

# INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HEALTH (IASSH)

## 9th Prof. K. E. Vaidyanathan Memorial Lecture

IASSH has instituted a memorial lecture in honour of **Prof. K.E. Vaidyanathan** since 2014. He was the President of the Indian Association for Social Sciences and Health (IASSH) from 2007 to 2011 and was mainly responsible for the expansion of the Association to its present form. Dr. Vaidyanathan was a distinguished demographer who served in various capacities in the United Nations and other organizations. He started his career as a faculty at the International Institute for Population Sciences in Mumbai. He later became the Head of the Department of Population Studies at the Institute of Rural Health and Family Planning in Gandhigram. He then joined the UN system and worked in various countries such as Egypt, Syria, Uganda, and Sudan, where he helped establish centers for population studies and research, advised planning commissions and conducted successful population surveys and censuses. In his later years, he also helped plan and implement the Living Standards Measurement Survey in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Dr. Vaidyanathan passed away in 2014 in Bangalore.



The 9<sup>th</sup> Dr. K. E. Vaidyanathan Memorial Lecture was held at the J N Auditorium on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2024. The session was chaired by **Prof. B. B. Mohanty**, Dean of the School of Social Science & International Studies at Pondicherry University and co-chaired by Prof. S. Siva Raju (Former President of IASSH). Prof. T. V. Sekher spoke about the life and contributions of Prof. Vaidyanathan. The speaker for the event was **Dr. Manju Rahi**, a clinician by training, Scientist-'G' and Director at ICMR - Vector Control Research Centre, Pondicherry.

Who delivered the 9th Prof. K. E. Vaidyanathan Memorial Lecture on the topic, “*Gendering of Health Outcomes: The Case of Vector-Borne Diseases.*”

Dr. Manju Rahi began by highlighting the significance of understanding gender dynamics in the context of health outcomes, particularly concerning vector-borne diseases. She emphasized that while vector-borne diseases affect everyone, they often manifest differently based on gender, socio-economic factors, and cultural norms. Dr. Rahi presented compelling data and case studies demonstrating the differential impact of vector-borne diseases on men and women. She discussed how societal roles, access to healthcare, and exposure to vectors influence the vulnerability of individuals, with women often bearing a disproportionate burden due to their roles in caregiving and domestic work. In conclusion, she emphasized the need for gender-sensitive approaches in research, policy-making, and public health interventions to address these inequalities effectively.

Overall, the 9th Prof. K. E. Vaidyanathan Memorial Lecture provided valuable insights into the gender dimensions of health outcomes related to vector-borne diseases, emphasizing upon further research and action in this critical area. The lecture was followed by a vote of thanks by **Dr. Pragya Tiwari Gupta**, who expressed her gratitude to all the speakers and participants for their valuable contributions.



**Prof. T. V. Sekher, Prof. B. B. Mohanty, Dr Manju Rahi, Prof. S. Siva Raju, & Dr. Pragya Tiwari Gupta at 9th Prof. K. E. Vaidyanathan Memorial Lecture.**