

# Seventeenth Annual Conference

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HEALTH  
(IASSH)

*in collaboration with*

School of Humanities and Social Sciences  
**Indian Institute of Technology Mandi**

*THEME:*

**Health, Gender and Development: Emerging Issues  
and Challenges**

*8-10, December 2019*

**&**

**Pre-conference Workshop on  
"Research Methods in Social Sciences"**

**5-7, December 2019**

**Conference Report**



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

**Inaugural Session**



The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of IASSH began with its formal inauguration at the Auditorium of the Indian Institute of Technology Mandi (IITM), Himachal Pradesh on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 at 10:00 AM. Dr. Rajeshwari Dutt, Chairperson, School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS), IITM, welcomed the gathering. The Association has nearly 1300 life members cutting across the disciplines in the field of Social Sciences and Health Studies. IASSH specifically encourages young scholars by providing them a platform to disseminate their research findings. IASSH, through its life members and collaborating institutions, has developed networks in our outreach on a continuous basis for the exchange of ideas every year through annual conferences and workshops. IASSH is an independent professional association to meet the felt need of having an exclusive forum for social scientists from various disciplines who are working on health and related issues- to meet periodically and share the research findings. By highlighting the implications of the

study findings among different stakeholders, it is hoped to bring about concerted action to address the emerging issues in health and development sectors. Thus, the activities of IASSH in line with its vision, aims and objectives to conduct annual conferences on themes relevant to social sciences and health, and publication of the conference proceedings for its wider dissemination among scholars, practitioners and other stakeholders.



**Prof. Timothy Gonsalves, Director, IIT Mandi, Inaugurating the Conference**

In his Presidential Address, Prof. T.V. Sekher (President, IASSH) discussed the need for social scientists and health policy makers to work together for better outcomes. Social sciences have made significant contributions in understanding health and health behaviours. However, there are serious concerns that policy makers are not realizing the full potential of the contributions that social science research can make to health policy making. In other words, how can health policy makers maximize the untapped potential of research in the social sciences? The impact of contributions from social scientists can lead to changes in health policy and practice - as well as an increase in our understanding and knowledge, along with changes in the attitudes and health behaviours of people. He felt that IASSH as a professional association of social scientists with interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary background working on health sector, can play an important role in bridging the gap between health policy makers and social scientists in India.

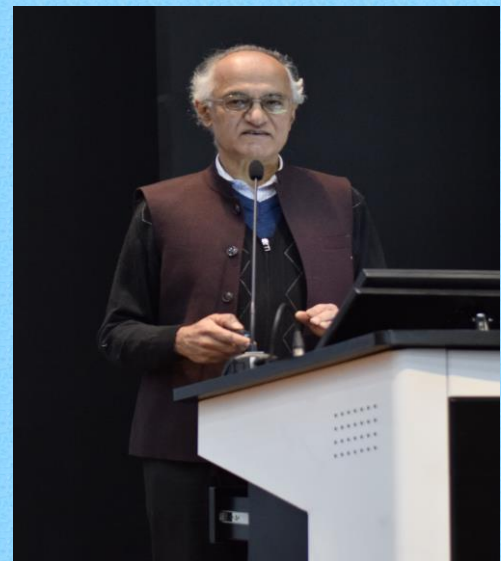
Prof Timothy Gonsalves, Director, IIT Mandi in his inaugural address outlined the measures taken by the Institute in promoting research and collaboration. He thanked the IASSH for the productive collaboration

for the workshop and the conference. He also extended continued support for the academic programmes of the Association. Prof. P.M.Sandhya Rani, General Secretary, IASSH, spoke about the preparations for the conference and the conference programme including two memorial lectures. Dr. Ramna Thakur, Convenor, local organizing committee, proposed the vote of thanks.



**Presidential Address**

**Prof. T.V. Sekher**



**Inaugural Address**

**Prof. Timothy Gonsalves**

## **Presentations by the Delegates**

Specific to 17<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 competition and across the 32 sub themes provided under the main theme: "Health, Gender and Development: Emerging Issues and Challenges". We received more than 400 abstracts out of which a screening committee reviewed and selected 200 abstracts for conference presentations. Overall, 200 delegates have participated in the conference across the 3 days. In all, 100 oral presentations were made as part of the 15 technical sessions held on Day 1 & 2. About 80 posters were displayed and presented by the respective authors. Twenty PhD scholars participated in the Youth Best Paper Award competition on the third day of the conference which was evaluated by expert committees (The conference programme schedule is available on IASSH website).





### **Fourth Prof. John Caldwell Memorial Lecture**

The Doyen of Demography, Professor John Charles (Jack) Caldwell died on 12th March 2016 at the age of 87 in Canberra. He was associated with the Department of Demography of Australian National University (ANU) for many decades. 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 has encouraged and mentored many young scholars from India and good number of them received their Ph.Ds from ANU under his able guidance. His anthropological demographic work on south India, particularly on marriage, fertility and contraception, received lot of research attention. His students, colleagues and friends at the initiative of Prof. K.N.M. Raju have approached the Indian Association for Social Sciences and Health (IASSH) 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 at JNU, New Delhi in 2018.

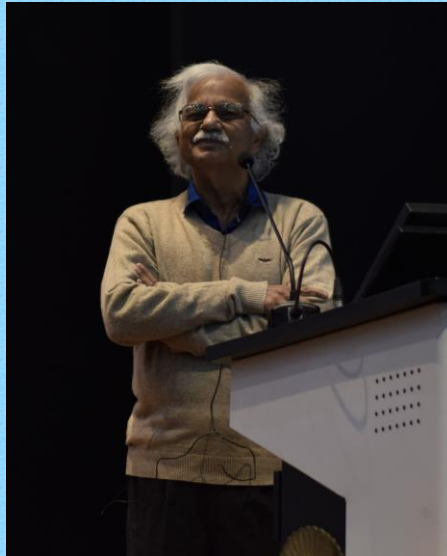


Distinguished Sociologist Prof. N Jayaram (Former Director, ISEC, Bangalore and Former Professor at TISS) delivered the fourth Prof. John Caldwell Memorial Lecture on the theme - "Social Construction of Health and Illness: A Phenomenological Perspective". Dr. U V Somayajulu, (Vice President, IASSH) chaired the session. Prof. K N M Raju spoke about the contributions of Prof. Caldwell to Demography as a discipline and also his research work on India. Prof. T.V. Sekher introduced the guest speaker Prof. N Jayaram. Prof. Jayaram in his address 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 appreciated by the participants.



## Sixth 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 growth and expansion of the Association to its present form. In his demise, we lost an outstanding scholar, an excellent teacher, an expert health and census professional, and above all, a fine human being.



The Sixth Prof. K. E. Vaidyanathan Memorial Lecture was delivered by well known social scientist Prof. Arun Kumar Sharma (Emeritus Professor, IIT Kanpur) on the theme- "Urbanization: Theories, Policy and Health" on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019. His lecture highlighted the paramount importance of urbanization in India mainly drawing the experiences and theoretical explanations from social sciences. This session was chaired by Prof. C.P. Prakasam (Former President, IASSH). Prof. Prakasam talked about the contributions of Prof. Vaidyanathan in building the Association. Prof. T.V. Sekher introduced the guest Speaker, Prof. A. K. Sharma. Prof. N. Audinarayana summarized the discussions and proposed the vote of thanks.





## Valedictory Session

The valedictory session began with Prof. P.M. Sandhya Rani (General Secretary, IASSH) welcoming the audience and the guests. President of IASSH, Prof. T.V. Sekher, chaired the valedictory session. Prof. Venkata Krishnan (Dean of Research and International Collaborations, IIT Mandi) delivered the valedictory address. Prof. Venkata Krishnan spoke about the advantages and benefits of an academic conference like this in better networking and collaboration for researchers and young scholars. Prof. T.V. Sekher (President, IASSH) expressed his happiness in the successful completion of the conference and thanked the local organizers, IIT Mandi, for their active involvement and commitment in successfully organizing the conference and the workshop. He also thanked the participants of the conference and members of the Association for their co-operation and support in enhancing the profile and activities of IASSH. Dr. Ramna Thakur, the Local Organizing Convener, proposed the vote of thanks.

On 8th evening, a cultural program was arranged in the IIT auditorium highlighting the rich traditional cultural heritage of dance and songs of Himachal Pradesh, which was appreciated by all participants.



## **Announcement of the Awards:**

President of IASSH Prof. T.V. Sekher announced the awards for best youth papers and best posters, selected by expert committees. The prestigious **Youth Best Paper Awards - 2019** were awarded to four young researchers (**Mr. Mahesh Shette, Dr. Md Illias Kanchan Sk, Ms. Ankita Kumari and Ms. Akancha Singh**) and they were each honoured with a certificate and cash prize. **The Best Poster Awards - 2019** were awarded to seven young scholars (**Ms. Deboshree Sinha, Ms. Priyanka Janbandhu, Mr. Radhe Shyam Mishra, Mr. Arvind Jadhav, Ms. Nilanjana Gupta, Ms. Thejaswini Sai Kalasamudram and Mr. Shubham Kumar**) and they received the certificates and cash prizes.

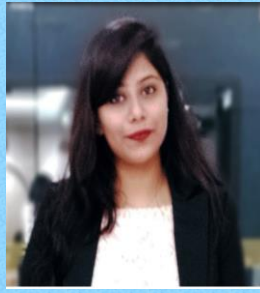


***Prof. Venkata Krishnan (Dean, IITM) Presenting the Awards***

## **Best Youth Paper Award Winners- 2019**



**Ms. Akancha Singh**



**Ms. Ankita Kumari**



**Mr. Mahesh Shette**



**Dr. Md. Illias Kanchan Sk**

## **EC and General Body Meetings of IASSH**

The Executive Committee (EC) met on 7th December 2019 and deliberated on various activities of the Association. The meeting also discussed issues regarding regional chapters and research workshops and fund mobilization. The General Body (GB) meeting took place on 9th December 2019. During the last one year, 28 academics enrolled as life members of the Association. The discussions in the GB meeting were on the membership drive, new collaborations, newsletters, updating the website, fund mobilization for the conference, increasing the Registration fee for participants and planning for the next conference. The Audited Statement of Accounts of the Association for the year 2018-19 was presented and was approved by the EC and General Body. The audited statement of accounts is placed on the IASSH website for the reference of members. 17<sup>th</sup> annual conference received financial support from United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR), and International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai. IASSH is thankful to these organizations for their collaboration and support in successfully organizing the conference at Mandi.

## **New Office Bearers (2020-21)**

IASSH General Body and Executive Committee unanimously elected office bearers for the next two years. Prof. T.V. Sekher (IIPS) is re-elected as the President of the Association. Other office bearers are Prof. P.M. Sandhya Rani (General Secretary), Dr. U.V. Somayajulu (Vice President), Dr. Manoj Alagarajan (Treasurer) and Dr. Malika B. Mistry (Joint Secretary). The Executive Committee members are Prof. V. K. Tiwari, Prof. L.N. Dash, Prof. R. Maruthakutti, Prof. T. B. Singh, Dr. Niyati Joshi, Dr. V. Selvaraju, Dr. Ramna Thakur and Dr. P Thiagarajan. The members of the Board of Trustees are Prof. C.P. Prakasam, Prof. A. K. Sharma, Prof. K.N.M. Raju and Prof. N. Audinarayana. Prof. S. Siva Raju (former President, IASSH) is the ex-officio member in the Executive Committee.

## **Tenth Pre-Conference Workshop on 'Research Methods in Social Sciences'**

The pre-conference workshop was held during 5th to 7th December, 2019 at School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS), IITM. In order to train the young research scholars, IASSH has initiated the Pre-Conference Workshop from the year 2010 onwards. Important aspects of advanced research methods were discussed in this year's workshop and the experts provided guidance to the M.Phil./ Ph.D scholars in analyzing and executing their study. This year 30 research scholars from various universities and institutes across India have participated in the workshop and they gave the feedback that this is a useful training for them in fine-tuning their research skills for preparing their dissertations. The participants were given certificates and a newly published book on 'Qualitative Research Methods' (Sage Publications) which was donated by the Sigma Research and Consulting Ltd, New Delhi.



***Workshop participants with resource persons***

**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, Data Analysis using SPSS and Atlas-ti, Writing Research Proposal, Thesis writing, Presentation Skills, Ethics in Social Sciences Research.

**Resource Persons for this year's Workshop:** Prof. C. P. Prakasam, Prof. T. V. Sekher, Prof. P. M. Sandhya Rani, Prof. N. Audinarayana, Prof. D. P. Singh, Dr. U. V. Somayajulu, Prof. V.K. Tiwari, Dr. Manoj Alagarajan, Dr. Niyati Joshi, Dr. Manu Devadevan, Dr. Surya Prakash Upadhyay, Dr. Suman Sigroha, Dr. Shyamasree Dasgupta, and Dr. Varun Dutt.



*Workshop session in progress*



*Prof. C.P. Prakasam distributing certificates to participants*

Prof. C. P. Prakasam (Former President, IASSH) distributed the certificates to the participants. Dr. U. V. Somayajulu (Vice President, IASSH) distributed the Research Methodology books. Prof. T.V. Sekher and Dr. Ramna Thakur were the Coordinators of the three-day workshop.



*Photos from the Conference*





*Technical Sessions in Progress*







*Cultural Program*





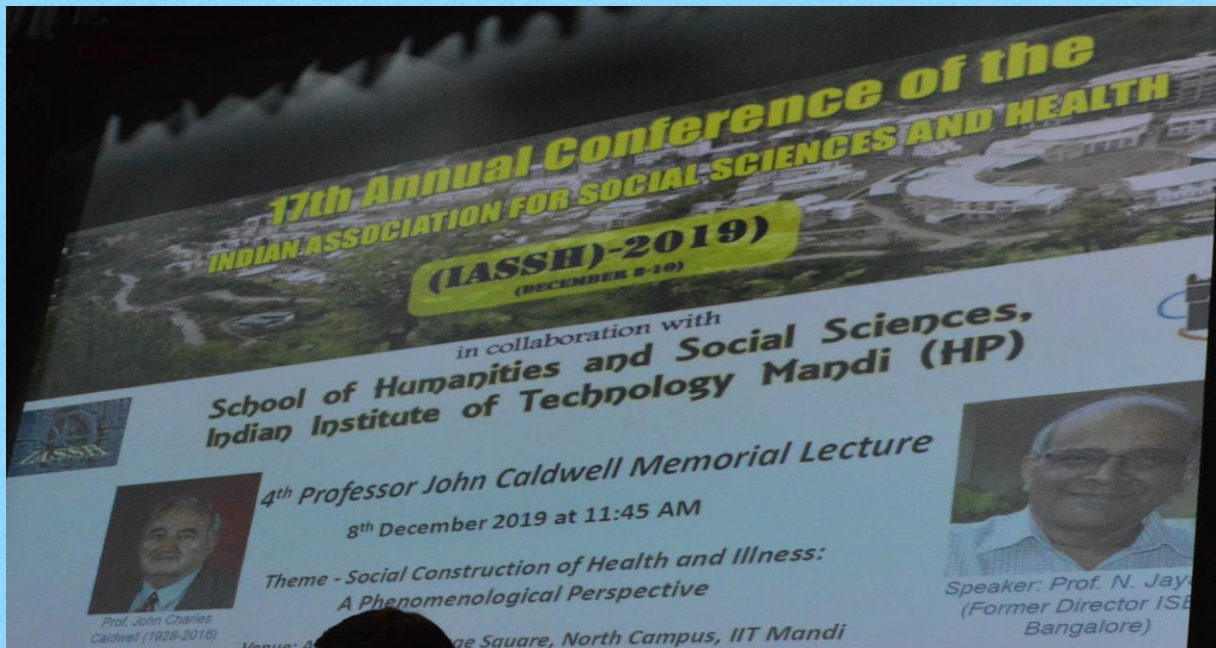
*Poster Sessions in Progress*





*View of Audience*





**We are Thankful to:**

