

# Thirteenth Annual Conference of the

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HEALTH  
(IASSH)

*in collaboration with*  
**Department of Demography and Population Research  
Centre, University of Kerala**

**THEME:**  
**Health and Development: Research, Practice and  
Policy**

**10-12, December 2015**

**and**

**Pre-conference Workshop on Research Methodology**

**7-9, December 2015**

**Conference Report**



**Thirteenth Annual Conference of the**  
**INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HEALTH**  
**(IASSH)**

**Inaugural Session**

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual IASSH Conference began with its formal inauguration at the Mariarani Convention Centre located in the Trivandrum city, on 10th December, 2015, at 10:00 AM. The welcoming of the dignitaries on the dais proceeded with the presenting of the flower bouquets. Prof. P. Mohanachandran Nair, Organizing Secretary of the IASSH Annual Conference (Head, Dept. of Demography and Director, Population Research Centre, University of Kerala) welcomed the esteemed dignitaries, IASSH members and the delegates. Prof. P. Mohanachandran Nair firstly took the opportunity to thank Prof. S. Siva Raju and Prof. T.V. Sekher, President and General Secretary of IASSH, for considering the university's proposal seeking collaboration to host the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at Trivandrum. He concluded by welcoming the guests, delegates, colleagues, media persons and students who have graced the inaugural event. Prof. S. Siva Raju, President, IASSH, chaired the inaugural session and talked about the Indian Association for Social Sciences and Health (IASSH) and its activities. Prof. T.V. Sekher, General Secretary, IASSH talked about the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in terms of the preparation, arrangements, programs and collaborations. Prof. P. K. Radhakrishnan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala, inaugurated the conference. Prof. P. K. B. Nayar, former President of Indian Sociological Society and founder President of IASSH, graced the occasion as chief guest. Adv. V.K. Prasanth, Mayor of Trivandrum City Corporation and Prof. T. S. Anirudhan were also present. Dr. Anil Chandran.S (Joint Organizing Secretary), University of Kerala, proposed the vote of thanks. The Vice Chancellor released the conference souvenir and abstracts. The selected papers of the 12th annual conference held at University of Lucknow in 2014 were brought out as an edited book ( **Health and Development: Multi-disciplinary Perspectives**, editors: S. Siva Raju and T. V. Sekher, B. R. Publishing Corporation, New Delhi, 2015), which was released during the inaugural function. Another book titled- **Intimate Partner Violence and Family Planning Acceptance**, Eds. D. Balaiah, Saritha Nair, Shahina Begum and C.P. Prakasam, B. R. Publishing Corporation, New Delhi, 2015) was also released.



Inaugural Session of the Conference: Prof. P. Mohanachandran Nair, Local Organizing Secretary, welcoming the participants. Prof. T.S. Anirudhan, Prof. P.K.B. Nayar, Prof. T.V. Sekher, Prof. P.K. Radhakrishnan (Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala) and Prof. S. Siva Raju on the dais.



Inauguration of the Conference-Lighting the lamp- Prof. S. Siva Raju, Prof. P.K.B. Nayar, Prof.P.K. Radhakrishnan (Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala), Prof. T.V. Sekher and Prof. P. Mohanachandran Nair.



Participants at the Inaugural session

Prof. T. V. Sekher, General Secretary, IASSH was called upon to introduce about the overall program and special features of the 13th IASSH Annual Conference. During the year 2015, the conference announcement was made through the circulation (by post and e-mail) of a well-designed and informative Conference Brochure and highlighting it on the IASSH Website. In response to the call for abstracts, around 450 abstracts were received, from which 200 abstracts were selected for the Oral, Poster and Youth Best Paper presentation categories and acceptance letters were sent out. The efforts for obtaining partial assistance from sponsors began well in advance and helped secure financial assistance/collaborations for the conduct of the conference. The IASSH secretariat team located at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, handled the communications with and response to queries of the delegates and presenters promptly and consistently. During the 3 days of the conference, we have about 120 Oral, 25 Youth Best Paper and 40 Poster Presentations by participants from various parts of the country, including few from abroad.

This year, the pre-conference workshop on 'Approaches to Social Science Research' held during 7-9 December 2015 has been a highly successful event with demand from research scholars. 25 young scholars from various universities participated proactively at the workshop and received certificates. This is a regular feature at the IASSH Annual conferences and will continue every year to improve its outreach and meet the demand for such courses on research methodology from time to time. The three unique plenary sessions are the special aspect of the 13<sup>th</sup> IASSH Annual Conference and will cover important themes and issues relevant to social sciences and health were sponsored by Bihar Technical Assistance Support Team (B-TAST) and JSW Foundation. The second Prof. K.E.Vaidyanathan Memorial Lecture is also a major event in this year's conference.





The release of the 13<sup>th</sup> IASSH Annual Conference -Souvenir and Abstracts- by Prof. P.K. Radhakrishnan, Vice Chancellor of University of Kerala.

Prof. S. Siva Raju, President, Indian Association for Social Sciences and Health, welcomed the Chief Guests, dignitaries on the dais, the delegates participating in the conference, media persons and others. IASSH is an independent professional association that came into being more than a decade ago, to meet the felt need of having an exclusive forum for social scientists from various disciplines who are working on health issues- to meet periodically and share the research findings. Through highlighting the implications of the study findings among different stakeholders, it is hoped to bring about concerted action to address the identified issues. Thus the activities of IASSH in line with its vision, aims and objectives were to conduct of annual Conferences on themes relevant to social sciences and health and publication of the conference proceedings for its wider dissemination among scholars, practitioners and various stakeholders.

Prof. Siva Raju stated that the IASSH began in a small way with just 8 members in the year 2002 and now it has grown into a registered association with around 1100 life-members besides annual members, and the membership cuts across the disciplines in the field of Social Sciences and Health. IASSH specifically encourages young scholars by providing this platform to disseminate their research findings. Currently, IASSH through its life members and collaborating agencies has developed networks with a pan-India outreach on a continual basis, for exchange of ideas and themes every year through the annual conferences, and more than 10 books were published by the association.

As is the trend with any growing professional association, IASSH is seriously considering to have regional chapters/workshops with specific themes from time to time, delineate the association's advisory role to policy makers in the field of social sciences and health, to assist the corporates in planning and implementing interventions in the field of health, and catalyze the networking among the various stakeholders by taking a facilitator's role while having 'maximizing the outreach' as the main motto.

Prof. P. K. Radhakrishnan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala, thanked the IASSH for organizing this conference and inviting him to deliver the inaugural address. Speaking about health and social sciences, he expressed that increasingly this field (with a bio-medical paradigm) and individuals and fraternity working are able to do much to improve the well being of persons in the society and towards development. A health program that embodies the social sciences principles will make it more responsive and in reaching the beneficiary population. Bridging the inequalities between 'haves and have-nots' is another challenge and it is our responsibility to bring the health agenda at the center-point for programs and research.

Prof. P. K. B Nayar, Chief Guest of the function, recollected his memories of initiating the process of establishing IASSH as a professional association thirteen years back with few like-minded social scientists. He expressed his happiness and satisfaction the way the association has grown over the years and the conduct of the annual conferences in a professional and scientific manner. He congratulated the team and conveyed his best wishes for a successful conference.

## **Presentations by the Delegates**

Specific to 13<sup>th</sup> IASSH Annual Conference, we are happy to note that 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 20 sub themes provided under the main theme: "Health and Development: Research, Practice and Policy". We received almost 450 abstracts out of which a screening committee reviewed and selected 200 abstracts. Overall, 300 delegates have participated at the conference across the 3 days. In all, 120 presentations were made as part of the 12 technical sessions held on Day 1 & 2. About 40 posters were displayed and presented by the respective authors. Around 25 Youth Best Paper Presentations were done in the conference which was evaluated by six member expert team.



Poster sessions in progress

## Plenary Sessions

**I. The First Plenary Session was on "Kerala: Emerging concerns".** Over the years, concerns have been emerging on the sustainability of the so called 'Kerala model of development'. Why the state is not able to show considerable progress in economic development? Why the health care system has come under severe criticism for not able to meet the challenges of both communicable and non-communicable diseases? Are we able to maintain the social security measures for the vulnerable sections of the Kerala society? Whether the state is prepared enough to reap the demographic dividend? Why are there increasing instances of social and communal disturbances in a state once known for its religious co-existence and communal harmony? A panel of distinguished experts deliberated on the various emerging issues and their implications to the society, economy and polity of Kerala state. Prof. M. A. Oommen, well known economist, highlighted the recent trends in Kerala's economy and issues related to lack of employment opportunities and industrial stagnation. Prof. P. S. Nair, reputed demographer and former professor of University of Botswana, talked about the fertility transition in the state and the demographic dividend. Prof. S. Irudaya Rajan, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, in his presentation brought the attention of the participants about large scale international migration from Kerala and also the recent in-migration of North Indian workers to the

state. Mr. Loknath Behera, IPS, Additional Director General of Police, Kerala, spoke about the increasing incidences of crime, violence, and depression among the youth in Kerala in the context of digital/internet explosion, even in rural areas. Dr. Vipin Gopal, Additional Director of Directorate of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Kerala, in his presentation identified the health concerns and challenges for the state. Prof. P. K. B. Nayar, former President of IASSH, chaired this plenary session.



Plenary session on "Kerala: The Emerging Concerns". Prof. M. A. Oommen, Prof. P. K. B. Nayar, Prof. P. S. Nair, Mr. Loknath Behera IPS and Prof. S. Irudaya Rajan.

II. The second Plenary session focused on the sector wide approach to strengthening health in Bihar, a Government of Bihar initiative supported by UKAID(DFID). SWASTH aims to significantly improve the health and nutritional status of people particularly the poorest and excluded. SWASTH promotes convergence between three sectors- health, nutrition and WASH. A key component of the SWASTH is the Bihar Technical Assistance Support Team (B-TAST). This is a team of national and international specialists who provide technical and managerial support to the state government. This plenary session focused on the activities and achievements of the B-TAST. The session was chaired by Prof. C. P. Prakasam, former President of IASSH. The speakers are Mr. Prakash Kumar, Mr. Sandeep Srivastava, Dr. Satyajit Chowdhury, Mr. Ashok Kumar, Mr. Rabi Narayan Parhi, Ms. Madhuri Das, Dr. Prabhakar Sinha, and Dr. Jayanta Kumar Basu.





**Plenary session of B-TAST. Chairperson Prof. C.P. Prakasam with speakers**

III. The third **Plenary session on Corporate Social Responsibility and Health** chaired by Prof. S. Siva Raju received positive and proactive response from the conference delegates due to its crucial relevance, novelty and potential of the topic deliberated on by esteemed speakers Mr. Rohan Sarma, National CSR Hub, TISS, Mumbai, Ms. Saraswathi Sankaran, Director, Deepam and Dr. U. V. Somayajulu, CEO, Sigma Research and Consultants, New Delhi who with their presentations shared the innovative efforts by their agencies and the scope for CSR involvement in the provision of health care to the people that encouraged critical thinking and inspiration among the delegates.



**Plenary session on Health and Corporate Social Responsibility: Mr. Rohan Sarma, Ms. Saraswathi Sankaran, Prof. S. Siva Raju and Dr. U. V. Somayajulu**



## **Second Prof. K. E. Vaidyanathan Memorial Lecture**

IASSH has instituted a memorial lecture in honour of Prof. K.E. Vaidyanathan, former president of the association. Prof. T.V. Sekher recollected Prof. K. E. Vaidyanathan's contributions to social science research and also to IASSH. Prof. S. Siva Raju, president of IASSH chaired the session and also shared about his long association with Prof. Vaidyanathan from the inception of IASSH.

Prof. Amit Shovon Ray, well known economist and the Director, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, delivered the memorial lecture on the topic- "The Indian Pharmaceutical Industry in a Changing Global Landscape". He elaborated the growth and expansion of pharmaceutical sector in India over the decades and the collaboration with multinationals. This was followed by the cultural event comprising of dance and music thoughtfully organized by a group of artists among the staff and students of Kerala University.





Prof. Amit.S. Ray, Director, CDS, delivering the second Prof. K.E.Vaidyanathan Memorial Lecture. Prof.T.V. Sekher recollecting the contributions of Prof. Vaidyanathan to Social Sciences and also to IASSH. Prof. S. Siva Raju chaired the session.



Cultural Programme in Progress

## Valedictory Session

The valedictory session began with Prof. T. V. Sekher (General Secretary) welcoming the audience and Chief Guest, Prof. Jacob John Kattakayam. Dr. Anil Chandran presented the Rapporteur General's Report by providing a recap of the conference activities of the past two days and the special features of the conference. Prof. Jacob John Kattakayam, Director, Centre for Gerontological Studies, Trivandrum

and former President of Indian Sociological Society, delivered the valedictory address. He spoke about the inter-relationship between social sciences and health and the need for undertaking more field-based research. Prof. S. Siva Raju (President, IASSH), expressed his happiness in the successful completion of the conference and thanked the local organizers, Department of Demography and Population Research Centre of University of Kerala, for their active involvement and commitment. Prof. Mohanachandran Nair, the local Organizing Secretary proposed vote of thanks. The certificates to the paper presenters were distributed.



Prof. Jacob John Kattakayam (Director, Centre for Gerontological Studies and former President, Indian Sociological Society) delivering the valedictory address of the conference.



Participants at the Valedictory Session of the Conference



### **Announcement of the Awards:**

The General Secretary Prof. T.V. Sekher announced the awards for best papers and best posters, selected by the expert committees. The prestigious **Youth Best Paper Awards - 2015** were awarded to 4 research scholars (Ms. Kajori Banerjee, Mr. Raman Mishra, Ms. Sritapa Chatterjee and Ms. Vidya Balu) and they were each honoured with a certificate and cash prize. **The Best Poster Awards - 2015** were awarded to 4 young scholars (Ms. Nivedita Pathak, Ms. Alice Shobana Yesudian, Ms. Vandana Tamrakar and Ms. Richa Pande) and they were each honoured with a certificate and cash prize.

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### **Winners of Best Youth Paper Award- 2015**



Ms. Sritapa Chatterjee



Ms. Kajori Banerjee



Mr. Raman Mishra



Ms. Vidya Balu

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**EC and General Body Meeting of IASSH:** The Executive Committee (EC) met on 9th December, 2015 and took stock of the arrangements of the conference. The meeting also discussed issues regarding regional chapters, research workshops and fund mobilization. The General Body meeting took place on 11th December, 2015. The discussions were on the membership drive, new collaborations, newsletters, 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.

**New Office Bearers:** The General Body Meeting also elected the office bearers of the association for the next two years (2016-2017). They are Prof. S. Siva Raju, President, Dr. U. V. Somayajulu, Vice-President, Prof. T. V. Sekher, General Secretary, Dr. J. K. Basu, Joint-Secretary, and Prof. D. P. Singh, Treasurer. The other members of the Executive Committee are Prof. M. K. Agarwal, Prof. V. K. Tiwari, Prof. P. M. Sandhya Rani, Dr. Mallika.B. Mistry, Prof. R. Jayasree, Dr. Anil Chandran.S, Dr. J. K. Basu, Prof. L. N. Dash and Dr. A. K. Ravishankar. Prof. C. P. Prakasam (former president) will continue as ex-Officio. The members to the Board of Trustees are Prof. Ravi. K. Verma, Prof. K. N. M. Raju, Prof. N. Audinarayana (nominated), Dr. A. G. Khan and Dr. B. P. Thiagarajan (elected).

**Financial support:** 13<sup>th</sup> annual conference received financial support from United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Bihar Technical Assistance Support Team (B-TAST), JSW Foundation, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and University of Kerala. IASSH is thankful to all of them for their collaboration and support in successfully organizing the conference at Thiruvananthapuram.



### **Sixth Pre-Conference Workshop on 'Approaches to Social Science Research'**

The pre-conference workshop was held during 7-9 December, 2015 at Thiruvananthapuram. In order to train young research scholars, IASSH has initiated the Pre-Conference Workshop on “Approaches to Social Science Research” from the year 2010 onwards. Important aspects of social science research were discussed in this year’s workshop and the experts provided guidance to the M.Phil/Ph.D scholars in designing, analyzing and executing their study. This year, 25 research scholars have participated in the workshop 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 book on research methodology (**Research Methodology** by Ranjit Kumar, Sage Publications, New Delhi, 2015).

**Topics Covered in the Pre-Conference Workshop:** Introduction to Social Science Research, Selection of Research Problem, Approaches in Quantitative and Qualitative Research, Methods of Collection of Qualitative and Quantitative Data, Development of Tools, Quantitative Data Analysis using SPSS, Qualitative Data Analysis using Atlas-ti, Writing Research Proposal, Thesis writing, Presentation Skills and Ethics in Social Research. The resource persons included Prof. P. S. Nair, Prof.

S. Siva Raju, Prof. T.V. Sekher, Prof. D.P. Singh, Dr. U.V. Somayajulu, Prof.P. Mohanachandran Nair, Prof. C. P. Prakasam, Prof. P. Sankara Sarma, Prof. Somasekharan Pillai, Prof. P.M. Sandhya Rani, Prof. N. Audinarayana and Dr. Anil Chandran. The Pro Vice Chancellor of Kerala University Prof. Veeramanikandan inaugurated the workshop.



Participants of the Pre-conference Workshop with organizers and resource persons

## We are Thankful to:

