture was delivered by distinguished Demographer Prof. K.Srinivasan. The copy of this printed lecture was sent to all the EC members and to the libraries of well-known research institutes and universities.

Executive Committee also discussed the various arrangements done to conduct the 15th Annual Conference in collaboration with National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) at Hyderabad. Based on the announcement for abstracts, more than 500 abstracts were received from across the country. The screening committee reviewed these abstracts and selected 120 papers for oral presentations, 80 papers for poster presentations and 30 papers for youth best paper award competition.

The Second Dr. John Caldwell memorial lecture is also organized along with the conference and was delivered by well known scholar and educational administrator, Prof. S. Parasuraman (Director, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai). This memorial lecture session was chaired by Dr. Venkatesh Srinivasan, Assistant Country Representative, UNFPA, India. The General Secretary mentioned that the first Dr. John Caldwell memorial lecture organized by IASSH last year received international attention featuring on the websites of IUSSP, PAA, APA and ANU.

The fourth Dr. K.E. Vaidyanathan memorial lecture is also scheduled along with the conference and was delivered by well known health and ethics expert Dr. Amar Jesani (Editor of the Indian Journal of Medical Ethics).

The Executive Committee appreciated the efforts of the office bearers of the Association, particularly President Prof. S. Siva Raju, General Secretary Prof. T.V. Sekher, and Treasurer Prof. D.P.Singh. During this four year period, Association has witnessed major expansion in its membership, coverage and publications, as well as instituting of two memorial lectures. The annual conferences were organized at Lucknow, Trivandrum, Pune and Hyderabad during the last four years, in collaboration with local institutions/universities. It was observed that the

conduct and selection of awards for best youth papers and best posters also received appreciation from the research scholars and young members.

The Treasurer Prof. D.P.Singh presented the audited statement of accounts which was approved by the Executive Committee. The Committee also appreciated the donations from Prof. K.N.M. Raju for Dr. John Caldwell Memorial lecture, and from Dr. Malika Mistry for instituting awards for best papers from young scholars.

The Committee also discussed the possibility of starting a new journal by the Association as well Regional Chapters and Regional Workshops. It was suggested that EC members should take initiatives in this regard.

As part of the conference, IASSH also organized a three-day workshop on Research Methodology for Ph.D scholars from various universities. 29 research scholars attended this workshop and were given participation certificate and a recent book on research methodology. Members suggested having this workshop in future focusing on specific themes like scientific writing, qualitative research methods, etc.

The Executive Committee thanked the efforts of the out-going office bearers and wished all the success for the new office bearers.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

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Minutes of the General Body Meeting

The General Body Meeting of the Association was held at NIRD, Hyderabad on 16th Nov. 2017. The meeting was chaired by the President Prof. S Siva Raju.

General Secretary Prof. T.V.Sekher presented the report of the activities of the Association for the last one year. He highlighted the membership drive, the memorial lectures, and publications from the conference. He also briefed the members about the various arrangements done for the organization of the 15th Annual Conference with the theme- "Health, Gender and Rural Development: Research Practice and Policy" jointly with NIRDPR.

The members appreciated the arrangements done for the conference, as well as for the academic sessions, memorial lectures and poster presentations. Specific to 15th IASSH Annual Conference, as the response to 'call for abstracts' was overwhelming for all the 3 categories of oral, poster and youth best paper award presentations and across the 26 sub themes provided under the main theme: "Health, Gender and Rural Development: Research, Practice and Policy". We received almost 500 abstracts out of which a screening committee reviewed and

selected 200 abstracts. Overall, 300 delegates have participated at the conference across the three days. In all, 120 presentations were made as part of the 20 technical sessions held on Day 1 & 2. About 60 posters were displayed and presented by the respective authors. Around 22 Youth Best Paper Presentations were done in the conference which was evaluated by expert committees.

The members profusely thanked the Director General of NIRD Dr. W.R. Reddy, and local organization Convener Dr. Sucharita Pujari for making all efforts and best arrangements for the conference including accommodation, local conveyance and food arrangements. Nearly 300 participants from across India attended the conference.

Members also suggested initiating a new journal by the Association on the theme of "Social Sciences and Health", making the Association more vibrant on social media, and organizing theme specific workshops for research scholars. The meeting also discussed the various ways to mobilize funds for the activities of the Association. The other discussions in the GB meeting were on the membership drive, new collaborations, news letters, updating the website, and planning for the next conference.

The Audited Statement of Accounts of the Association was presented by the Treasurer Prof. D. P. Singh and was approved by the General Body. The audited statement of accounts is placed on the IASSH website for the reference of members. 15th annual conference received financial support from United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and NIRDPR. IASSH is thankful for their collaboration and support in successfully organizing the conference at Hyderabad.

This year, 29 research scholars from various universities and institutes have participated in the workshop on Research Methodology and gave feedback that this is a useful platform for them in fine-tuning the methodological aspects of their dissertations. The participants were given certificates and a newly published book on research methodology.

The members also appreciated the donations from Prof. K.N.M. Raju for Dr. John Caldwell Memorial lecture and from Dr. Malika Mistry for awards for best papers from young scholars.

Two universities have expressed their initial interest to organize the next annual conference in 2018. The General Body asked the new office bearers to consider these proposals and take an appropriate decision in due course. Considering the paucity of funds, some members also suggested that travel funds for attending the conference and workshop may be restricted only to the members of the Association.

The General Body appreciated the efforts of the office bearers of the Association, particularly President Prof. S. Siva Raju, General Secretary Prof. T.V. Sekher, and Treasurer Prof. D.P.Singh in successfully managing the activities of the Association for the last four years, and also for the continued guidance of former President Prof. C.P. Prakasam.

The General Body unanimously elected the following members as the office bearers of the Association for the next term (2018-2020). Prof. T.V. Sekher (IIPS) is the new President of the Association. Other office bearers are Prof. P.M. Sandhya Rani (General Secretary), Dr. U.V. Somayajulu (Vice President), Dr. Anil Chandran (Treasurer) and Dr. Malika B. Mistry (Joint

Secretary). The executive committee members are Prof. M.K. Agarwal, Prof. V.K. Tiwari, Prof. L.N. Dash, Prof. R. Maruthakutti, Dr. Hemanta Meiti, Dr. Goli Srinivas, Dr.J.K. Basu and Dr. Sucharita Pujari. The out-going President Prof. S. Siva Raju will serve as Ex-officio. The members of the Board of Trustees are Prof. C.P. Prakasam, Prof. K.N.M. Raju, Prof.N. Audinarayana and Dr. A.G. Khan.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.
