

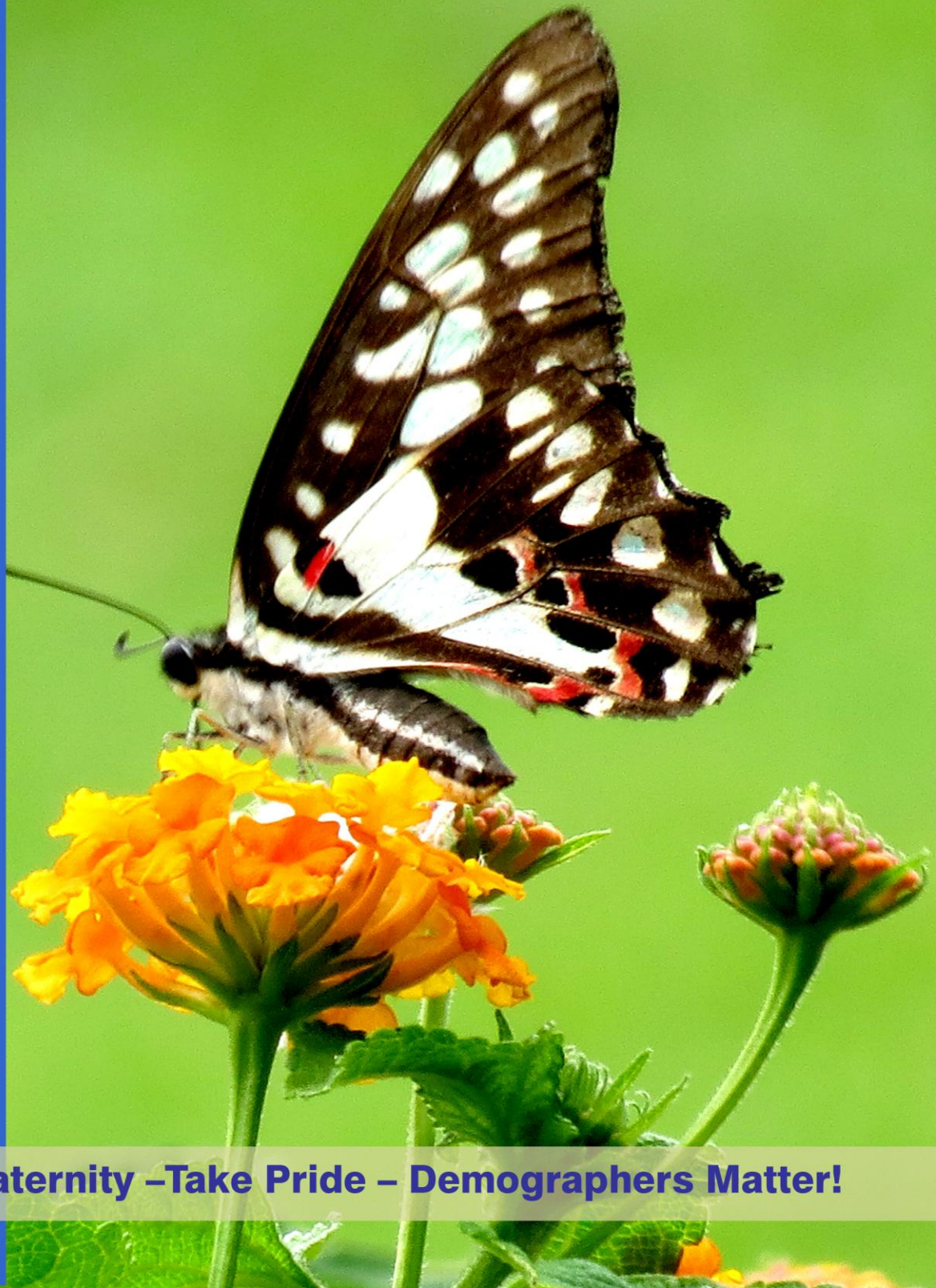
IIPSAA

E-Newsletter

Vol: 3

Issue: 1

June 2015



IIPSAA Fraternity –Take Pride – Demographers Matter!



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Edited by :

*Aparajita C.
Archana K. Roy*

Designed by:

Konsam Dinachandra

From the Editor's Desk

Dear Alumni,

A Mahatma from Rameshwaram is no more with us!

After the successful launch of Mangalyan last year, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has further achieved a milestone by putting few heaviest satellites into space orbits under its space mission. While recalling our achievements in defence and space in last three decades, we cannot forget the immense contribution of an eminent scientist, Bharat Ratna Dr A P J Abdul Kalam. Commonly known as missile man, Dr. Kalam was not only a great scientist but also a teacher, a writer, an inventor, a poet and a humble man. He was born in a poor fisherman community near Rameshwaram but reached to the highest level of citizenship, i.e. President of India. The man with simple living and high thinking dedicated his whole life for accomplishing his dream of making India a strong, prosperous and developed country by the year 2020. With his charismatic personality, he was an inspirational and motivational icon for the young generation. The news of his sudden demise while delivering his lecture to students of IIM, Shillong on 27th July 2015 made all of us restless and grieved. Everyone directly or indirectly paid homage to this 'great son of the soil' who served the country selflessly like a Mahatma till the age of 83. Dear Alumni, it would be our real tribute to the departed soul of Dr. Kalam if we try to realise his dreams and contribute to making our country a developed and leading nation as 'Jagadguru'.

The present issue of IIPAA newsletter highlights the major activities of IIPSAA during the last six months. The special feature of this issue is the interaction with one of our alumni and eminent demographers, Professor (Mrs.) Tara Kanitkar, the former professor of IIPS, who, despite her ill health agreed to speak to us. Hope you will enjoy reading this newsletter.

Your suggestions and comments are welcome.

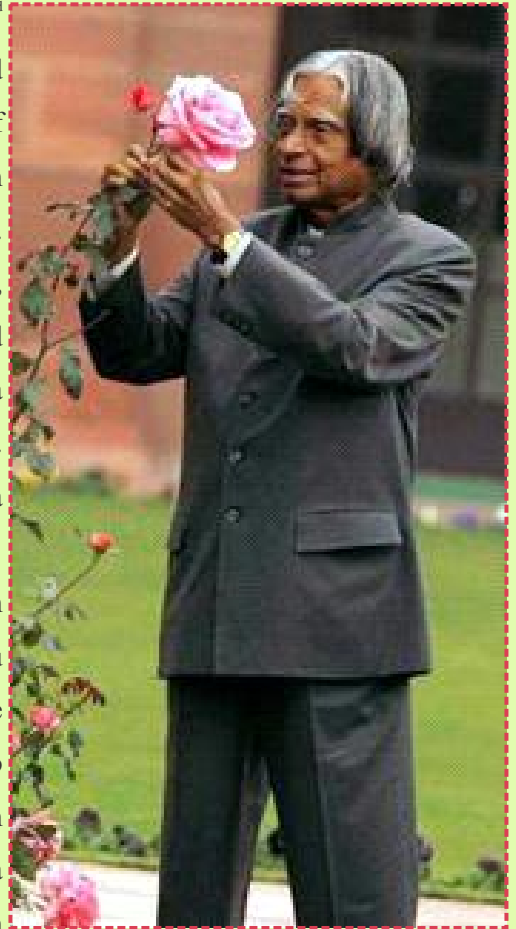
Archana K. Roy

A Man of Substance

Aparajita C.

Don't know how to begin with..... The vibration of his speech on 3rd March 2006 is still in my vivid memory... He came on the stage- greeted everyone, clapped in tune with students and then showed a bunch of papers of his drafted speech. Then he said, 'friends, this is my speech written by someone. As a President, I am supposed to read out these lines. But, no...I want to speak from my heart—without seeing these papers, so- I am keeping this draft aside (he went near to the table on the dais and kept it). And then his speech started—pin drop silence for an hour with a vibration of clapping and reiteration of his words by a huge gathering. Unforgettable memory- the best speech I have ever come across. He is a man of substance, an inspiration for millions.

Hailing from a poor family he believed that if you have integrity in character and perseverance, if you do hard work and keep patience, you can achieve your dreams because “.. We are not alone. The whole universe is friendly to us and conspires only to give the best to those who dream and work.” Getting up at 4 am, as a young kid he used to learn mathematics every morning, followed by distributing newspaper as a vendor. He graduated from St. Joseph’s College, Tiruchirappalli in



Physics, followed by B.Tech. (Aerospace Engineering) from Madras Institute of Technology (MIT) Chennai. He joined DRDO and then ISRO as aerospace scientist. An aeronautical engineer by professional learning, common man's president of India loved to be portrayed himself as a teacher because, it is the mother, the father and the teacher who can develop and transform our character. On his last day, in his journey from the airport to the IIM, Shilling (3 hours road travel), he somehow tried to make an army man to take his seat. That army man was providing security in the convoy just in front of the car of our former President. However, it did not happen because the army was on duty, and Dr Kalam wholeheartedly thanked that security personnel for standing for 3 long hours and requested him to have some food with him. This is called humility.

The leadership quality, the inspirational oration, dedication to work, cultural connectedness and honest confession of this great visionary can ignite the beautiful minds of million Indians.

His message for us is “to have courage to think differently, courage to invent, to travel the unexplored path, courage to discover the impossible and to conquer the problems and succeed“.

Our salutation to this visionary who is much above any divide that makes humanity weak.....



Source: All India Radio News

Letter to the Editor

To

The Editor

IIPSAA e-newsletter

Dated: 25.07.2015



Dear Dr. Aparajita,

I always enjoyed reading the IIPSAA e-newsletters and it is a pleasure to pen a message in the newsletter to discuss the impact of the IIPS training on my career. As you all know, IIPS has successfully trained thousands of Demographers and Population Studies researchers in India and Asia since 1956 and the legacy continues. I will take this opportunity to say a few words on the ways I have tremendously benefited from the IIPS training.

I currently work as Associate Professor in Public Health at the Open University, United Kingdom and my recent work is concerned with life course epidemiology, gender-differentials in well-being, nutritional transition, and non-monetary indicators of poverty. I published several articles on contemporary and historical health issues in India and the UK and have been nominated for several teaching awards for motivating students and for using innovative methods in teaching. This academic journey would not have been possible if not for the support, training and mentoring I have received from the IIPS.

After finishing my BSc in Genetics, Zoology and Chemistry and a MA in Anthropology at the Hyderabad Central University (HCU), I was very keen to have a macro picture on health status in India and have expressed it during my fieldwork in Nallamalai forest to my professors. Then a HCU professor encouraged me to pursue a career in Demography in IIPS to gain the much required quantitative skills. With wide eyes I have entered IIPS to write the entrance test after taking a long train journey alone from costal Andhra Pradesh and never looked back as the journey was totally worth it!! The lectures of the old school professors Tarun Kumar Roy, Sumati Kulkarni, Radha Devi, Srinivsan and Pathak were outstanding and provided an excellent foundation. At the same time, the impact of the vibrant and encouraging new school professors like Ravi Verma, Sayeed Unisa, Faujdar Ram and Arokiasamy was

significant. I felt that the balance of old and new school was very good and motivated young minds. The icing on the cake was encouragement and energy provided by the fantastic mentors that were gearing up to finish their PhD and fabulous friends.

I missed female role models briefly during my HCU training, and IIPS training was extremely satisfactory in that aspect. I constantly looked up to Professors Kulkarni, Radha Devi, Parasuraman, and Gupta. The guest lecturers of eminent retired professors like Asha Bhende and Tara Kanitkar were splendid. I still look up to them as my role models!

As a PhD student from IIPS, I attended the first Economics and Human Biology conference and my presentation helped me in carving my career at the University of Tuebingen in Germany where I worked as a research assistant for 5 years and completed my PhD in Economics. During this period, I worked on health inequalities in India based on historical anthropometric records using quantitative methods. The publications from that work have been cited by eminent professors in the area of anthropometrics and were included in the reading list of several Universities. Thanks to the training Professor Roy gave when I wrote my first Demography publication with him. Later, I joined as a research fellow at the University of Southampton and after nearly 8 years of working at the University of Southampton in various departments and in various positions, I recently joined the Open University as an Associate Professor in Public Health and will be contributing to research and teaching on global health, ageing and health inequalities. The tremendous support, research engagement and encouragement I continue to receive from IIPS current staff, students and alumni plays an important role even today. I hope all of us that benefited from the IIPS training continue to support early career researchers and students in shaping their careers.

Thank you for giving me this fantastic opportunity.

Sincerely,

Dr. Aravinda Meera Guntupalli

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Message from the Vice President

It is a great honour to be associated with the IIPS Alumni Association in the capacity of the vice-president during the first two tenures of its working management committee. It is indeed a privilege to be alumnus of such a premier and unique institute of population sciences in the world. I am indeed overwhelmed to see the exponential growth of the association in the recent past. Today, it has 227 regular and student members. The creation of its Delhi Chapter is another landmark in its development in this year of 2015. It is not that efforts were not made by our predecessors but somehow it could not gain the threshold momentum to bring the association into the present shape. It is only because of unconditional support of Alumni and the current IIPS Director, Prof. F. Ram and his predecessor late Prof. P. N. Mari Bhat, it was possible for the committee to create a fully professional body of IIPS Alumni.

The association has clear mandate and role to play in the growth of the Institute, and population studies discipline as well as its Alumni. In a true sense, Alumni owe a lot to the Alma Mater as it had given them recognition who they are today, and therefore, now it is their turn to pay back to it. The IIPSAA is making efforts to provide a platform to those who are looking



forward to their contribution towards their Alma Mater. I am fully confident that the management and office bearers of the Association are committed to meet the expectations of each and every alumnus and implement the bye-law in its spirit. The energy of young cohort and guidance from the old cohort of alumni can be ideal resources to sustain smooth functioning of the association. At this stage of the development, the association requires both financial and intellectual resources to accelerate its growth as it is still in infancy state. Further, IIPSAA is open to all kinds of criticisms and suggestions if that can help in meeting the eventual goal and the expectations of its Alumni. However, as an alumnus I would appeal to work solely for what could be best for the association without expecting any personal or political gain. If we all together could stick to these values, I firmly believe that the day is not far to gain a long-term dividend by creating the IIPSAA. I once again thank all those who made our journey so far comfortable by their relentless contribution irrespective of how small or huge it is. I wish the association to have a bright future and great success in its all endeavours.

Prof. Chander Shekhar

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IIPS Convocation address by Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, 11th May 2015

Invited Commentary

Gauging Demographics in India: An Alternative Outlook

Demography thrives on its applications and empirics apart from rigor descended through its origin and linkages to discipline of Statistics. In countries like us, there exists ample opportunities for the reasons of looking demographic outlooks in isolation and using demographic indicators as meaningful predictors of socio-economic analyses. Conventionally demographic data are generated through Censuses, demographic surveys and other monitoring and evaluation surveys. India has a profound census which is considered among the best in the world. We also go along with the global community in undertaking large scale demographic and health surveys like National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and District Level Household Surveys (DLHS) to generate health and demographic data which are used for the designing programmes and policy making. These conventional data sources are of good quality and had been extremely useful in policy making but remained inadequate in monitoring and administration of the related public programmes, largely due to their longer periodicities and sample representation. In this era of decentralized planning it is not only important academically but almost mandatory for programme monitoring that demographic outlook is available more frequently than five, seven or ten years. Our commitments to global initiatives such as meeting the MDGs also call for continuous review and acceleration in the progress of the left out or low performing geographic areas. Thus it is inevitable to have continuous periodic demographic outlook.



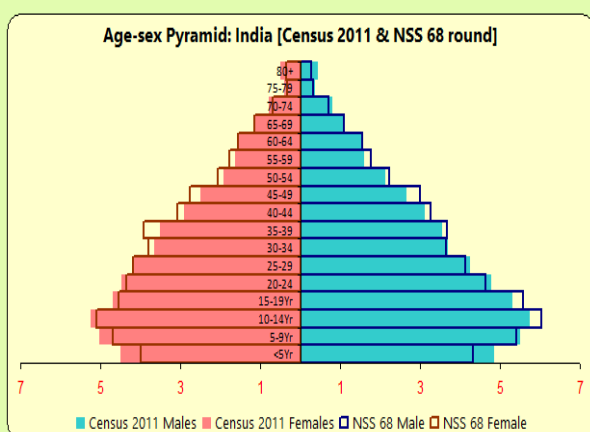
National Sample Surveys: Established in 1950, this nationwide sample survey holds an uniquely reputed place as socio-economic data source. Its most used feature relates to estimation of indices of money metric poverty and unemployment. However, it gathers data on various other subjects which remain unexplored. NSS surveys may be broadly divided in to two categories 'socio economic surveys' and 'enterprise surveys'. Enterprise surveys are undertaken in relatively fewer rounds as follow-up to the economic censuses to gather information on unorganized enterprises. Socio economic surveys are undertaken more often and contain a section on 'demographic particulars of the household'. The questions in this section are age, sex, marital status, educational status, work status etc. Because of its generic stratified sample design and in domain of estimation in most of the recent rounds being district, it offers unique opportunity for demographic estimation at lower level of aggregation. It is observed that total population counts are slightly underestimated from NSS but various rates may be tried and one may expect robust estimates. Some illustrations are provided here.

Data sets: NSS 68 round was undertaken during 01 Jul 2011 to 30 Jun 2012. In this round major emphasis was on collecting data on household consumption for poverty estimation through its Schedule-1.0. Two variants of this schedule were used; basic difference between these two variants was difference in reference period for perishable food items such as 'vegetables' and 'fresh fruits'. First variant used 30 days reference periods for all food items including these perishable food item groups while the second one used seven days reference period for vegetables/fruits and 30 days for remaining food items. The concern here has been to

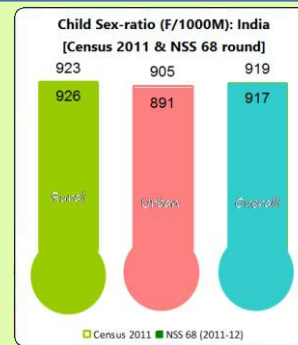
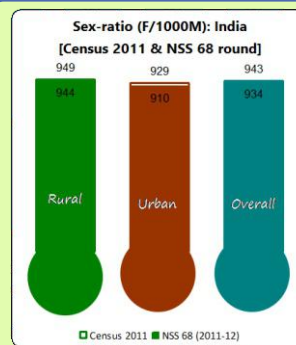
better understand the effect of reference period on household consumption expenditure. In both of these variants, the Block-4 on 'demographic particulars of household members' is identical. The data of age and sex variables from first variant of this schedule have been used for illustration. This round netted 464,960 individuals from 101,662 households nationwide. The survey was undertaken in all the states and union territories of India. Standard weights were applied to estimate totals and rates. Since this NSS round may be referred to its mid point as 01 Jan 2012 which is 10 months far from the Census 2011 offers great opportunity to make comparisons.

Age-sex Pyramid

Most important demographic characteristics of any population being age and sex, age-sex pyramid of all India population of Census 2011 and NSS 68th rounds are compared. Continuous bars represent Census proportions and hollow ones of the NSS data. It is notable that slight variation in proportions for ages '<5 years', '45-49 years', '55-59 years' and older ages was observed. The shapes of two pyramids remain in concordance to each other

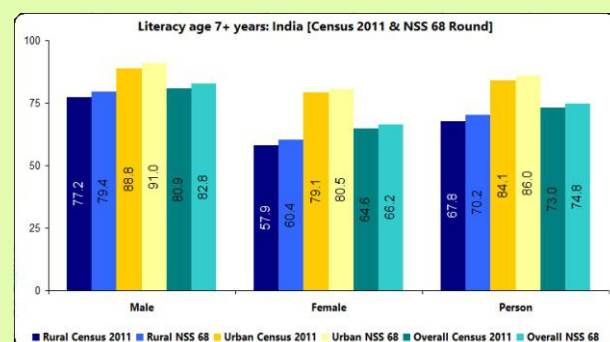


Overall and Child (0-6) Sex Ratio A slight difference in overall sex-ratio and child sex ratio can be observed between Census and NSS 68th round data. In both the cases ratios of NSS for urban areas vary more than rural areas.



Literacy

Literacy plays a vital role in human development and is often required to assess this dimension. Below is provided the percent literates (age 7 years or more) for

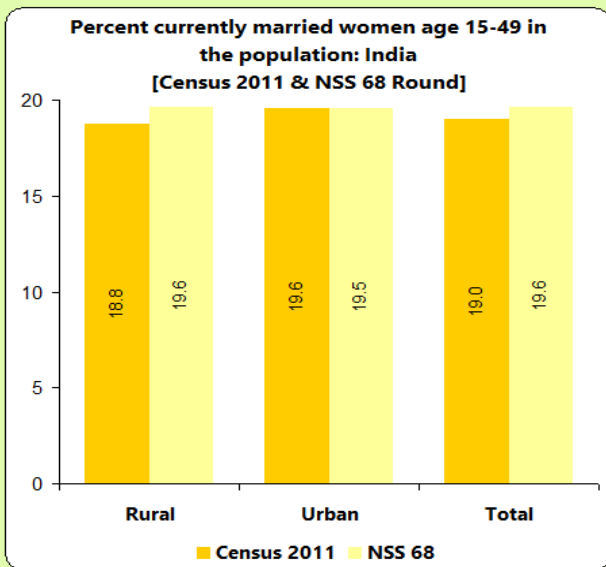


India based on Census and NSS datasets-

Based on NSS on 01 Jan 2012 the percent literates were 74.8 percent compared to that of 73 percent at Census 2011. Literacy estimated through NSS dataset for 18 variants have been found in close approximation and in right direction when compared to Census 2011.

Proportion currently married women 15-49 years

Proportion currently married women in a population is important for the reasons of direction, magnitude and trends of reproduction. This proportion has been estimated from both the sources and it is notable that this proportion is in concordance to each other. This proportion varies slightly between two sources of data. Likewise proportion of women age 15-49 years to the total population has also been estimated (figures not presented here) and similar to proportion of currently married women, they were within close proximity to one another.



Other advantages

Other advantages of using NSS like survey datasets emerge from the fact that survey contains far more questions compared to Census. This provides enhanced scope of generating demographic indicator for varied socio economic and household characteristics. Another profound advantage of these surveys is that they are almost undertaken on annual basis allowing continuous generation of demographic profiles of the nation. Added advantages may also emerge on usage of these datasets as some indicators which are of extreme utility but are not provided by the Census. One such example could be composition of social groups (ST, SC, OBC and others) in the nation. As illustrated by NSS 68 round data that most of the proportions estimated are in tune to the standard

indices generated through Census data, the proportion of social groups in population may reliably be estimated. Second set of advantages may emerge as household domain based outcome analysis such as 'households with working women' and 'maximum literate person of the household' etc. as unit level data are available to generate this kind of indices.

Summary

At a time when goals and targets are driving the development agenda more than before, continuous and periodic demographic outlook with annual periodicity assumes significance. National sample survey's socio economic surveys offer a unique opportunity in this direction. Most of the common indicators based on age and sex may be estimated reliably. Additional indicators related to marriage, literacy etc. may also be estimated with plausible reliability. These data with rich history and technical soundness has remained largely unexplored by the demographers. Use of these datasets may also pave the way for new set of demographic analytics and better understanding of concurrent changes in demographic outlook.

Dr. Rajesh K Chauhan

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P. N. Mari Bhat Memorial Lecture delivered by David Bloom on 27th April 2015

IIPSAA Activities

A

First General Body Meeting : January 3, 2015

(Compiled By Mr. Prakash Fulpagare)

The first General Body meeting of IIPS Alumni Association (IIPSAA) was held on January 3, 2015 at 11 a.m. in the New Convocation Hall of IIPS. All the members of managing Committee and IIPSAA life members and Student members stationed at Mumbai and also staying in IIPS campus were present in the Meeting. The IIPSAA President, Prof. Arokiasamy welcomed all the members who came to attend the GB meeting. In view of the first General Body Meeting of the Association, the President invited Dr. F. Ram, Director & Sr. Professor and Patron of the Association to chair the meeting and Prof. F. Ram kindly agreed to chair the First GB Meeting.

The President delivered the presidential address which was followed by presentation of the progress of IIPSAA since its formation in 2011 by the General Secretary, professor K. C. Das. The following agenda items were discussed and decisions were taken in the General Body Meeting.

1. Presentation of General Secretary's report;
2. Approval of the annual audited statement of income and expenditure;
3. Appointment of auditors and fix their professional charges;
4. Establishment of Corpus Fund; and
5. Ratification of the present management committee of IIPSAA for one more term.

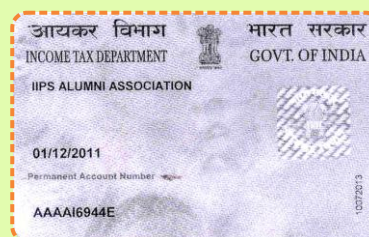


Welcome address by IIPSAA President

The General Body unanimously agreed upon the proposal and approved the following names as members in the Management Committee.

<i>Prof.P.Arokiasamy</i>	-	<i>President</i>
<i>Prof. Chander Shekhar</i>	-	<i>Vice president</i>
<i>Prof. D.P. Singh</i>	-	<i>Vice president</i>
<i>Prof. Kailash Chandra Das</i>	-	<i>General Secretary</i>
<i>Dr. Abhishek Singh</i>	-	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Dr. Archana K. Roy</i>	-	<i>Co-editor, e-newsletter</i>
<i>Dr. Manoj Alagarajan</i>	-	<i>Joint Treasurer</i>
<i>Dr. Aparajita C</i>	-	<i>Editor, e-newsletter</i>
<i>Dr. Harihar Sahoo</i>	-	<i>Member</i>
<i>Mr. Prakash Fulpagare</i>	-	<i>Member and looking after Secretariat</i>
<i>Dr. Sanjay Kumar (UNFPA)</i>	-	<i>Member</i>
<i>Dr. Ajay Singh</i>	-	<i>Convenor, Delhi Chapter</i>
<i>Prof. K.S.James</i>	-	<i>Convenor, Bengaluru Chapter</i>
<i>Dr. Nandita Saikia</i>	-	<i>Member</i>
<i>Prof. F. Ram, Director of IIPS</i>	-	<i>Patron of IIPSAA</i>

The meeting was ended with vote of thanks proposed by the IIPSAA Vice President, Prof. Chander Shekhar.



IIPSAA Members at the first General Body Meeting

B

Regional Chapters of IIPSAA: Delhi Chapter IIPS Alumni Meet in Delhi

Compiled by Ms. Priyanka Yadav, Ms. Vandana Tamarkar, Mr. Ranajit Sen Gupta & Dr. Ajay Singh

Date : 28-03-2015
Venue : Indian Social Institute, New Delhi
Organizer : Dr. Damodar Sahu and Dr. Ajay K Singh
Rapporteurs : Ms. Priyanka Yadav, Ms. Vandana Tamarkar and Mr. Ranajit Sen Gupta

Introduction: Where each of the alumni shared name, year when studied/worked at IIPS and their expectation from this meet.

Hall was gradually getting jam-packed from 9.30am. Before formal round of introduction, everybody was excited to meet new faces. There was happiness and laughter after meeting old buddies after a long gap. One could feel the nostalgic vibes everywhere in the hall. Then the formal round of introduction started, everybody shared their names, batch year and their interesting experiences during IIPS days. All were



Alumni at IIPSAA Delhi Chapter Meet

cherishing their beautiful memories at the institute. All were emotional by remembering how IIPS has helped to build their constructive career and how learning at IIPS helped them for their growth. Every person gave credit to IIPS for who they are today. Many people have said, IIPS has given them everything career, partner and standard of living which they enjoy every day. Senior members have given a picture of how IIPS evolved from 1970's and 80's. At that time, teacher-student bonding was so strong to have an influence on student's private and professional life. Alumni cherished their hostel and mess memories. They were excited to share their sports stories.

It was really heartening to see some of the senior alumni and senior professors. It was delighting to see Dr. Vemuri, Dr. Kalra, Dr. Ravi Verma, Dr. Arvind Pandey, Dr. P. K. Bhargava and others coming and encouraging us. Prof. Arvind Pandey shared the experience of how the campus infrastructure was built gradually. Dr. Damodar Sahu and Dr. Saritha Nair played important role for helping in making this meet possible. Debashish, Sanchita and Preeti have taken responsibilities for registration.

Dr. Muralidhar Vemuri, retired professor, JNU and one of the oldest alumnus of IIPSAA



Dr. Ravi Verma seemed to be the most influential mentor in everybody's life in 1990's cohorts. People who were fortunate enough to have his company have cherished sweet memories of him. The feeling of gratitude was everywhere.

All together 71 alumni attended this meet out of 162 alumni who registered for the Delhi Chapter. Alumni working in various renowned organizations like PHFI, Population Council, FHI 360, UNICEF, UNDP, World Bank, WHO, NIMS, MOHFW, ICRW, DFID, JSI were present for the meeting. It was not a professional alumni meet but a small family gathering. Everybody had the sense of belongingness towards new members of the family.

Members' participation in the deliberation



IIPSAA and membership: Professor Arokiasamy discussed about IIPSAA and then how Delhi Chapter can play significant role in future.

Prof. Arokiasamy came all the way to Delhi to participate in proceedings and discuss the importance of alumni association. He has given a brief history and current status of IIPSAA. He appealed all the alumni to support and register for the membership. He conveyed the purpose of Alumni Association is to emotionally



connect with the alumni and strengthen professional interests of IIPS. Supporting IIPSAA is a way that one can give something back to an institution, the alma mater.

Moreover he mentioned the importance of Alumni Association saying alumni of any academic institute possess immense strength to shape and reshape the capacity of the parent organization as and when it is needed. They are the best channel, to help in understanding the exact professional requirements of the market, industry, and employers. Therefore, they become a bridging and binding force between the Institute and the potential job market for its future alumni. They can extend their unconditional support to the Institute in those difficult areas where often financial and administrative limitations become barriers in meeting its vision and mission for students.

He shared IIPSAA's steady progress and accomplishment of many important tasks in the past few years. Furthermore IIPSAA has organized several training and workshop programs (Workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation etc.) for the IIPS research students.

Prof. P. Arokiasamy addressed the key aspects were as follows:

- In 2006 IIPS celebrated Golden Jubilee as Demographic, Training and research Centre (Teaching, Research and Training). And IIPSAA meeting was organized during that occasion.
- Brief recalled about IIPS activities: UNFPA workshop (53 participants), IUSSP Meeting (60 participants), meeting with APS, 6 Scientific capacity building workshops for alumni and research scholars.
- Encouragement to join IIPSAA.
- Finally all strategies to promote student for Mathematical Demography, Population Growth, Family Planning, Gender Issues, and Monitoring & Evaluation etc.

Open forum: Why we need an alumni association and where we need to head to?

It was a freewheeling session in which members have shared their vision and their experiences.

Dr. Ravi Verma believed that spirit of Alumni Association has to be maintained. There should be constant dialogue among alumni. Creating the structural mechanism where inclusive dialogue should be prioritized. He further suggested that decision making process should be all inclusive. Few persons from IIPS (base organization) should not decide the important proceedings of association. He also suggested that a lot capacity building is done for the current student, where in a lot of capacity building for the passed out students is also required and hence, he requested IIPSAA should work in this direction on priority basis.

There should have discussions about how to give new perspectives to Demographic training at IIPS. What is the market demand and how to satisfy that demand through institutional training also needs to be looked into. There should be substantial shift from mere analytical training to strong theoretical learning. Many people suggested that training should be updated by time and market demand.

Dr. Subrato Mondal had different views. He proposed that alumni association's goal should go beyond just

strengthening institute and training but it can become a very good platform for the collective advocacy. We should raise issues of data accessibility from government data sources like AHS (Annual Health Surveys). He added the point by saying training programs should not be concentrated and limited to IIPS campus. Every Alumnus has right to access the news from institute despite of being member of the alumni association.

Many alumni raised the issue of newsletters circulation by saying it is very limited. That should reach to everybody. People stopped getting mails if they have not paid the membership fees. That should not be the case, every alumni has right to get information.

Dr. Damodar Sahu and others raised the issue of membership charges and suggested that it has possibilities of bringing it down and also that in future such meeting should be sponsored by IIPSAA.

Dr. Niranjan from Population Council wished that skill set from IIPS has to be ensured. Dr. Sanjay Kumar (UNFPA) has suggested that alumni meet can serve professional purposes too. We can arrange



professional talks from expertise among us. Many people wished that IIPS should start its own journal like TISS and JNU has.

Dr. Nandita Saikia recommended that there should be a closed forum where one can share information about jobs in the field and one can update their CV's. We can share recent information about workshops, training programs, good publications and job opportunities in the forum.

Dr. Sanjay Kumar said that there can be professional coordination to take up projects. We can have periodic seminar for a group where we can have discussions about new advanced techniques, where we can present research papers and get suggestions. We can have discussions on emerging topics like what is the role of demographers for 2025 development and monitoring the development aspects. Discussions on the topic like 'How to connect to global level development' would be helpful. Dr. Niranjan further added the important point by saying that there should be organizational mapping for building career for IIPS members. He suggested that we can study and learn from other alumni organizations.

Strategies given by Prof. Arvind Pandey and Dr. Niranjan Sagutri

- Organizing Mapping
- Key research Space
- Career building for IIPS Alumni
- Information for upcoming vacancies
- Sharing knowledge through workshop/seminar
- Physical structure, execution plan, resource mobilization, expertise group for development
- Capacity building for the Alumni

Furthermore everybody has decided to have this meet on biannual basis. Next meet would probably happen in November this year.

Wrapping up

Organizers have given vote of thanks to Prof. Arokiasamy for coming all the way and guiding us. They thanked all people who contributed to make this meet happen successfully. IIPS Alumni meet was the platform to connect with many old and new alumni. The purpose of the meeting was well served. All logistics and arrangement was very good. One could feel the magic of '*IIPS Mafiya*' all around. It was indeed a memorable occasion for all of us. Everyone hoped that we will have even better get together next time. Now let us keep this momentum going.

C

Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop

(December 20-25, 2015)

Conducted by:

- IIPS Alumni Association
- International Institute for Population Sciences

Sponsored by:

- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Background

The need for establishing appropriate, organized and duly comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems, integrated into the programs and projects of population, health and education and development is well-understood today. On the one hand, the aims are to inform the processes of policy formulation and policy analysis, and on the other hand, to enable an efficient and effective achievement of program objectives.

Establishing an M&E system is by no means a simple design-and-plug operation. Comprehensive and effective M&E systems must evolve within a complex and continuous dialectic between what theory compels and what the experiential-empirical world of practice permits or prohibits.

In order to understand effect of an intervention either at micro or macro scale starting from its inception to intend impact requires the possession of fundamental knowledge of monitoring and evaluation. In specific to health and population development programme, monitoring and evaluation skills are critical at almost all stages including design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. Policy makers, program managers, monitoring and evaluation officers and researchers need such skills to be updated at regular basis as they are likely to face queries regarding the program. Therefore, a regular chain of capacity

building exercise must continue as monitoring and evaluation process. Since majority of young scholars and students in an empirical science like public health, population and development will most likely to take up professional career as monitoring and evaluation officers at the beginning of their career and remain core team member of monitoring and evaluation system throughout their professional life. In this right background, IIPSAA brought this opportunity to serve young professionals in population studies through a five-day workshop aiming to refresh, enhance and update the skills in this important area. The specific topics covered by the resource persons in the workshop are as follows:

1. Basic Concepts in Monitoring and Evaluation
2. UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Monitoring Indicators
3. Study Design and Respective Evaluation Tools
4. Propensity Score Matching: Concept and Utility in Monitoring and Evaluation Program
5. Difference in Differences: Concept and Exercises

Resource Persons' designations and topics thought by them

Dr. Sanjay Kumar, UNFPA

National Programme Officer (M & E), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

1. Theory and Practices in Monitoring of Development Programmes – Basic concepts and Terminology
2. Theory and Practices in Monitoring of Development Programmes – Monitoring
3. Theory and Practices in Monitoring of Development Programmes – Evaluation;
4. Theory and Practices in Monitoring of Development Programmes – Group work; and Role of demographers in Monitoring SGDs

Prof. F. Ram, Director, IIPS

1. Orientation of Research Design with Examples

Prof. Chander Shekhar, IIPS

1. Exercises from NFHS/DLHS and group work and Monitoring and Evaluation based on SDGs
2. Developing Monitoring and Evaluation Indicators for Social Sectors from Large Scale Survey
3. Group work on Design of Research

Dr. Bidhubushan Mahapatra

Survey Research Specialist ICIMOD, Khumaltar, Lalitpur GPO Box 3226, Kathmandu, Nepal

1. Propensity Score Matching (PSM), Concept & Utility Exercise on PSM and DID
2. Presentations from the participants on the topic chosen on PSM

Participants

A total of 80 Ph.D./M.Phil students plus IIPS faculty members applied for the participation in the workshop. Of these 53 participants (50 Ph.D/M.Phil scholars' participants sponsored by UNFPA and 3 faculty members sponsored by IIPSAA) were selected for the workshop.

Participant's feedback

In order to assess the impact of the workshop, a feedback form was distributed to all the participants at the end of the workshop. Of the 53 participants 47 returned their feedback forms. The followings are the evaluation outcomes.

Table 1 provides the evaluation scores given by the participants on 1-10 point scale and which is converted into percent. Eighty-five percent of workshop participants stated that the topics chosen for the workshop were very relevant.

Table-1

Topic wise participant's scores (measured in 1-10 point scale and converted into %)

Sr. No.	Topics	% of score
1	Theory and Practices in Monitoring of Development Programmes - Basic concepts and Terminology	90
2	Theory and Practices in Monitoring of Development Programmes - Monitoring	75
3	Exercises from NFHS/DLHS and group work	60
4	Theory and Practices in Monitoring of Development Programmes – Evaluation	80
5	Monitoring and Evaluation based on SDGs	70
6	Developing Monitoring and Evaluation Indicators for Social Sectors from Large Scale Surveys	65
7	Orientation of Research Design with Examples	80
8	Propensity Score Matching (PSM), Concept & Utility Exercise on PSM	80

The impact of workshop on understanding various issues are given in Table-2. The participants were asked to about state of their knowledge and understanding of the topics that they had before and after workshop.

Table-2

Participants score (%) on state of knowledge and understanding of topics before and after the workshop

Topics	Before	After
	Good/ Very good	Good/ Very good
Theory and Practices in Monitoring of Development Programmes - Basic concepts and Terminology	30	100
Theory and Practices in Monitoring of Development Programmes - M onitoring	15	100
Exercises from NFHS/DLHS and group work	18	95
Theory and Practices in Monitoring of Development Programmes – E valuation	17	90
Monitoring and Evaluation based on SDGs	30	85
Developing Monitoring and Evaluation Indicators for Social Sectors from Large Scale Surveys	35	90
Orientation of Research Design with Examples	45	95
Propensity Score Matching (PSM), Concept & Utility Exercise on PSM	25	80

Majority of the participants stated that such workshops should be organized every year and more practical exercises should be included during the classroom interactions.

Way Forward:

In view of the good response from the participants the Monitoring and Evaluation workshop will be repeated in 2015 with the sponsorship of UNFPA.

Workshop Photographs



Dr. Sanjay Kumar interacting with the participants



Prof. F. Ram, Director IIPS, delivering a lecture



Organiser and participants of the workshop

D

IIPSAA award

The IIPS Alumni Association (IIPSAA) has announced the following awards (for the financial year 2015-16):

- Two partial financial assistance for the participation in international conferences (mainly APA/IUSSP and PAA) in the areas of population and allied subjects.
- One partial financial assistance for attending overseas summer workshop.

The criteria for the consideration of partial financial assistance will be as follows:

1. The applicant should be the life member of IIPSAA, preferably research scholars.
2. Funding will be provided only to the oral paper presenters.
3. The presenters are required to submit the details of financial award/invitation letter from the organizers and sponsors.

4. The presenters are required to submit full paper selected for oral presentation.
5. IIPSAA will constitute an independent selection committee for reviewing the paper submitted by the presenters and best scoring papers (two) will be awarded partial financial assistance from IIPSAA.
6. Based on course curriculum of the overseas workshop (summer school, winter school etc.) one applicant will be provided partial financial assistance. The curriculum should be related to the applicants PhD topic.
7. The overseas workshop should be from internationally reputed institution and that Institute should be able to provide additional professional capacity beyond IIPS subject domains.

All the interested IIPSAA registered life members are requested to apply and take the benefit of the opportunity announced by IIPSAA

@ Rajib Acharya

Basketry among the NE tribes is a delicate work. They are experts in making etches and notches from the soft fibers of cane. Baskets with lids and without lids, smoothly surfaced, strongly floored, gently fenced from mouth to base and modeled into oval, square, flat structures, revealing a considerable skill in slitting, folding and inserting are seen. They serve various purposes such as cages, containers, baskets of differen articles, etc.



A cold desert has its own features...
On a cold evening in Nubra valley...
on sand dunes and following a herd
of tourists on double-hump camels...
— at Hunder, Leh



Back from Leh after an amazing trip filled with fun, adventures, shivers and a lot of photographs!! Most pictures lack colours for obvious reasons, but a few presented with amazing spread of it. Here is one such to start with. This is the famous confluence of rivers Indus (Sindhu) and Zaskar. The one running horizontally is the Indus, meeting Zaskar coming vertically and partially frozen...





Light shows the way, in darkness. This picture captures both star trails in the sky and car trails on the highway...

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We are available at:

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Dr. Manasi Bawdekar



Interaction with a demographer:

Prof. Tara Kanitkar

Prof. Tara Kanitkar, born on 25th June 1934, has a long association with IIPS initially as a scholar and then as a teacher. She joined this Institute as research officer in July 1956 and then as a lecturer in 1967 with the Department of Fertility



Studies. She retired as professor and head of the Department of Development Studies on 30th June 1994. She was one of the fabulous and favourite teachers of IIPS, liked by students and staffs irrespectively for her appealing and disciplined nature, dedication for work and efficiency in management multiple tasks. Her book titled, 'Principals of Population Studies' co-authored with Prof. Asha Bhende is very popular among students across India. Mrs. Kanitkar is now 81 and resides in the Atharshi Senior Citizen Home at Pune. The IIPSAA team under the guidance of Mr. Prakash Fulpagare interacted with her in June, 2015. Here, we present her journey as a demographer, culling some long cherished unforgettable memories that will never fade away.

I think I should start with my life...

My father was a forest officer. He enjoyed living in forest. We used to say “Jangal mein Mangal”. We studied in municipal school and that time we didn't have any public school... so I have to take the education in whatever medium was available that time. My father was very much clear that even if I am a woman I should take every possible education. My family members were quite educated. After my B.A. examination, I joined Bachelor of Education and simultaneously did M.A. in sociology also. Demography was not a known subject that time. We used to say Democratic Training and Research Centre.

My training at DTRC:

In our time DTRC convocation was fully covered every time by the Times of India. I wanted to join this course mainly to understand population growth. So I went there to get the admission in the school. Dr. C. Chandrashekhra, the then director told me that we

Prof. Tara Kanitkar being felicitated by IIPSAA



cannot give you admission because you did not have mathematical background. But my sister was insisting and promised that I will take care of her mathematics. So, he gave me admission but he said that you are starting with a black mark. I did not say anything. I made day to day mathematics practice. We had mechanical mathematical calculator and I did not know how to use that. But I was very insistent and was doing well in this course. So, day and night, I just studied. And on exam day I was quiet nervous but whatever they taught me, I wrote well. And on Monday, sir called me in his room and said now you can be a regular demography student because you stood first in the technical examination, beating all the statisticians and economists. Ha ha ha... so, the outlook of others changed.

Dr. Chandrashekhra was very much interested in my doing of Diploma. In my Diploma in Population Studies, I had learnt a lot because we had a very nice library. Mr. Randheria and Mr. Rao (Randheria and Rao) were Librarians. The pair was so helpful and if you say that you want to study this subject, next moment 10-12 books will appear on the table. I used to sit in the library for long hours. We used to discuss many issues with faculty members and students... So, it was very interesting course and I learnt many things ...

Population studies

After that, the demographic fertility survey started. Dr. Chandrashekhra, Mr. Jain [S.P. Jain] came were the in-charge. Mr. Jain said that we have to go to field to pre-test the questionnaire of the demographic fertility survey. And that it was a very big task because the use of many words was not often well accepted by common people like pregnancy, abortion, contraceptive use practices. I and my friend went to

Worli, Lindvi Chawl and starting asking the questions on pregnancy, contraceptive practice, knowledge about abortion, experience of induced abortion. All taboo topics, we asked and surprisingly they gave nice answers to most questions. So, I came ... He was waiting for me, sort of information we have brought from the Lindvi. So I told him that people are not shy to discuss these topic with other women, they found easy. Of course, you have to motivate your respondent. The most difficult question is perhaps age... you tell me what is my age, ha ha... Someone told me that her father is younger than her, ha ha... Large-scale survey was conducted throughout India with very well trained interviewers and motivated workers like me and Dr. Roy [T.K. Roy]. So I had that experience which was very useful to me in my whole

life. Dr. Agrawal sent me to the United States

Mr. Prakash Fulpagare presenting a memento to Prof. Kanitkar



America for attending the workshop on sampling survey. I have attended two workshops on sample survey. So my knowledge got wider in case of sample surveys.

I have published many papers. I have not kept the track of the whole thing. One paper was like “sex ratio in India” a hot topic. It is still the same discussion for hundred years, the same topic continues, why it is so much unfavourable to female in India!!! I had attended many demographic seminars, conferences and others. One of them was 1984 conference where the centenary for the Indian census was celebrated. So it was very thrilling to study the course of hundred years of demography in India. Our problems remain the same but we have made improvement in some of the cases in census taking. Dr. Ashish Bose was very much

instrumental in arranging hundred years of population sciences in India.

I have published either four or five books. One book is in English along with Bhende that was Principles of Population Sciences. It was only of its kind in India. It was very much in simple language and important characteristic of the book is that it gives all the examples from the Indian data. Earlier we used to have data from America.

There was one person in Himalayan publishing house. One Professor from Tata Institute of Social sciences told him to meet Mrs. Bhende and Mrs. Kanitkar. ...they can write a book in English. So 23rd ... going on. Whenever we ask the students, to name some basic books in population studies, they said your book madam... Asha tai, I am thankful to you.

There was one book on “Sankhaya Shatra” in Marathi. That I wrote with Mrs. Bhende and Mrs Kulkarni. We were commissioned to write it in Marathi. The book was brought very nicely. The Maharashtra government education department did not promote its sale. After first edition, it was not revised and it is now not much used. I was supposed to be a good teacher also... ha ha... very popular among the students. I think in 1993, I was recognized as the best teacher.

My career did not stop after my retirement in 1994. I retired as the professor and head of department of development studies. I got opportunity to work with Dr. Dayal Chand, Director of the institute of health management. In this institute of health management at Pachod, I got opportunity to work with the villagers and their health problems. Dr. Dayal Chand was a very democratic leader. He was leading the institute very wisely. I joined as consultant. That time, Dr. Gokhale approached me and said that you must write on population age structure. As the population is ageing, as birth-rate is declining, Indian population is ageing. So it is an interesting field for research. I wrote one book on age-sex structure of population in India. That book also used most of the census data. And Dr. Gokhale promotes this book very much. He liked it. That book I had wrote with the help of Sherwari Shukla, my student at IHMP.

Suggestions...

For the younger people, they should keep in mind that they will also going to be elderly. As the age advances, they become older and older. So right know they have to give proper attention to elderly and thinking should be in mind that they are going to be old too soon. So I would suggest them, just like family planning, Knowledge Attitude and Practices i.e. KAP studies, study for elderly person should take a forefront. There is a lot of scope for demographers. Demography is applied in all sciences. It is not a pure science. Study of elderly person is a combination of two-three



disciplines. So there is lot of scope... they should be take care of elderly person in scientific way. Medicine is another subject which is very much related with IIPS and population sciences. Application of demography to various fields of the different disciplines would be the important topic for the researchers.

Another suggestion is that students should be student; they should not be a politician.

Wonderful thing is that now students can work in computer very quickly. I cannot...

That is all about the life of a demographer...

Tara Kanitkar (phone:9890650558)

(Acknowledgements: Editor earnestly expresses their gratitude to Mrs Kanitkar for speaking so instinctively in spite of her obstacles... Thanks to Mr. Prakash, Preeti and Pragya for spending time with this great personality... Time is perhaps the greatest healer of all odds)

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8	Mr. Konsam Dinachandra Singh	Student Member
9	M s. Ritika Mukherjee	Student Member

Knowledge Equation

Friends, knowledge makes you great. Now you know the importance of knowledge. When you leave your schools, a great friend is accompanying you. Who is that friend? That friend is knowledge. Now, I am going to give the knowledge equation.

$$\text{Knowledge} = \text{Creativity} + \text{Righteousness} + \text{Courage}$$

- Missile Man

Source: IGNITE 14 Award Ceremony, Ahmedabad-2014

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