

Indian Association for Social Sciences and Health (IASSH)

Fifth Dr. K.E. Vaidyanathan Memorial Lecture



Dr. K.E. Vaidyanathan, a distinguished demographer and former President of IASSH, passed away on 4 th June, 2014. He was a faculty at the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai during 1968-1971. In 1971, he joined the Institute of Rural Health and Family Planning, Gandhigram, as Head of the Department of Population Studies and also served as its acting Director for a short period. Later, he joined the UN system as a Demographer in Cairo Demographic Centre, which is the regional centre for Africa and the Middle-East. In 1976 he moved to Syria as an UN Adviser to help establish the Centre for

Population Studies and Research and to advise the Planning Commission of Syria. This was followed by a posting in Kampala, Uganda to serve as a faculty in the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics in Makerere University, Kampala. In 1979 he became the UNESCO Regional Adviser for Population Education in the Arab region, and in 1982 he moved to ILO as the Regional Expert for Household Surveys under the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP) in the Arab region. He later served during 1992-96 as the Chief Technical Adviser for the Sudan Population Census of 1993, which was acclaimed as the most successful census ever held in that vast and complex country. In 2001 he helped plan and implement the Living Standards Measurement Survey (LSMS) in Bosnia- Herzegovina. 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.

Considering his significant contributions, IASSH instituted a memorial lecture in honour of Dr. K.E. Vaidyanathan in 2014. The Fifth Prof K E Vaidyanathan Memorial Lecture was delivered by distinguished social scientist **Professor Sonalde Desai** on the theme: "Food Security or Nutrition Security? Challenges for National Food Security Act". Dr. Sonalde Desai is a Professor of Sociology at University of Maryland, USA, with joint appointment as a Senior Fellow at the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi. She received Ph.D. from Stanford University and post-doctoral training at University of Chicago and The RAND Corporation. Her work deals primarily with human development in developing countries with a particular focus on gender and class inequalities. She has published articles in a wide range of sociological and demographic journals. Presently Dr. Desai is leading a large nationally representative panel survey of over 40,000 households - India Human Development Survey (IHDS), and also directs the National Data Innovation Centre (NDIC). The lecture was held on 11th December 2018 at JNU Convention Center, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, on the occasion of the 16th Annual Conference of IASSH in collaboration with CSRD, Jawaharlal Nehru University.



This lecture session was chaired by Prof. C.P. Prakasam (Former President, IASSH). Prof. S. Siva Raju welcomed the audience and talked about the contributions of Prof. K.E. Vaidyanathan. Prof. T.V. Sekher (President of IASSH) introduced the guest Speaker, Prof. Sonalde Desai. Her lecture highlighted the paramount importance of nutrition security for India, mainly drawing conclusions from the India Human Development Survey (IHDS). Dr. Srinivas Goli (JNU) proposed the vote of thanks.



Prof. Sonalde Desai delivering the lecture



A view of conference participants