



IIPSA

E-Newsletter

VOL: 1 ISSUE: 2 DECEMBER 2013

Moving towards the Better...

From Editor's Desk

We are grateful for the support received from our alumni: our membership has gone up substantially in the past six months. It truly shows that IIPSians do care for their Institute. IIPSAA has grown during this time span: it has arranged two scientific workshops; it has put its effort to promote about IIPSAA at IUSSP, S Korea, 2013; it is in process of getting Income Tax Exemption Certificate and is constantly giving information about conferences, workshops, job opportunities etc. The second newsletter contains brief information about convocation, student's activities and interaction with Dr. K.G. Santhya, an associate based in New Delhi, where she manages and conducts research on adolescent girls' reproductive and sexual health and maternal health.

Your comments, suggestions are welcome.

Aparajita Chattopadhyay
apachat@rediffmail.com

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Photography: Shijith V.P.

Graphics: Konsam Dinachandra Singh and Ritika Mukherjee

Letters/Messages to the Editor

* Glad to see the first issue of the e-newsletter of IIPSAA. It is quite impressive, well-designed and informative.

The point raised by Dr. Shantakumer regarding the use of credit card, particularly for the IIPS alumni members from outside India may be looked into. This will be really very useful to get more foreign members.

With regards,

Subrata Lahiri

Retired Faculty IIPS

Sunday, April 07, 2013 8:34 AM

* I have received the newsletter; it is very interesting, great that you have included information about the upcoming conferences. Just two suggestions- it is rather long and please don't use the newsletter for advertising even if it came from alumni.

Regards

K.G. Santhya

Population Council

Sun, 21 Apr 2013 06:39:23 -0400

* Glad to read first newsletter of IIPSAA.

Best wishes,

Arni Rao

Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata

Fri, 05 Apr 2013 19:40:57 IST

* Hats off to you all for jaw dropping efforts and pain to make Newsletter a reality. I have two observations in order to make it better. First we need certain modifications in its shed. Present color shed is very heavy. If possible let's make it little lighter in forth coming issues. Second, to my personal view newsletter should refrain from giving too much space for publishing festive celebrations at iips rather should include more voices from our alumni. We may also include publications, conference and workshops attended and other achievements from our alumni, faculties and students.

Mayank Prakash

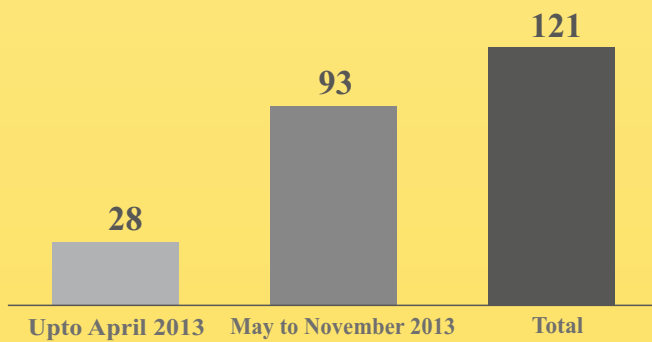
Ph.D. Scholar, IIPS, Mumbai

IIPS (in facebook of IIPSAA)

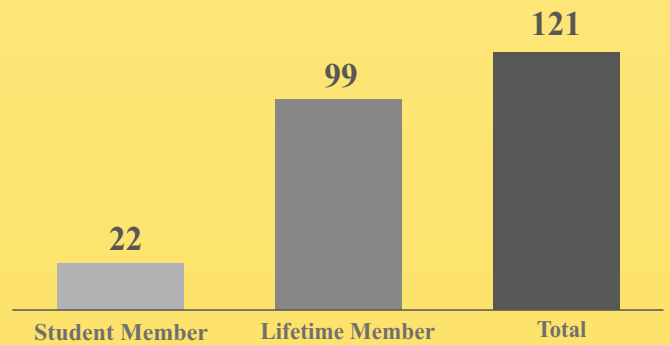


IIPS Convocation 2013

Progress of IIPSAA : (May – October 2013)



Periodical Distribution of IIPSAA Members



Status of IIPSAA Membership

Three Executive Committee Meetings were held during May 2-13 to October 2013. Fifty-two IIPS Alumni have registered as IIPSAA members (43 lifetime and 9 Student Members). A total of Rs. 2,28,000/- fund was generated from the IIPSAA membership during the period. The IIPSAA membership has increased substantially. Fixed deposit of Rs. 3,30,000/- from the accumulated fund of IIPSAA was made on 23rd July 2013 in the State Bank of India, Deonar Branch and there is a balance funds of Rs.73,663/- in the IIPSAA account till October 2013. The audit work has been entrusted to Mr. Sunil Adavade & Co. Chartered.

Seventeen IIPSAA members (8 faculty members and 9 Ph.D. students) out of 46 IIPS Alumni participated in the IUSSP international Conference at Busan, Republic of Korea during August 27-30 2013.

IIPSAA is in process of obtaining Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) account number and Income Tax Exemption certificate.

Prakash Fulpagare

List of IIPSAA Members (as on November 30, 2013)

Sr. No.	Name	Type of Membership
01.	Mr. B.K.Gulati	Life Member
02.	Dr. Arni Srinivasa Rao	Life Member
03.	Prof. Arun Kumar Sharma	Life Member
04.	Dr. K.M. Ponnappalli	Life Member
05.	Prof. Faujdar Ram	Life Member
06.	Prof. Usha Ram	Life Member
07.	Prof. P. Arokiasamy	Life Member
08.	Dr. Kailash Chandra Das	Life Member
09.	Dr. Arindam Ray	Life Member
10.	Dr. Chander Shekhar	Life Member
11.	Dr. T.V.Sekher	Life Member
12.	Dr. Manoj Alagarajan	Life Member
13.	Dr. Abhishek Singh	Life Member
14.	Dr. Aprajita Chattopadhyay	Life Member
15.	Dr. Sourabh Chakarborty	Life Member
16.	Dr. K.G. Santhya	Life Member
17.	Dr. S.K. Mohanhy	Life Member
18.	Prof. K.S. James	Life Member
19.	Mr. Sunil Sarode	Life Member
20.	Ms. Pallavi Gupta	Student Member

21.	Ms. Garima Datta	Student Member	72.	Mr.Abhishek Kumar	Life Member
22.	Prof. Sayeed Unisa	Life Member	73.	Ms. Kiran Agrahari	Life Member
23.	Dr. Hemkothang Lhungdim	Life Member	74.	Prof. Irudaya Rajan.S	Life Member
24.	Prof. S.K. Singh	Life Member	75.	Dr.Shivalingappa Sangappa Halli	Life Member
25.	Prof. Ladu Singh	Life Member	76.	Dr. Pradeep Kumar Bhargawa	Life Member
26.	Prof. B. Paswan	Life Member	77.	Ms. Shalini Ishwar Meshram	Life Member
27.	Prof. R. B. Bhagat	Life Member	78.	Dr. Arup Kumar Das	Life Member
28.	Prof. D.P. Singh	Life Member	79.	Dr. Vipin Saini	Life Member
29.	Dr. Phrangstone Khongji	Life Member	80.	Dr. Nandita Saikia	Life member
30.	Dr.Sethuramiah L. Rao	Life Member	81.	Dr. Shireen Jeejeebhoy	Life member
31.	Prof. Rajiva Prasad	Life Member	82.	Dr.K.M.Satynarayan	Life member
32.	Mr. Jayakant Singh	Student Member	83.	Dr.Monika Dasgupta	Life member
33.	Mr. Vipul Vaibhav Pandey	Life Member	84.	Ms. Ruby Jain	Life member
34.	Mr. Shubhranshu Kumar Upadhyay	Life Member	85.	Ms. Aparna Mukherjee	Life member
35.	Dr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat	Life Member	86.	Md. Hifz Ur Rahman	Student Member
36.	Prof. M.Guruswamy	Life Member	87.	Mr. Manish Singh	Life Member
37.	Prof. Dhaneswar Harichandan	Life Member	88.	Dr.Shalini Verma	Life Member
38.	Ms. Nabanita Majumder	Life Member	89.	Dr.Parimita Dutta	Life Member
39.	Mr. Konsam Dinachandra Singh	Student Member	90.	Mohd. Shannawaz	Life Member
40.	Mr. Prakash H. Fulpagare	Life Member	91.	Dr. Harihar Sahoo	Life Member
41.	Mr. Rakesh Kumar Singh	Student Member	92.	Mrs.Namita Sahu	Life Member
42.	Mr. Raj Narayan	Life Member	93.	Ms. Tanima Basu	Student Member
43.	Ms. Sujata Verma	Life Member	94.	Dr. Uttam Jakoji Sonkamble	Life Member
44.	Dr. Grace Bahalen Mundu	Life Member	95.	Mr. Uttamacharya	Life Member
45.	Ms. Anupam Shukla	Life Member	96.	Mr. Bidyadhar Dehury	Life Member
46.	Ms.Kshipra Jain	Life Member	97.	Mr. Prashant Kumar Singh	Life Member
47.	Mr.Rajan Kumar Gupt	Life Member	98.	Miss Mousumi Gogoi	Life Member
48.	Ms. Ankita Siddhanta	Student Member	99.	Ms. Lucky Singh	Life Member
49.	Mr. Arunanand Murmu	Life Member	100.	Ms. Itismita Pradhan	Life member
50.	Prof. T.K. Roy	Life Member	101.	Mr. Anil Hiwale	Life member
51.	Shri K.B. Gotpagar	Life Member	102.	Mr. Naveen Kumar Roy	Life member
52.	Prof. C.P. Prakasam	Life Member	103.	Ms. Kaveri Madhukar Patil	Student Member
53.	Dr. Dharendra Kumar	Life Member	104.	Mr. Anshul Kastor	Student Member
54.	Mr. Jetendra Gouda	Student Member	105.	Mrs. Neeta Govind Mali	Student Member
55.	Ms. Manisha Dubey	Student Member	106.	Mr. Pushpendra Kumar	Life member
56.	Prof. Parasuraman	Life Member	107.	Mr.Mayank Prakash	Life member
57.	Prof. Sulabha Parasuraman	Life Member	108.	Ms. Soumi Mukherjee	Life member
58.	Ms. Anjula Srivastava	Life Member	109.	Ms. Biswabandita Chowdhury	Student Member
59.	Dr. Manasi Bawdekar	Life Member	110.	Ms.Sarita Gunaji Pawar	Student Member
60.	Mr. Ashwani Kumar	Student Member	111.	Mr.Prahlad Kumar	Life member
61.	Mr. Ramu	Student Member	112.	Mr.Jitendra Gupta	Student Member
62.	Mr.Le Truong, Vietnam	Life Member	113.	Ritika Mukherjee	Student Member
63.	Dr. Alok Kumar	Life Member	114.	Ms. Atreyee Sinha	Student Member
64.	Prof.Krishnamurthy Srinivasan	Life Member	115.	Mr. Shiva Nand Chauhan	Life Member
65.	Prof. Subrata Lahiri	Life Member	116.	Mr. Narendra Kumar	Life Member
66.	Mr. Brajesh	Student Member	117.	Mr. Awdhesh Yadav	Life Member
67.	Prof. Sumati Kulkarni	Life Member	118.	Mr.Kaushalendra Kumar	Life Member
68.	Ms. Ranjana Kesarwani	Life Member	119.	Mr.Satish Kumar Chauhan	Life Member
69.	Dr. Kamla Gupta	Life Member	120.	Mr. Praveen Kailash Chokhandre	Life Member
70.	Ms. Kakoli Borkotoky	Life Member	121.	Mr.Khullak Meson Maring	Student Member
71.	Mr.Ashish Kumar Gupta	Life Member			

Name of the Account : IIPS Alumni Association

Account Number : 32817513430

Bank : State Bank of India

Branch : Deonar (003109)

IFSC Code : SBIN0003109

MICR Code : 400002023

SWIFT Code : SBININBB514

TAN No. : MUMI11278B

Convocation of IIPS 2013

International Institute for Population Sciences celebrated its fifty-fifth Convocation on 8th June 2013. This year, 163 students from India, Vietnam and Cambodia were awarded for the successful completion of their courses like Diploma in Health Promotion Education (DHPE), Master of Arts/ Science in Population Studies (MA/MSc), Master of Population Studies (MPS), Master of Philosophy in Population Studies (M.Phil.), Doctor of Philosophy in Population Studies (PhD).

Honourable Minister Sri A.H. Khan Chowdhury gave his presidential speech. He expounded that the Government of India are aware of the critical issues of high maternal mortality rate (MMR) and high infant mortality rate (IMR) and are making sincere efforts to reduce it through the National Health Mission. With reference to the phenomenal urban transition at present, he said the health of the city population needs to have special attention. He also explained the need of massive geriatric care and further research on the vulnerable sections of the Indian population.

This was followed by the convocation address by Prof. K. Srinivasan. He started by congratulating the students. As an IIPS alumni, he mentioned about the network of almost 2500 members distributed worldwide and occupying key positions in their countries and organisation. He has been in the field of population for over five decades and shared his experiences on making the Indian Family Planning Programmes successful and the agonies of unacceptable levels of growth of the Indian population from 1961 to 2001 in spite of investments of huge sum of money, technical and demographic resources. He elaborated on the definition and the true meaning of demography. He said that demography has to include appreciation and understanding of related biological, environmental and organisational sciences to comprehend the causes and consequences of various related aspects. Demographer should be a part of a team of scientists to work on current life threatening issues.

Compiled by *Ritika Mukherjee*



55th IIPS Convocation 2013

L-R: Prof Ram (Director) 2. Prof. K. Srinivasan (Chief Guest);
Hon. Minister Sri A.H. Khan Chowdhury (President)

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

1. International Conference of Environmental and Occupational Health 2014 Putra Jaya, Malaysia.

This is the platform where professionals and practitioners from other countries get to meet and exchange ideas. This is the first-ever joint conference of environmental and occupational health to improve public health.

Conference : **7-9th April 2014**

Online Submissions : <http://www.iceoh2014.org/iceoh2014>

Deadline for submissions : **30th December 2013**

2. 6th international conference on movement and health (Child and Adolescent Physical Activity: Determinants and Outcomes) Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic.

The purpose of the conference is to bring together researcher, professional and other interested persons in the health, exercise and sport science, preventive medicine and physical activities management with special interest in the population of children and adolescents.

Conference: **2nd to 4th June 2014**

Online Submissions : <http://www.mandh.upol.cz>

Deadline for submissions: **15th January 2014.**

3. 5th Women's Leadership and Empowerment Conference 2014: Bangkok, Thailand

WLEC 2014 is intended to be a forum, discussion and networking place for academics, researchers, professionals, administrators, educational leaders, policy makers, NGO representatives, students and others interested in the related fields. Conference

Conference: **1st to 3rd March 2014**

Online Submissions : <http://www.tomorrowpeople.org/wlc-conference>

Deadline for submissions: **1st February 2014**

WORKSHOP

1. 4th Health Econometrics Workshop in Padua, Italy

The Organizing Committee cordially invites you to attend the 4th Health Econometrics Workshop, a great opportunity to disseminate advances in the methods and applications of health econometrics. workshop will held during **19th July 2014 to 21st July 2014.**

<https://www.healthconomics.org/conferences/5705-4th-health-econometrics-workshop/>

Deadline for submissions: **8th of February 2014**

2. 16th International Workshop on Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationships in Environmental and Health Sciences (QSAR2014), Milan, Italy

The 16th International Workshop on Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationships (QSAR2014) in Environmental and Health Sciences will bring together experimentalists and modellers from industry, academia and regulators. workshop will held during **16th June 2014 to 20th June 2014.**

<http://qsar2014.insilico.eu/>

Submission dead line **4th March 2014**

Workshops organized by IIPSAA

Maternal Child-Health and Development

3rd May, 2013

IIPSAA organised its first workshop on 'Maternal Child Health and Development'. The program included talks on Fixed effect regression as an identification strategy, Women's status and child's height in India: Analytical and empirical evidence; Maternal-Child Health in India: Basic issues and Programmatic aspects and documentary show on ORS and child feeding.

Total number of participants registered for the workshop was 68 besides faculty members', organizing members who were also present during the sessions. The morning session was addressed by Diane Coffey, Office of Population Research, Princeton University. The afternoon session was addressed by Dr. Prabhu Kasturi, a pediatrition and Consultant of UNICEF who had immense experience in Public Health. He lectured on Maternal-Child Health in India.

Introduction of the key persons were given by Mr. Prakash Fulpagare, certificates were distributed by Prof. L. Ladusingh, Prof. P. Arokiasamy and Dr. K C Das



Workshop in Population Dynamics (LSWPD)-II

(July 15 – 19, 2013)

There is a huge potential of the theory of population dynamics in population analysis, economics, epidemiology, health studies and several related fields. In last two decades, the trained professionals in the area of technical demography are diminishing at much faster rate. In many quarters of interdisciplinary researchers, it is expressed that there is a pressing need of mathematical demographers to understand complex population dynamics. Therefore, young, innovative and motivated minds must continue the legacy of carrying technical skills in the area.

This is one of the initiatives that IIPS Alumni Association has envisaged to carry out in its bye-laws in view of disseminating and popularizing such highly specialized skills in the area of population studies.

The course began from foundation and led to the chosen topics at advanced level. Hands-on-experience was also provided during the lectures. The following areas have been covered under the course;

1. Foundation of Population Dynamics
2. Population Models
3. Introduction to Stochastic Dynamics
4. Stochastic Population Models

Dr. Arni Srinivas Rao, Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Georgia Regents University, USA, Dr. Chander Shekhar, and Dr. Laxmi Kant Dwivedi, Department of Mathematical Demography and Statistics, IIPS, Mumbai were the resource persons for the workshop. Four lectures each day were arranged to cover the above mentioned topics in the library building of the Institute. The broad theme for the workshop was based on Stochastic Dynamics, but diverse topics were covered including, life table techniques, stability theories of population, sampling for large-scale surveys, formulating mathematical and statistical models with practical examples. Participants were given some exercise to revise their differentiation and integration skills before starting the workshop. They were encouraged to discuss their ideas and problems with resource persons and among themselves. They shared their concerns and doubts even during two tea breaks and beyond workshop sessions. All the participants reported that lecture were very useful, stimulating and helpful in reviving and inculcating their modelling skills in Demography.

Prof. F. Ram, Director and Senior Professor, IIPS, Mumbai also encouraged the initiative of promoting mathematical demography among the young demographers during valedictory session. His support has always been there for such initiatives. He also gave away the certificate to each of the participants for attending the workshop. Prof. Ram thanked to all the resource persons and coordinators of the workshop.



Workshop in Population Dynamics (LSWPD)-II
(July 15 – 19, 2013)

Students' Corner

Every year with an increase in intake of students from all over India, IIPS is gradually getting the status of MINI-INDIA. The inculcation of different religions, cultures, ethnicity, values, languages, food habits among the students coming from all nooks and corners of the country make the Institute well known for Unity in Diversity. Genius minds coupled with sound demographic research make IIPS an ideal institute for the students. Learning from the intellectual faculty, research-oriented library, co-operative staff and homely ambience are the reasons what make IIPS students internationally renowned.

Chhavi Paul

"It has been a pleasurable journey as part of IIPSAA. It is extremely nice to see that IIPSAA is moving vibrantly with its tender young feet. As a member of the association from its foundation I firmly believe that among the IIPSAA members and between IIPSAA and the ever-increasing IIPS Mumbai scholars have been enhanced to a much newer height. The IIPSAA stall in the XVII-IUSSP Conference in Busan, which I had been lucky to be part of, was another humble and fulfilling effort to connect the IIPS-ians worldwide. My hearty wishes for IIPSAA future".

Garima Dutta

International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) is a platform where a nucleus of young professionals in the field of population is trained and developed. It is an arena for different cultures from around the world meets to share knowledge, culture and experiences which enables an enriching learning environment. IIPS gives a practical insight into the world of population studies with its distinct courses that are offered along with research in specific area of importance. IIPSians are well trained for a prospective career of their choice.

Kaushik Datta

IIPS – the institution which I now call “Home”

Before coming here, I had little idea that IIPS would become such an integral part of my life. Then, it was all about the brand name, the prestige, and the stipend. But now, I have realized that it's much more than just the classes. The IIPS experience encompasses all those tiny things which makes our stay here worthwhile...the late night birthday celebrations, the long queues at the mess whenever there is a special dinner, the last moment exam revisions, and most importantly the friends that we make in the process.

It would be presumptuous to expect so much fun with such good academic exposure anywhere else in the country. As the first batch of the M.Sc Biostatistics course, I hope to make my stay with the IIPS family a fruitful learning experience, so that the IIPS banner keeps flying high.

Dyuti Coomar

Collected by Vipul V. Pandey



**Celebrating
Foundation Day
August, 2013**

**Trip to
KHANDALA
2013**



**At registration desk
IIPSAA Workshop**



**Workshop on
Maternal Child-Health and
Development
3rd May, 2013**

Participants in IIPSAA Workshop



Write to us:

news.iipsaa@gmail.com
alumni@iips.net

IIPSAA Exhibition stall and meeting in Busan, South Korea



IIPS Alumni Association(IIPSAA) organised an exhibition stall at the IUSSP conference in Busan, South Korea during 27-30 August, 2013. About 200 alumni of IIPS from different parts of the world participated in the conference. The basic purpose of the exhibition was to disseminate the objectives and goals of the association, update the alumni about its current activities ,mobilise new membership, developing networking with alumni members. There was overwhelming response to this initiative. Many visited the stall and inquired about the association and its various activities. About 40 alumni filled up the registration form and showed their keenness in joining the organisation. Many of them paid the life membership fee on spot. A formal meeting of the IIPSAA was held on 28.8.2013 at 5 pm. More than 50 alumni from different parts of the world attended the meeting. The meeting was chaired by the president of IIPSAA and attended by the office bearers. Participants gave their valuable suggestions for the betterment of the association. All the participants pledged their full support and cooperation in making this organization more productive.

IIPS Alumni Meet at IUSSP Conference, Busan, South Korea 2013



Interaction with Dr. K.G. Santhya, Population Council

Our student correspondence Mr Jayakant had a chat with Dr. Santhya at IUSSP conference, South Korea this year. Dr Santhya added many more inputs while finalizing her excerpt. We are indeed thankful to her...

How did you start your journey to IIPS?

I joined IIPS in 1991 for the MPS course. Prior to that, I had finished my Masters in Economics from the University of Kerala. It was somewhat accidental that I joined IIPS. In fact, my parents and post-graduate teachers wanted me to pursue my further studies in Economics and that too in Kerala. But, somehow, I was keen to explore options outside Kerala. I had applied for M.Phil programme in JNU, Delhi and MPS at IIPS. I was more interested in JNU and Economics,



but I got a call from IIPS first. That is how I joined IIPS. However, three weeks down the line, my parents informed me that I had got a call from JNU too. The intimation from JNU had come even before I joined IIPS; however, my parents did not want me to go to Delhi because a lot of agitation was happening in Delhi at that time due to the Mandal Commission report on reservation and they felt that I would be safer in IIPS than in JNU and decided not to inform me about my selection in JNU on time.

Your experience in general at IIPS as a student.

IIPS was a great place to be in; I never regretted joining IIPS, although I do sometimes feel that I should have struck a right balance between my old love (Economics) and new love (Population Studies). The campus was like a mini-India – teachers, students and support staff from all over India, with varied socio-cultural background; we had had the opportunity to experience in the campus itself the regional diversity of India that we learn in demographic textbooks. There were students from other Asian countries (and from Africa too) which gave us an opportunity to know about their culture and practices. Several of my teachers were the geniuses in the field of demography – Professors Srinivasan, Roy, Pathak, to name a few, and it was wonderful to learn the basics of demography and research from them. My guide for MPS and M.Phil was Prof. Kulkarni who was very caring and who had given me a lot of support when I had gone through tough times, particularly when I lost my father when I was doing my MPS course.

When talking about my experience as a student at IIPS, I can't miss talking about IIPS library – the place I enjoyed most in IIPS. There was a great collection of books and the library staff – Mr. Randeria, Mr. Rao, Mr. Mistry – were so supportive and welcoming. I used to spend most of my free time in the library, searching, exploring and reading books.

Would you tell us about your contemporaries of IIPS, whom you are in touch with and how they have been placed in their career?

While some of my batch mates have perhaps left the field of demography, many are holding senior positions in national and international organizations.

What are the positive parameters of IIPS that have helped you in life to be the person you are now?

The training that I received at IIPS set a solid base for success in my professional career, if I may say so. After finishing MPS and M.Phil at IIPS, I had moved to Adelaide for doing my Ph.D; I was fortunate to pursue my Ph.D under Prof. GL Dasvarma, who was also an alumni of IIPS. I joined the Population



Interaction with Dr. K.G. Santhya
IUSSP Conference 2013, Busan, South Korea

Council soon after completing my PhD. It has been a long journey at the Council – more than 13 years now. At the Council, most of my work focused on designing and conducting qualitative and quantitative studies on rights of youth, gender equity and women's empowerment, reproductive health and gender based violence. I have had the opportunity to conduct seminal work on youth health and development issues, including the Youth Study which was a collaborative work of IIPS and the Population Council, to contribute to the increased focus on adolescent sexual and reproductive health in national policies and programmes.

Would you like to narrate any memorable incident in connection to IIPS?

There were too many memorable incidents at IIPS; perhaps, the most memorable was winning the gold medal for securing the first rank in MPS.

In the current scenario of population related issues, what are the key areas that need attention and how well the population scientists can contribute towards it?

India has made remarkable progress in meeting the health and development needs of its billion plus people. At the same time, there remain many areas in which progress has been uneven. For example, many key features of policies and programmes remain unimplemented; the exercise of reproductive rights and informed sexual and reproductive choice continues to elude the most vulnerable, including young people; gender and social inequities persist. Population scientists can play a major role in addressing these challenges – filling up gaps in the current evidence base, undertaking programme assessments and evaluations to better understand what works and what doesn't and why, engaging in evidence-based advocacy for policy and programme refinements and so on.

How can demography as a discipline grow in India?

Demography as a discipline has very accommodative and responsive to emerging issues in health and population arena in the country, which is a very good thing. At the same time, I think, a lot of scope still remains in the area of technical demographic work which has huge policy and programme relevance.

There are several new challenges that have come up – for example, addressing the needs of urban poor, an increasingly ageing population, shift toward low fertility regimes and related implications, emergence of non-communicable diseases and so on.

What is your view on the contribution of IIPS as an institute in the overall process of policy level change and development of the country; in what other ways, can IIPS contribute?

Needless to say, the national and sub-national level surveys and studies have contributed immensely to shape the policies and programmes in the area of health and population in the country, which is

commendable. Every conference you go, you see faculties and students making presentations.

The work on adolescents and youth issues that my colleagues at the Council, many of whom had associated with the IIPS in various capacity, and myself have undertaken over the years, I think, has significantly influenced the adolescent and youth policies and programmes in the country.

But, I think, IIPS should pay more attention to improving the quality of training that they impart to future demographers. We need to concentrate on quality of work than the quantity.

Perhaps, IIPS should engage their alumni actively in this effort

How well the alumni association of IIPS can connect and network with the alumni and what all activities need to be carried out to strengthen the association?

You have been organizing the meetings of alumni members on the sides of other conferences which, I think, is a good thing. But, I think the association should explore ways of engaging alumni members more actively than currently being done – whether it is improving the quality of teaching and research at IIPS.

What is your success mantra that has made you a person with such wonderful temperament and accomplishment?

Thanks for the compliments. I don't know what to say. There are a few things that I strongly believe – hard work pays off and there are no shortcuts to success. I also believe that from every person you come across, from every situation that you come across, there is something to learn – good or bad, and you decide whether you want to learn the good or bad.

Being a woman, your views about gender –society-people.

Frankly, I didn't like this qualifier –being a woman. I don't see why our views about gender should vary between females and males!

What is your key message to the readers in general and the aspiring demographers in particular?

One message that I want to convey to the student friends of IIPS is that 'read' there is no alternative to it.

Compiled by *Jayakant Singh*, Question input by *Aparajita C*



Wishing you
A Happy New Year
2014



“May the New Year bring you courage to break your resolutions early!
My own plan is to swear off every kind of virtue, so that I triumph
even when I fall!”

— Aleister Crowley