

# Twelfth Annual Conference of the

**INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HEALTH  
(IASSH)**

**THEME:**

**Health, Gender and Development:  
Multidisciplinary Perspectives**

**21- 23 November 2014**

**and**

**Pre-conference Workshop on Research Methodology**

**18-20 November 2014**

**Conference Report**



*in collaboration with*  
**G.L. Gupta Institute of Public Health  
University of Lucknow**

## Inaugural Session

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual IASSH Conference began with its formal inauguration at the historical *Malavya Hall* located in the University of Lucknow, on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2014, at 10:00 AM. The welcoming of the dignitaries on the dais proceeded with the presenting of the flower bouquets. Prof. M. K . Agarwal, Organizing Secretary of the IASSH Annual Conference and Director, Dr. G. L Gupta Institute for Public Health , University of Lucknow welcomed the esteemed dignitaries, IASSH members and the delegates. Prof. S. Siva Raju, President, IASSH introduced about the Indian Association for Social Sciences and Health (IASSH) and its activities. Prof. T.V. Sekher, General Secretary, IASSH talked about the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in terms of the preparation, arrangements, programs and collaborations. Prof. Ravi Kant, Vice Chancellor, KGMU- Lucknow, graced the event as Chief Guest and Dr. Ravi Verma, Regional Director- Asia, International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) delivered the inaugural Address. Prof. Manoj Dixit, University of Lucknow, proposed the vote of thanks.



Dr. Ravi Verma, Regional Director- Asia, ICRW, delivering the inaugural address. Dr. Ritu Narang of University of Lucknow, Prof. M. K. Agarwal, Director, Dr. G. L. Gupta Institute for Public Health, Prof. Ravi Kant, Vice Chancellor, KGMU, Lucknow, Prof. S. Siva Raju, President, IASSH, Prof. T. V. Sekher, General Secretary, IASSH and Prof. Manoj Dixit of University of Lucknow.

Prof. M. K. Agarwal, Director, Dr. G. L. Gupta Institute of Public Health, firstly took the opportunity to thank Prof. S. Siva Raju and Prof. T.V. Sekher, President and General Secretary of IASSH, for considering the Institute's proposal seeking collaboration to host the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at Lucknow. Speaking of the Dr. G. L. Gupta Institute of Public Health, which began as a full-fledged center in the year 2007, he said the institute has crossed the 5 years mark of its presence and the growth is evident from its having MoU's with other universities and agencies. He concluded by welcoming the guests, delegates, colleagues, media persons and students who have graced the inaugural event.



View of the audience in the inaugural function at Malavya Hall in Lucknow University

Prof. T. V. Sekher, General Secretary, IASSH was called upon to introduce about the overall program and special features of the 12<sup>th</sup> IASSH Annual Conference. During the year 2014, 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, 30 Youth Best Paper and 60 Poster Presentations. This year



### The release of the 12<sup>th</sup> IASSH Annual Conference -Souvenir and Abstracts

the pre-conference workshop on 'Approaches to Social Science Research' held during 18-20 November 2014 has been a highly successful event with demand from students and research scholars. 52 young scholars from various parts of the country 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 four unique plenary sessions are the special aspect of the 12<sup>th</sup> IASSH Annual Conference and will cover important themes and issues relevant to social sciences and health were sponsored by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) and JSW Foundation. First Prof. K.E.Vaidyanathan Memorial Lecture is also a major event in this year's conference.

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 the 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 1040 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 IASSH.

As is the trend with any growing professional association, IASSH is seriously considering bringing out a Professional Journal of Social Sciences and Health as a peer reviewed publication and in an online mode, 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.

Dr. Ravi Verma, Regional Director- Asia, ICRW, thanked the IASSH for organizing this conference and inviting him to deliver the inaugural address. He mentioned his thoughts are in remembrance of Prof. K. E. Vaidyanathan and we all miss his wisdom and insights. 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. He said that it is time to step back and reflect; the plea is to re-introspect, raise questions, identify those grey areas and do research and plan interventions as professionals from social sciences and health. Throwing up numbers and interpreting the findings is one step, but the more important aspect is to use those numbers and alarming findings after deriving solutions and actions for resolving those larger issues. 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.



The dignitaries on the dais released the Book titled "**Ageing: Health and Care**", edited by Prof. N. Audinarayana and Dr. J. Johnsi .

Prof. Ravi Kant, Vice Chancellor, KGMU Lucknow, the Chief Guest of the function, reiterated how health of population is a vital component in deciding the economic and well being quotient of a country. Investing in health will go a long way. Educating women (literacy) about nutrition, health and providing a career would make a difference to social and economic development. For students in the field, qualities such as time, interest and curiosity followed by hard work to attain knowledge and experience. He congratulated the team and conveyed his best wishes for a successful conference. Prof Manoj Dixit, University of Lucknow proposed the vote of thanks at the inaugural event. He applauded Prof. M. K. Agarwal for taking the initiative and bringing the 12<sup>th</sup> IASSH Annual Conference to the University of Lucknow. He was appreciative and expressed gratitude to Prof. Ravi Kant, Dr. Ravi Verma and other important dignitaries on the dais for their gracious presence.

### **Presentations by the Delegates**

Specific to 12<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 23 sub themes provided under the main theme: "Health, Gender and

Development: Multi Disciplinary Perspectives". We received almost 450 abstracts out of which we 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 15 technical sessions held on Day 1 & 2. About 50 posters were displayed and presented by the respective authors. Around 30 Youth Best Paper Presentations were done in the conference which were evaluated by six member expert team.



One of the technical sessions in progress

## Plenary Sessions

I. **UNFPA Plenary session on Ageing and Well being** had 4 presentations by eminent experts and demographers- Dr. K. R. Gangadharan, President, Indian Federation on Ageing, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, UNFPA, New Delhi, Prof. Moneer Alam, Institute for Economic Growth, New Delhi, and Prof. K. S. James, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore. The session was chaired by Prof. S. Siva Raju, Dean, School of Development Studies, TISS, Mumbai and co-chaired by Prof. P.K.B. Nayar, Director, Centre for Gerontological Studies, Trivandrum.

II. The **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 Dr. C. Kedar, CEO-JSW Foundation, Prof. Subhasis Ray, XIMB- Bhubaneswar, Mr. Rohan Sarma, National CSR Hub,

TISS, Mumbai 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 society that encouraged critical thinking and inspiration among the delegates.

III. The **IIPS plenary session on the Facility Survey under the District Level Household and Facility Survey (DLHS)** was chaired Prof. A. K. Sharma, IIT Kanpur. Prof. S. K. Singh, Prof. T. V. Sekher, Prof. Chander Shekhar and Dr. Manoj Alagarajan made the presentations. This survey was undertaken by IIPS at the request of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India. The presentation were on the availability of physical infrastructure, human manpower, facilities and utilization of service at public health care institutions. Representative of the state health departments and survey organizations participated in the discussions, apart from conference delegates.

IV. The **special Plenary session was on Health and Development in Uttar Pradesh** was chaired by Prof. Mohd. Muzammil , Vice Chancellor, Agra University and the eminent speakers in the session were Prof. Amaresh Dubey, JNU, New Delhi, Prof. A. K. Sharma, IIT, Kanpur, Dr. V. Selvaraju, Health Economist, New Delhi and Dr. Anil Mishra, Directorate of Health Services, Uttar Pradesh. The presentations generated lot of interest and discussions

### **First 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. P.K.B. Nayar, former president of IASSH chaired the session and also shared about his long association with Prof. Vaidyanathan from the inception of IASSH .

Prof F Ram, Director, International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai delivered the lecture on the topic- "Fertility Transition in India". He elaborated the journey of fertility transition happening in India and its various dimensions, including significant regional disparities. He also highlighted the important role of family planning program in accelerating the fertility transition, along with social and economic development. This was followed by the cultural event comprising of folk songs and poetry of Uttar Pradesh thoughtfully organized by a troupe of artists from Lucknow.



Prof. F. Ram, Director ,IIPS, delivered the first Prof. K.E.Vaidyanathan Memorial Lecture. Prof. P.K.B.Nayar, former President, IASSH, chaired the session.

### **Valedictory Session**

The valedictory session began with Prof. T. V. Sekher (General Secretary) providing recap of the conference activities of the past two days and the special features of the conference. He then welcomed the speakers on the dais, Prof. Masood Khan, Vice Chancellor, KMC Urdu and Farsi university, Prof. S. B. Nimse, Vice Chancellor, Lucknow University, and Prof. S. Siva Raju. All of them addressed the valedictory session and highlighted the need and relevance of social science research and its close linkage with health.



Valedictory function- Prof. M.K. Agarwal, Prof. Masood Khan, Prof. S.B. Nimse, Prof. S. Siva Raju and Prof. T.V.Sekher



Best poster awardees with dignitaries on the stage

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

The General Secretary announced the awards for best papers and posters, selected by the expert committee. **The Youth Best Paper Awards- 2014** were awarded to 4 young scholars ( Mr. Sanjit Sarkar, Ms. Manisha Dubey, Ms. Anshita Sharma and Ms. Enu Anand ) and they were each honored with a certificate, cash prize and memento. **The Best Poster Awards- 2014** were awarded to 4 young research scholars ( Ms. Kuheli Das, Ms. Priyanka Singh, Ms. Ritumoni Das and Ms. Chhavi Paul) and they were each honored with a certificate, cash prize and memento. Prof. M. K. Agarwal, Organizing Secretary, proposed the vote of thanks to all those who worked sincerely and tirelessly towards making the conference a success. Prof. S.B. Nimse, President of the function, announced that the 12<sup>th</sup> IASSH Annual Conference has come to a formal close.



Best youth paper awardees with dignitaries on the stage

**EC and General Body Meeting of IASSH:** The executive committee met on 20th Nov. and took stock of the arrangements of the workshop. The meeting also discussed issues regarding starting a new journal, regional chapters, research workshops and fund mobilization. The general body meeting took place on 22nd Nov. 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.

**Financial support:** 12<sup>th</sup> annual conference received financial support from International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Indian Council of Social Sciences Research (ICSSR), University of Lucknow and JSW Foundation. IASSH is thankful to all of them for their collaboration and support in successfully organizing the conference at Lucknow.

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

The pre-conference workshop was held during 18-20 November 2014 at Lucknow. 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, 52 research scholars have participated in the workshop and gave feedback that this is a useful platform for them to fine-tuning the methodological aspects of their dissertations. The participants received the certificates on 20 November 2014 from Prof. S. Siva Raju, Prof. T. V. Sekher and Prof. M. K. Agarwal.



Pre-conference Workshop Organizers; Prof. D.P Singh, Dr. U.V. Somayajulu, Prof. T.V.Sekher, Prof. S.Siva Raju, Prof. M.K. Agarwal and Prof. T.B.Singh

**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, Ethics in Social Research. The resource persons included Prof. M.K. Agarwal, Prof. S. Siva Raju, Prof. T.V. Sekher, Prof. D.P. Singh, Dr. U.V. Somayajulu, Prof. T.B. Singh, Dr. Smita Bammidi, Prof. A.K. Bajpai, Prof. Arvind Awasthi, Prof. S.K. Chaudhary and Prof. Manoj Dixit.



Participants at the Pre-conference Workshop on Research Methodology

**We are Thankful to:**

