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From Editorial Desk

Warm Greetings!

We are delighted to bring to you volume 67, issues 1 & 2 of the IIPS Newsletter, which presents glimpses of activities of the Institute from October 2024 to March 2025.

The International Institute for Population Sciences has organised the XXIX IIPS National Seminar 2025 on the theme India's Evolving Demographics: Challenges and Implications for Human Development.

The editorial team is grateful for the timely support, contribution, and suggestions in preparing the IIPS Newsletter and looks forward to your continued support in the future. For any feedback/query, please contact the Publications Cell at publication@iipsindia.ac.in.

[Editorial Team](#)

Newsletter Editorial Team

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Vision: "To position IIPS as a premier teaching and research institute in population sciences responsive to emerging national and global needs through high-impact, cutting edge and multidisciplinary research, teaching and training"

Mission: "The Institute strives to be a centre of excellence on all population and health issues through high-quality scientific research and teaching. We achieve this by (a) creating highly competent professionals, (b) generating and disseminating scientific knowledge and evidence, (c) collaborating and exchanging ideas with other institutions, and (d) undertaking advocacy and awareness programmes".

IIPS National Seminar 2025

“India’s Evolving Demographics: Challenges and Implications for Human Development”

Recognising the significance of the evolving demographic landscape, the **29th IIPS National Seminar**,



organised by the **International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai**, brought together leading experts, researchers, and policymakers to explore the theme, **“India’s Evolving Demographics: Challenges and Implications for Human Development”**. The seminar was held between **March 19th and 20th at the Lagoon Resort, Lonavala**, providing a

platform for insightful discussions on the demographic shifts shaping India’s future. This event was organised around eight different themes, comprising 32 technical papers. In addition, the doctoral students participated in displaying 24 selected posters representing reputed institutions like IITS and IIMS. The notable individuals gracing the Inaugural event of this seminar included the former chief secretary of Maharashtra State, Mr J P Dange, D. Sheela Godbole, Director of the ICMR-National Institute of Translational Virology and AIDS Research, Pune, along with a virtual address by the current chief secretary of the Maharashtra state Mrs Sujata Saunik. The two-day event’s valedictory address was delivered by Dr Kalpana Apte, the Director General



(CEO) of the Family Planning Association of India, and a special address by Prof. Deepak Raut, the Medical Superintendent and Professor of Preventive and Social Medicine at MGM, Vashi, Mumbai. The two plenary sessions held during the two days of the seminar highlighted the interconnections between demographic transitions, health systems, economic dynamics, and policy reforms in India. The discussions centred around a **holistic, inclusive approach** that recognises the complexity of population health and well-being. By fostering **equitable, sustainable, and forward-looking policies**, India can navigate its demographic transitions while ensuring a healthier, more inclusive future for all its citizens.

The discussions and deliberations during the seminar have equivocally conveyed the role of demographics in reading about human welfare and well-being. The dynamic shifts in population structures—whether through fertility patterns, reproductive health trends, or the impacts of environmental vulnerabilities—offer critical insights into societies' evolving needs and challenges. A demographic lens is indispensable for understanding regional differences, interpreting the nuances of social behaviours, and assessing the progress of health, education, and economic development. For instance, the session on family planning underscored how demographic shifts influence



perceptions and access to reproductive health services, revealing the gap between policy advances and on-the-ground realities. Similarly, the discussion on social support and fertility highlighted how demographic factors intertwine with cultural and social norms to shape reproductive decisions.

Moreover, the intersection of demographics with health vulnerabilities, as seen in the EAG states and the effects of climatic risks, illustrates how population dynamics can amplify or mitigate health outcomes. In this context, the importance of integrating demographic insights into sectors like education, employment, and longevity becomes evident. The outlooks emerging from these areas require statistical analysis and sensitisation to demographic trends to inform effective policies and interventions.

MEMORIAL LECTURES

23rd Prof. C. Chandrasekaran Memorial Lecture

International Institute for Population Sciences organised the 23rd Prof. C. Chandrasekaran Memorial Lecture on 20th February 2025. The Memorial Lecture Series is held annually in memory of Prof. C.



Chandrasekaran, former Director of IIPS, a pioneer in Indian demography. Prof. Chandrasekaran developed the well-known Chandra-Deming formula to provide better estimates of vital events, which is the backbone of the Sample Registration System in India that collects data on critical events. His contribution to society and academic organisations was

prodigious. Dr Pratima Murthy, Director and Senior Professor of Psychiatry, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, delivered the lecture. As the Director of NIMHANS, Dr Murthy has undertaken several initiatives to improve patient care, establish newer facilities, expand training programmes, and further strengthen mental health and neurosciences research. She delivered a lecture on **“Head counts or more? Addressing the Challenges in Mental Health Care”**, where she explained the

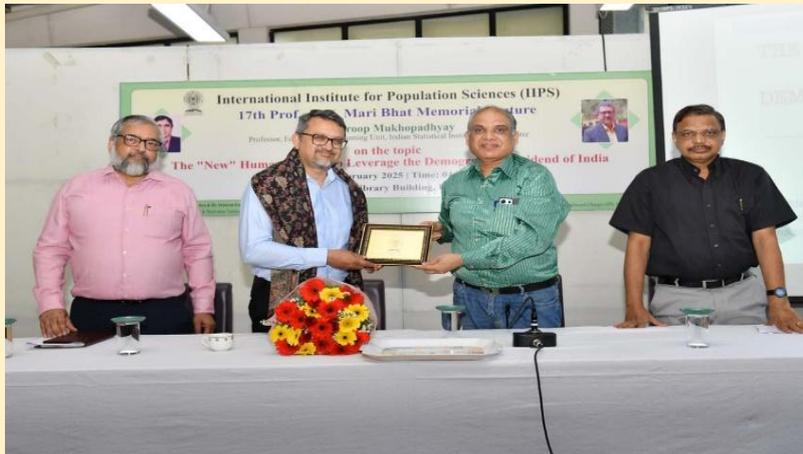


importance of head counts, the global burden of mental health and the global epidemiology of mental disorders. She also discussed the Previous Mental Health Surveys, specifically the National Mental Health Survey (NMHS–1), 2015-16. She also informed us about the upcoming 2nd Phase of the National Mental Health Survey (NMHS – 2), particularly the changes that have been made in the study design and its more significant coverage of all States and UTs. Prof. U.S. Mishra, Coordinator of the Publication Cell, addressed the session, and Prof. R. Nagarajan, Department of Population and Development, spoke in brief about Prof. C. Chandrasekaran and his contributions. The session was chaired by Prof. D. A. Nagdeve, Director & Senior Professor (Addl. In-charge), IIPS, and was attended

by approximately. 250 participants. Ms Madhurima Sharma, PhD Research Scholar, gave the formal vote of thanks.

17th Prof. P. N. Mari Bhat Memorial Lecture

International Institute for Population Sciences organised the 17th Prof. P.N. Mari Bhat Memorial Lecture



on 27th February 2025. The Memorial Lecture series is held annually in memory of Prof. P. N. Mari Bhat, former Director of IIPS. Prof. Abhiroop Mukhopadhyay, Professor, Economics and Planning Unit, Indian Statistical Institute – Delhi Centre and an expert with extensive research knowledge

in the field of education and health in the context of India, delivered the lecture on the topic **“The "New" Human Capital to Leverage the Demographic Dividend of India”**. The talk sheds light on how India's demographic dividend needs to be viewed from the skilled feature of its labour force - Human Capital. He tried to give answers to the question, **“Are these skills make a value addition, and can they be up-scaled in India?”** through this lecture. Prof. U.S. Mishra, Coordinator of the Publication Cell, addressed the session, and Prof. T. V. Sekhar spoke briefly about Prof. P.N. Mari Bhat and his contributions. The session was chaired by Prof. D. A. Nagdeve, Director & Senior Professor (Addl. In-charge), IIPS and was attended by approx. 250 participants. Ms Madhurima Sharma, PhD Student, delivered the vote of thanks.

14th Prof. Asha A. Bhende Memorial Lecture

International Institute for Population Sciences organised the 14th Prof. Asha A. Bhende Memorial



Lecture on 1st April 2025. Dr Kalpana Apte, Director General, Family Planning Association of India (FPA India), Mumbai, well known as a development professional in the areas of Public Health focusing on Sexual & Reproductive Health and Rights and Family Planning in India, delivered the lecture. The Prof. Asha A. Bhende

Memorial Lecture has been instituted at IIPS in memory of Prof. Bhende, a former Professor of the institute and a well-known demographer, health researcher and gender expert. Every year, eminent scholars in population, health, and gender are invited to deliver Prof. Bhende's Memorial Lecture. Dr Kalpana Apte deliberated on the topic “**Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights in a Resurgent India: Opportunities and Challenges**”. She talked about Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights among adolescent persons in India. She enlightened on the challenges faced by Indian adolescents in preserving their reproductive health rights in the given medico-legal landscape. Prof. U.S. Mishra, Coordinator of the Publication Cell, addressed the session, and Prof. Aparajita Chattopadhyay, Department of Population and Development, spoke in brief about Prof. Asha A. Bhende and her contributions. The session was chaired by Prof. D. A. Nagdeve, Director and Senior Professor (Addl. In-charge), IIPS. Prof. D. A. Nagdeve read out a message shared by the daughter of Prof. Bhende, Dr Purnima Mane as she could not attend the Memorial Lecture in person. The session was attended by approximately. 250 participants. Mr Indrajit Goswami, Research Officer of the Publication Cell and STTP, delivered the formal vote of thanks.

Symposium on the occasion of the International Day for Older Persons 2024



Centre for Ageing Studies, IIPS, organised a symposium on 1st October 2024 to observe the International Day for Older Persons. This year’s theme is - *Ageing with Dignity: The Importance of Strengthening Care and Support Systems for Older Persons*. Four eminent speakers with vast expertise and experience in elder care, training and policy interventions deliberated on various

issues. **Prof. T.V. Sekher**, Head of the Centre for Ageing Studies, welcomed the gathering and introduced the four speakers. **Prof. Hemkothang Lhungdim**, Director, chaired the symposium and highlighted the contributions of ageing surveys like LASI and SAGE and the extensive research undertaken by IIPS during the last two decades. About 35 PhD scholars of IIPS are working on various



aspects of population ageing using primary and secondary data. The first speaker for the symposium, **Ms Meenakshi Menon** (founder of GenSxty Tribe), shared her experiences in establishing this organisation and her own experiences in dealing with ageing issues. **Dr. Prem Narasimhan** (Geriatrician, Jaslok Hospital and Research Centre, Mumbai) presented current initiatives in providing geriatric care in hospitals, mainly focusing on mental health concerns among elderly citizens. **Dr. Anagha Tendulkar**, a sociologist and the principal of Sophia College for Women, Mumbai, highlighted the various challenges older people face in India and emphasised the role of young citizens in restoring the dignity of the elderly. Lastly, **Ms Gargi Sandu** (Co-founder of Good fellows) shared the initiatives undertaken by their startup to support older people, primarily through companionship and spending quality time with young volunteers. The speakers emphasised the recognition of the changing societal scenarios and the need for innovative policy and voluntary interventions to address the growing needs of India's elderly population. The symposium was attended by about 200 participants, including faculty and students of IIPS. **Prof. R. Nagarajan**, Associate Head, Centre for Ageing Studies, proposed the vote of thanks.

WORKSHOPS

Three-Day Workshop on “United States Census Data: An Exploration Using the Integrated Public Use Micro Data Series (IPUMS)”



The Publication Cell and Short-term Training Program, International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, conducted a workshop on “United States Census Data: An Exploration Using the Integrated Public Use Micro Data Series (IPUMS)” from 2nd to 4th January 2025. Prof. D. A. Nagdeve, Director and Senior Professor (Additional Charge), was the patron of the workshop. Prof. U. S. Mishra and Dr Srinivas Goli were the workshop coordinators. The resource person was Dr Veena Kulkarni, Associate Professor, Arkansas State University, USA. The workshop was attended by doctoral Students, Academicians, and Professionals from diverse fields of engagement. The workshop equipped the participants with the ability to use the Integrated Public Use Micro Data Series (IPUMS) for migration-related studies.

Five-Day Hands-On Training Workshop on SAS Programming



A comprehensive five-day workshop was conducted on March 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 10th, 2025, to provide hands-on training in SAS programming for data analysis, focusing on key areas such as data analysis, reporting, and clinical programming. The Information Communication and Technology Unit organised and held the training program at the ICT Unit's BIG LAB. Corporate trainers from SAS Institute (I) Pvt Ltd., Mr Akshay

Dixit, conducted sessions on SAS programming and SAS Viya, while Ms Kamakshi Hans led sessions on clinical programming.

Participants were introduced to the foundational concepts of SAS programming, including syntax, data manipulation, and data handling techniques. The sessions also covered the use of the SAS Enterprise Guide for querying data and generating reports, as well as an introduction to SAS Viya, a cloud-based platform for large-scale data processing. Practical sessions focused on building and deploying machine learning models using SAS Viya, followed by a session on clinical programming for clinical data analysis and regulatory reporting.

The workshop was attended by a diverse group of faculty and students, with selection based on the order of registration, prioritising PhD students, followed by MBD and MSD students. The workshop was highly successful, providing participants with valuable skills in SAS tools for statistical analysis, machine learning, reporting, and clinical programming, which will enhance their research potential and professional work in data analytics.

INVITED TALKS

Invited Talk on “Evolutionary Advantage to Population Numbers: Behavioural Economics in the Natural World”

An Invited Talk on “Evolutionary Advantage to Population Numbers: Behavioural Economics in the



Natural World” was organised by the Publication Cell and Short-term Training Program on 15th October 2024. Dr Subrato Banerjee, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, IIT Bombay, Mumbai, was the guest speaker. Dr Banerjee spoke about the advantages of population numbers in the Natural World. The talk was organised by Prof. Udaya Shankar Mishra and

Dr. Srinivas Goli, coordinators for the Publication Cell and Short-Term Training Program.

Invited Talk on “The Critical Relationship between Metal Exposure and Human Health”

An Invited Talk on “The Critical Relationship between Metal Exposure and Human Health” was



organised by the Publication Cell and Short-term Training Program on 29th November 2024. The guest speaker was Dr Kathrin Schilling, Assistant Professor, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York, USA. Dr Schilling’s lecture focused on metal exposure in population-scale and experimental studies, highlighting new biomarkers such as metal isotopes as environmental and disease tracers and exploring the potential of metallomics in health research. The

talk was organised by Prof. Udaya Shankar Mishra and Dr. Srinivas Goli, coordinators for the Publication Cell and Short-Term Training Program.

Invited Talk on “Adaptive Designs in Clinical/Intervention Trials: A Brief Tour and Some Recent Developments”

An Invited Talk on “Adaptive Designs in Clinical/Intervention Trials: A Brief Tour and Some Recent Developments” was organised by the Publication Cell and Short-term Training Program on 7th January 2025. The guest speaker was Prof. Samiran Ghosh, Department of Biostatistics and Data Science,



University of Texas School of Public Health, USA. Prof. Ghosh’s presentation explored different adaptive design types, examined situations where they are best suited, and discussed the potential challenges and limitations associated with their use. The talk was designed for an audience with introductory knowledge of statistics and highlighted both the advantages and the complexities of adaptive designs in clinical trials. The talk was organised by Prof. Udaya Shankar Mishra and Dr. Srinivas Goli,

coordinators for the Publication Cell and Short-Term Training Program. The session was chaired by Prof. D. A. Nagdeve, Director and Senior Professor (Additional Charge) at the International Institute for Population Sciences.

Invited Talk on “Qualitative Comparative Analysis”

Prof. Miguel San Sebastian, a Professor in Public Health at the Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University, Sweden, delivered a brief talk on Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA).



In this insightful and gripping talk, he introduced Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) as a method for identifying patterns across cases in complex data sets. The presenter highlighted that the tool enables researchers to explore how different factor combinations lead to similar or different outcomes. This approach involving Fuzzy Set Qualitative Comparative

Analysis (FSQCA) enhances the understanding of complex causal relationships by accommodating degrees of membership, thus providing a more nuanced analysis compared to the traditional binary methods. The presenter also shared examples of the application of QCA by researchers to demonstrate

its usefulness in public health research. This one-hour lecture was followed by an engaging Q&A session.

Prof Miguel was in IIPS as part of the collaborative meeting of the ICMR-FORTE funded project titled “The cognitive consequences of social frailty: a mixed methods study of precarity and resilience among ageing populations in India and Sweden”. Prof TV Sekher chaired the session.

ACTIVITIES UNDER ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS

National Family Health Survey 2023-24 (NFHS-6)

The sixth round of the National Family Health Survey 2023-24 (NFHS-6) is ongoing. Like its predecessors, NFHS-6 is being conducted under the stewardship of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. NFHS-6 is the first in the series of NFHS in India, which is being undertaken without technical and financial assistance from any external agency. For the first time, in NFHS-6, all aspects of the survey will be coordinated solely by the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai. Data collection is implemented by a group of survey organisations and Population Research Centres.

Like in NFHS-5, NFHS-6 will provide estimates of the levels of fertility, infant and child mortality, and other family welfare and health indicators by background characteristics at the national and district levels and measure trends in family welfare and health indicators over time at the national and district levels.

In addition, the scope of NFHS-6 has been expanded further - to help track the progress of policies and programmes in the context of SDG goals to be achieved by 2023, to align with global indicators and to relate to emerging issues of health and well-being of people at national and subnational levels. In NFHS-6, new questions have been added with the aim of providing accurate data for research purposes and also enabling the evaluation of various policies/programmes of different programme divisions. This is also useful for advocacy and awareness at national and sub-national levels.

Some salient features of NFHS-6 are –

- In addition to the 28 states, NFHS-6 will also cover all the 8 Union Territories (UTs). Similarly, NFHS-6 will provide estimates of most indicators at the district level for all 731 districts in the country as of June 30, 2021.
- The NFHS-6 sample size is expected to be approximately 670,000 households (in all 731 districts). As the survey will elicit information (using Household, Woman’s, Man’s, and Biomarker Questionnaires) from all women aged 15-49 and men aged 15-54 in a subsample of households, it is estimated that NFHS-6 will yield a total sample of 750,000 women age 15-49 years, and 120,000

men age 15-54 years. In these households, information about 250,000 children below age 5 will also be collected in the survey.

- For the first time, Mapping and Household Listing operation is done in the digital mode using mini laptops and automation of household sample selection. Also, the main survey data is collected using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) on mini-notebook computers. The use of CAPI has several advantages and thereby ensures better data quality.
- Height and weight measurements for women aged 15-49, men aged 15-54, and children aged under 5 years are included in NFHS-6. All related estimates will be provided at the district level.
- Like in NFHS-5, other components included in the domain of clinical, anthropometric and biochemical testing (CAB) in NFHS-6 are blood glucose and blood pressure measurements, with estimates to be provided at the district level. In addition, NFHS-6 will be collecting finger-stick blood to produce dried blood spots (DBS) from a subsample of respondents for laboratory testing of HIV, Hepatitis-B, and Hepatitis-C. These tests will provide an opportunity to estimate the community-based burden of HIV, Hepatitis-B and Hepatitis-C at the national and state/union territory (UT) levels. For the first time, DBS will also be collected from children aged 4-5 to check for the prevalence of Hepatitis B.
- Multiple strategies are adopted to ensure the reliability and validity of data. Some such measures are – standardised tools and survey implementation protocols as per international standards, nested design using a modular approach, digitisation of data collection procedures, real-time data access in the form of field check tables to provide timely feedback, making available digital reports like POQR for effective field monitoring, secondary editing messages help resolve data related issues/ inconsistencies in the field, etc. Additionally, on completion of about 70 per cent of fieldwork in a district, the IIPS field team, along with the FA core team, conducts back checks in 3-4 PSUs to assess the data quality and, based on the data quality report submitted by the back check team, necessary action is taken.

Key NFHS-6 activities accomplished:

The main survey data collection in Phase I states/groups of states/UTs has been successfully completed in all the states except Manipur, where the survey could not be started due to the state's situation. Subsequently, the data processing activities for Phase I states/UTs were taken up, and upon completion, the first draft of the fact sheets of key indicators for these states was generated, reviewed and finalised.



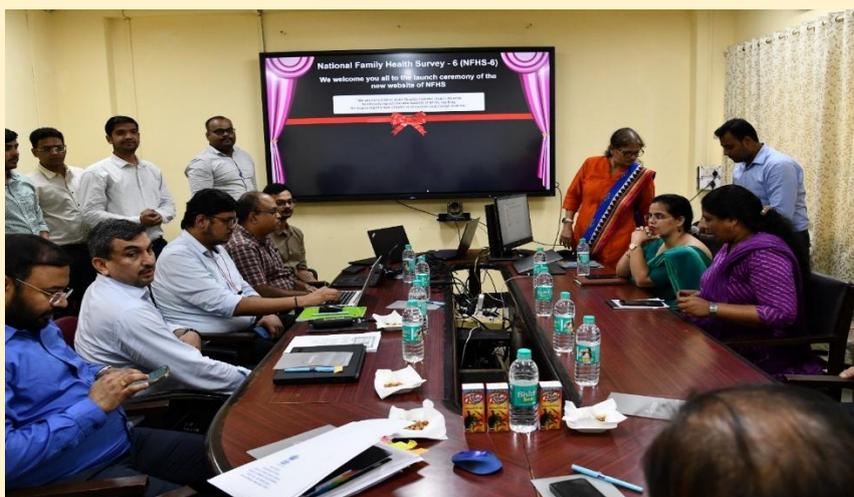
The state-level training and fieldwork were conducted in the Phase II states/groups of states/UTs, and the main survey fieldwork in these states/UTs was completed in December 2024. Currently, the data processing activities for Phase II states/UTs are underway, and the first draft of fact sheets for these states will be ready in the coming months. Also, data analysis for generating tables

for Phase I states/UTs as per the draft NFHS-6 tabulation plan has been initiated.

The fifth TAC meeting was held on 23 December 2024 to discuss the current state of NFHS-6 field activities.

The results presented in the first draft of NHFS-6 fact sheets for Phase I states/UTs were reviewed. Also, the key indicators to be included in the NFHS-6 national/state/district fact sheets were finalised. NFHS-6 PIs had a meeting at Delhi in the Ministry on 27 January 2025 to present the provisional results of NFHS-6 fact sheet key indicators for Phase I states/UTs.

The new NFHS website was inaugurated by Shri Kal Singh (DG, MoHFW (Stats.)) on 19 September



2024 in the presence of Smt. Reena Singh (CD, MoHFW (Stats.)), Shri Amrit Lal Jangid (Director, MoHFW (Stats.)), Shri. Deepak Kumar (Jt. Director, MoHFW (Stats.)), NFHS-6 PIs and office team. All available publications and datasets of the various rounds of the NFHS survey

can be accessed through this website. The new website has upgraded user-friendly features where users have to log in to download the files.

The NFHS-6 training for DBS logging, cataloguing, and HIV testing using INCHTTS Software was conducted for the laboratories from 19-20 September 2024 held at ICMR_NITVAR, Pune. All the regional labs have procured the required lab equipment, and preparations to commence testing of DBS samples are ongoing. The details of the samples, like state/district/PSU/HI codes, quality of DBS, etc., for both Phase I and Phase II states have been checked for any inconsistency at IIPS. The samples are being logged into the INTHTTS software in the regional labs. The test run of the testing component of the INTHTTS software was held at the lab located in Mumbai (JJ Hospital) on 20-21 February 2025 by the IIPS IT/CAB team. After the required revisions, the updated software will be deployed in all the regional labs and testing work will commence.



Work-related to the generation of APIs and the NFHS dashboard is nearing completion. This work is being carried out by the CDAC team in consultation with the IIPS NFHS-6 team. Several meetings were held to review the progress and revisions as required were conveyed. The changes are being implemented by the team as per the suggestions received, and the updated version will be ready for launch in the coming months.

Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI), Wave 2

3rd Meeting of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI) Wave-2

The 3rd meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI) Wave 2 was held on January 17th, 2025, at IIPS. The TAC meeting was chaired by Prof. Sulabha Parsuraman and co-chaired by Prof. S. Siva Raju. Shri. Kal Singh, Director General (Stat.) and Ms Reena Singh, Chief Director (Stat.), MoHFW, highlighted the importance of LASI for policy making and program monitoring and also emphasised the commitment of the government to continue LASI.

The expert members of the TAC- Prof. A. B. Dey, Prof. S. Irudaya Rajan, Prof. M. H. Suryanarayana, Prof. Mathew Verghese, Shri. Mathew Cherian and Dr. Mala Kapur Shankardass attended the meeting.



Representatives from ICMR, WHO, UNFPA, NCD (NPHCE), NARI, NCDIR-ICMR, MoSJE, and DGHS also attended the meeting, along with LASI Project Coordinators. Prof. D.A. Nagdeve, Director & Senior Professor (Addl. Charge), IIPS, welcomed the TAC members. A two-minute silence was

observed in honour of Prof. Arvind Pandey, former chairperson of the TAC, who passed away last year.

Prof. T.V. Sekher, PI-LASI, presented a summary of activities undertaken so far for the Wave 2 survey.



The key topics discussed were the survey instruments and the methodology for wave 2. The Wave 1 respondents (73,000) will be interviewed in Wave 2, and in addition, if any age-eligible individuals are available in the same households, they will also be included. The biomarkers (including DBS)

conducted in Wave 1 will also be done in Wave 2. The meeting brought together experts, practitioners, and ministry officials, who shared valuable insights to propel the project forward, ensuring impactful research on health and ageing in India. The Wave 2 survey will be initiated soon. The International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) officially received the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for implementing the LASI Wave-2 survey from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Govt. of India.

Global Adult Tobacco Survey-3 (GATS-3)

Pre-test of Survey Tools

The International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, has conducted the Pre-test of survey



tools for Global Adult Tobacco Survey-3 (GATS-3) at U Rivergate Resort, Karjat, Maharashtra, from March 17 to 22, 2025. Prof. D.A. Nagdeve, Director (Additional Charge), IIPS Mumbai, inaugurated the event, bringing investigators and supervisors together for comprehensive training on survey methodologies and data collection procedures. The training sessions were led by GATS-3 Principal Investigators

(PIs), including Prof. R. Nagarajan, Prof. Nandita Saikia, Dr Dilip T.R., Dr Manas Ranjan Pradhan, and Dr Pradeep S. Salve. Participants were trained to familiarise themselves with the survey tools, ethical considerations, and data collection techniques using both pen-and-paper and Android tablets during the 3-day classroom session.

Field data collection was carried out by four teams (1 team consisting of 2 male and 2 female investigators and 1 Supervisor). Field data collection was carried out from March 20 to 22, 2025, in non-sampled PSUs of rural areas of Neral Gram Panchayat and urban areas of Karjat Municipality. The field activities were systematically monitored, and daily review meetings were held to address any operational challenges, flow of the questions, skip patterns, software, assess progress, and maintain data quality. The pretest concluded with a debriefing session, during which field challenges, investigator experiences, and feedback were discussed in detail. The insights gained from this pretest will play a crucial role in refining the main survey implementation, ensuring a smooth and effective nationwide rollout of GATS-3.

ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND ONLINE LEARNING

Centre for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA) Meeting on 19th November 2024



A meeting of the Centre for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA) for distance education was held on 19th November 2024 in the Guest House Dining Hall of the Institute. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the various aspects of internal quality assurance related to the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) program under the Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE) at the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS). Prof. Hemkothang Lhungdim chaired the meeting.

Eleven members attended the meeting to discuss various issues related to the distance education program with the two external experts, Prof Dhaneswar Harichandran, Retired Prof, Mumbai University and Dr Vaibhav Jadhav, Pune University.

ACTIVITIES OF THE PLACEMENT CELL

The placement cell is actively enhancing the placement opportunities for students graduating from IIPS. Students undergoing each course at IIPS nominate two representatives to the placement cell. Under the direction of the two placement cell coordinators (Dr T R Dilip and Dr Manas Ranjan Pradhan), the placement officer and twenty student representatives organise carry out the placement cell's activities. In 2024–2025, the placement cell held eight training sessions and pre-placement events. This year, IDFC First Bank, The Antara Foundation, and MAGIC BUS Foundation extended campus placement offers to IIPS students and interviews were conducted for the process by Pfizer Health Care. Internship opportunities were received from ICMR, The Hans Foundation, Renovate India, Technoserve, SRM University, KHPT Bangalore, etc.

Skill-building activities organised by the Placement Cell in 2024-25
1. Q&A Session with Achievers Across Sectors by IIPS ALUMNI on 9 th November 2024
2. Pre-Placement Talk by IHAT on 27 th September 2024
3. IDFC First Bank Pre-Placement talk & Drive on 5 th December and 10 th December 2024
4. Pre-Placement Talk & QA Session with Pfizer Health Care on 30 th November 2024
5. Soft Skills workshop by Ms. Priya Sawant on 28 th December 2024
6. Pre-placement Talk by The Antara Foundation on 16 th January 2025
7. Pre-placement talk & interview drive by Magic Bus India Foundation on 12 th February 2025.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

A. INTERNAL COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

1. Event 1: First Orientation Program on July 11, 2024

The Internal Committee of IIPS Mumbai organised an orientation program on July 11, 2024, for second-year MA/MSc and MBD students, aiming to educate them about the Prevention of Sexual Harassment



(POSH) Act 2013, Vishakha guidelines, and prevention of sexual harassment at the workplace. The program featured presentations by Internal Committee members and the medical counsellor, covering critical topics such as sexual harassment, Vishakha guidelines, internal committee procedures, complaint registration, and the link between mental health and

sexual harassment. The event also included a quiz competition in keeping with the Internal Committee's efforts to promote awareness and prevention of sexual harassment in the workplace which was well-received by the students.

2. Event 2: Second Orientation Program on August 12, 2024

The Internal Committee (IC) of the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) conducted a successful orientation program on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment against Women and Students



at the Workplace (POSH) Act, 2013, on August 12, 2024. The program was attended by 150 participants, including faculty members, staff, and students, aimed at raising awareness and prevent sexual harassment in the workplace. Guest speakers Advocate Rushila Rebello and Ms. Priti Raikar Thakkar delivered informative sessions on

"Creating Safe Spaces for All" and "Fostering Integrity & Safe Environment on Campus," respectively. The IC also released posters highlighting the committee's roles, functions, and responsibilities along with information on filing complaints and punishments, which were displayed throughout the campus in both Hindi and English. This program was a significant step towards promoting a culture of safety and respect at IIPS, and the institute remains committed to providing a secure and supportive environment for all members of its community.

3. Event 3: IEC Materials on Display to Make Campus a Safe Place

- a. A bilingual poster on IIPS guidelines on Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment against Women and Students at the Workplace (POSH) Act, 2013 was displayed by the IC member Mr Tushar Dhakua and PhD scholar Ms Paramita Majumdar under the supervision of IC chair Dr Archana K Roy. It was translated by the Hindi officer, Ms Nivedita Mishra. The poster was released by the Director and Senior Professor, Prof D. Nagdeve, faculty members and staff of IIPS on August 12, 2024.

b. Display guidelines on Dos and Don'ts to make the campus free from sexual harassment



4. Event 4: Capacity Building of Internal Committee Members

The Internal Committee (IC) of IIPS Mumbai organized a one-day training program on December 3, 2024, to enhance the capacity of its members. The program aimed to familiarize members with critical aspects of their responsibilities, including case management, inquiry processes, and legal perspectives. The training featured two expert speakers, Advocate Monika Sakhrani and Dr. Anagha Sarpotdar, who delivered insightful lectures on topics such as consent, workplace scenarios, report writing and the role of the internal committee. The sessions were interactive, with participants engaging in discussions and case studies. The program was attended by 11 committee members and was a significant step in enhancing their capacity to handle their responsibilities effectively. The training aimed to ensure a



supportive and just environment at IIPS Mumbai, aligning with the institute's commitment to providing a safe and respectful workplace.

5. Event 5: Meeting with internal and external members of IC held on 8th of January 2025



The External Member, Prof Vibhuti Patel, with the internal members of the Internal Committee

6. Event 6: "Breaking the Silence: Let's Talk About Sexual Harassment," Interaction with female student on January 10, 2025

The Internal Committee (IC) of IIPS organised a gender sensitisation interactive session, "Breaking the Silence: Let's Talk About Sexual Harassment," exclusively for girls. The program aimed to create a safe space for open discussions on gender-related issues, campus safety, and speaking up. Expert speaker Mrs Priti Thakkar delivered insightful talks, emphasising self-empowerment, gender equality, and the need to challenge patriarchal norms. Interactive sessions encouraged girls to voice concerns, seek



guidance, and discuss practical steps to enhance gender sensitivity and campus safety. This initiative marks a positive step toward promoting gender equality and awareness among girls, fostering a safer and more inclusive campus environment.

Director and Sr Professor Prof D Nagdeve and the guest speaker, Mrs Priti Thakkar, with female participants and IC members.

7. Event 7: Interaction with male student on "Breaking the Silence: Let's Talk About Sexual Harassment," January 13, 2025

The Internal Committee (IC) of IIPS organised a gender sensitisation interactive session, "Breaking the Silence: Let's Talk About Sexual Harassment," exclusively for boys. The program aimed to create a safe space for open discussions on gender-related issues, campus safety, and speaking up. Expert speaker Mrs Priti Thakkar delivered insightful talks, emphasising gender equality and the need to challenge patriarchal norms. Interactive sessions encouraged boys to voice concerns, seek guidance, and discuss practical steps to embrace gender sensitivity and campus safety. This initiative marks a positive step toward promoting gender equality and awareness among boys, fostering a safer and more inclusive campus environment.



8. Event 8: International Women's Day Celebration: Skit "Itni Si Baat" under the theme Combating the toxic masculinity on 7th of March 2025

International Women's Day Celebration: Skit "Itni Si Baat". The Internal Committee of IIPS organised a skit competition to celebrate International Women's Day, featuring a performance titled "Itni Si Baat."



The skit aimed to raise awareness about gender sensitisation, women empowerment, and toxic masculinity, highlighting the challenges women face on a day to day basis. The 30-minute skit, staged on March 7th, was a collaborative effort between 11 participants, guided by professional drama artist Mr. Rohit Thapa. The performance creatively depicted various scenarios, showcasing gender bias, encouraging the audience to

reflect on their attitudes and behaviours. The event was well-received, with enthusiastic applause and thoughtful reflection from the audience. Participants gained valuable skills in public communication and performance, while the audience walked away with a heightened awareness of gender issues and the importance of fostering an inclusive society. This initiative demonstrated the power of art and storytelling in driving social change and promoting gender equality, aligning perfectly with the goals of International Women's Day.

The IC members involved in organising the programs:

1. Prof. Archana K Roy,
2. Dr. Reshmi R. S.
3. Dr. Suresh Jungari
4. Ms. Lavina Tauro
5. Ms. Sheetal Zore
6. Mr. Chandan Kumar Hansda
7. Ms. Komal S. Gajbhiye
8. Ms. Puja Das
9. Mr. Tushar Dakua
10. Prof. Vibhuti Patel

B. A Night to Remember: New Year's Eve Celebration at IIPS – 31st December 2024

As the sun set on the final day of 2024, the campus of the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) was transformed into a radiant heaven of joy, unity, and cultural splendour. Orchestrated by the ever-energetic Cultural Coordinator, Prof. Nandita Saikia, along with dedicated student volunteers led by Poushaly Talukdar, the New Year's Eve celebration was nothing short of magical. The open stage at the IIPS playground, draped in colourful decorations and vibrant dresses and bathed in gentle lights, embraced the cool breeze of the December night, creating an atmosphere that felt both festive and intimate.



The evening began on a spiritual note with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, symbolising the invocation of divine energy. This auspicious act was led by Prof. Deweram A. Nagdeve, Director and Senior Professor (Additional Charge), alongside Prof. Nandita Saikia. The cultural performances that followed ignited the stage with energy and emotion: Neelo Bharti, an MBD student, opened with a soul-stirring rendition of “Shiva Vandana”, enveloping the gathering in a wave of serenity. Nibedita Mishra, Hindi Officer at IIPS, delivered a melodic Bollywood classic, casting a spell of nostalgia and warmth. In a delightful surprise, Mr Vaithilingam, Senior Section Officer, took the audience down south with his spirited Tamil dance, showcasing the diversity embraced by IIPS.

The stage then blossomed into a vibrant canvas of Indian culture: Preeti, a PhD student, lit up the stage with her rhythmic Haryanvi dance. The festive pulse of Assam was brought alive by Ashapurna, Laxmi, Rishee, Someda, Prachujya, and Akshay through an enchanting Bihu dance.

The crowd roared with applause as MC Vedant, a young and passionate rapper—and son of an IIPS housekeeping staff member—set the stage ablaze with his energetic rap performance, a testament to the inclusive spirit of the institute.

Akshay Kumar Deka followed with a captivating Bollywood number. Tanu Kumari delivered an electrifying solo dance, which seamlessly transitioned to another powerful solo by Jyoti Shankar Hota. The rhythm kept flowing with multiple group dances by students like Pragya, Neeloo, Harsha, Someda, Devadharshini, Harsh, Akshay, Piyush, followed by Tarangini, Laxmi, Hithashree, Devika and finally

Trilochana and Kiran. The evening ended with a mesmerising duet performance by Harsha and Devadharshini. The highlight of the evening, however, was the glamorous Ramp Walk by IIPS students—twelve couples dazzling the audience in their modern attire, exuding confidence, elegance, and flair. Their names include Harsha, Preeti, Sreoshi, Akriti, Hithashree, Ritaja, Adnan and Sovan. It was a celebration of identity, unity, and youthful exuberance. The smooth running of the program could not have been possible without dedicated volunteers, including Sudipto (Music and logistics), Abhay (backstage management), Sandeep (Poster design and distribution), Ashapura and Sushmita (refreshments). The night concluded with heartfelt words from Prof. Nagdeve and Prof. Saikia, who expressed their appreciation to the performers and attendees for making the celebration such a resounding success.

This New Year's Eve celebration was more than just an event that reflected the soul of IIPS. It showcased the institute's rich diversity, deep sense of community, and unwavering commitment to inclusivity and cultural expression. Students, faculty, and staff came together to welcome a new year and reaffirm the shared values and vibrant heartbeat that define the IIPS family. Special appreciation goes to volunteers Poushly Talukdar, Neelkamal, Ankit Gupta, and Sreosi Das, who are behind-the-scenes efforts, coordination, and dedication played a crucial role in the smooth execution of the program. Their contributions embodied the collaborative spirit that makes such celebrations genuinely memorable.

C. BLOOD DONATION CAMP, 17th JANUARY 2025

The Blood Donation Camp, organised by the Staff Welfare Committee in collaboration with Pallavi Blood Bank, was held on 17th January 2025 on the 3rd Floor of the Library Building of the Institute. The main aim of the camp was to encourage people to donate blood voluntarily and raise awareness about the importance of contributing to the blood supply for medical treatments and emergencies.



Prof. D. A. Nagdeve, Director and Senior Professor (Additional Charge), inaugurated the camp at 10:00 AM and ended it at 05:00 PM. The venue was well-equipped with medical staff, blood donation rest chairs, and refreshments for donors. Many staff, students and other people from our organisation participated in the camp, showing their dedication to supporting others' well-being.

The participants showed great enthusiasm and a strong sense of community spirit. Their collective effort resulted in a significant number of blood donations, which will support patients in need of blood transfusions.

Prof. S. K. Mohanty, Chairperson of the Staff Welfare Committee, expressed gratitude to all the donors who generously donated blood and contributed to the event's success. This act of benevolence will positively impact the lives of those requiring blood in emergency situations.

D. Annual Sports Week 2024-25

The Sports Week – 2025, named “Sportify”, organised from 5th to 10th February 2025, was a grand and highly successful event, drawing together faculty, staff and students from the institute. This vibrant celebration of sports reflected the institute's commitment to fostering teamwork, healthy competition, and physical well-being. The event kicked off with much enthusiasm, beginning with an official inauguration on the 5th of February. Prof. D A. Nagdeve, Director & Sr. Professor (Additional Charge), and Dr. Pradeep Salve, the Sports Coordinator of the IIPS, inaugurated the sports week with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The faculty members and non-teaching staff of the institute were also present to mark the



occasion. The ceremony was further supported by a dedicated team of volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of the event. Their efforts and the director's and sports coordinator's presence set the tone for a week of vibrant participation and exciting competition.

The inaugural volleyball match, played between the faculty and staff teams, was a thrilling start to a week full of intense competitions, spirited camaraderie, and unifying moments for everyone involved. The inauguration ceremony set a lively tone for the entire week, ensuring participants and spectators were excited and motivated to participate. Throughout the week, various sports competitions were held, ranging from volleyball and throwball to football, cricket, indoor games, and even fun games, ensuring everyone could showcase their skills and athletic abilities.



E. HINDI CELL ACTIVITIES

1. Hindi Pakhwada Organised by the Institute: 20th Sept – 1st October 2024

The International Institute of Population Sciences successfully organised Hindi Fortnight from September 20 to October 01, 2024.



The program was inaugurated by Director (Additional Charge) Dr. Hemkothang Lhungdim. During this fortnight, various competitions such as dictation competitions, official language quiz competitions, and antakshari competitions were organised. Along with staff members, most of the students of the institute

also had enthusiastic participation in all competitions. Additionally, on the day of the closing ceremony of Hindi Fortnight, a poetry symposium was held, and the winners of the competitions were also awarded. On this occasion, Director (Additional Charge) Dr Hemkothang Lhungdim, Chairman of the Official Language Implementation Committee Mr Abhishek Singh, Hindi Officer Ms Nivedita Mishra, and faculty members and all staff members of the institute were present.

2. Workshop Organised for Staff Members: December 20, 2024

On 20/12/2024, the Official Language Department of IIPS successfully organised a workshop for staff members. In this workshop, Nivedita Mishra (Hindi Officer) conducted a session on various topics such as the Official Language Act 1963, capability tools (like Unicode, voice typing, Google input tools, technical terminology), etc.



3. Workshop organised by Navi Mumbai Nagar Official Language Implementation Committee and Konkan Railway: December 27, 2024

Navi Mumbai NOLIC and Konkan Railway organised a Hindi workshop on the topic 'Solutions to problems related to filling the revised questionnaire of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language and half-yearly reports' in which the Hindi Officer from the institute participated. Dr Sushmita Bhattacharya, Deputy Director (Department of Official Language), Ministry of Home Affairs, provided valuable guidance on this subject.



4. World Hindi Day on 10th January 2025

International Institute of Population Sciences organised World Hindi Day on January 10, 2025, in the presence of Director and Senior Professor Dr. D. A. Nagdeve and Professor and Official Language In-charge Dr. Abhishek Singh. On this occasion, Director and Senior Professor Dr D. A. Nagdeve provided proper guidance on promoting the use of Hindi along with compliance with



official language-related rules and orders, and Professor and Official Language In-charge Dr Abhishek Singh highlighted the importance of the development of Hindi and its growing dominance at the global level. A poetry recitation competition was also organised during the event in which staff members as well as students participated, and all winning participants were awarded. Faculty members, staff members, and students of the institute were present on this occasion. At the end of the program, Hindi Officer Ms. Nivedita Mishra gave a vote of thanks.

5. Rajbhasha Inspection on 4th March 2025

On March 04, 2025, Dr. Prakash Kumar, Assistant Director (Official Language) and Mr. Ravindra Kumar, Junior Translation Officer from the Ministry's Official Language Inspection Team, inspected our institute regarding official language matters. Dr. Prakash Kumar, Assistant Director (Official Language) from the Ministry, also organised a half-day workshop for faculty/staff members of IIPS, in which he conducted sessions on various topics such as



the Official Language Act, filling quarterly progress reports and the official language policy. During this time, a meeting was held in the Director's office, in which various items related to the official language were discussed. Dr Prakash Kumar, Assistant Director (Official Language) and Mr Ravindra Kumar, Junior Translation Officer from the Ministry; Prof. D. A. Nagdeve, Director and Senior Professor (Additional Charge); Prof. Manoj Alagarajan, Dr Manjiri Rane, and Nivedita Mishra from the institute were present at the meeting.

F. Lecture series for Master's in Survey Research and Data Analytics (MSD)

The coordinators of the Master's programme in Survey Research and Data Analytics (MSD), Prof. L.K. Dwivedi and Dr. Preeti Dhillon, organised three enriching lecture series during the current academic year for MSc students in Survey Research and Data Analytics. These sessions aimed to enhance students' practical understanding of key subjects through expert-led instruction and hands-on learning. These lecture series provided a valuable platform for interdisciplinary learning and skill development, contributing meaningfully to the academic and practical training of MSD students.

The **first lecture series**, titled "*Numerical Methods*", was conducted as part of the course *MSD-C1: Mathematics and Computing*. Held in hybrid mode from 19th to 27th September 2024, it featured five

sessions led by subject expert Mr. Maneesh Kumar. All MSD students attended the sessions in their classroom, with faculty members including Dr. Preeti Dhillon and Prof. U.S. Mishra overseeing the sessions.

The **second lecture series**, "*Data Visualisation with Microsoft Power BI and Tableau*", aligned with the course *MSD-C6: Data Visualisation with Software*. Conducted in physical mode from 2nd–3rd January and 8th–10th January 2025, the sessions were delivered by Dr. P.V. Chandrika, a renowned Data Science Consultant and Corporate Trainer. A total of 60 participants—including MSD (2nd semester), Master in Biostatistics and Demography (MBD) (2nd year), MA/MSc (2nd year) students, and faculty members such as Dr. Sarang Pedgaonkar, Dr. Preeti Dhillon, Dr. Guru Vasishta, and Dr. Kunal Kesari—actively participated. These interactive sessions enabled students to build their own dashboards and gain proficiency in widely used data visualisation tools.



Photo: Lecture series on Data visualisation with Microsoft Power Business Intelligence (Power BI) and Tableau

The **third lecture series**, "*Data Visualisation and Predictive Analytics with R Software*", supported the curriculum of *MSD-C10: Predictive Analytics – Theory and Practice*. Conducted over 14 hours across seven days from 23rd January to 11th February 2025 in the MSD/ICT classroom, the sessions were again led by Dr. P.V. Chandrika. Forty participants, including MSD (2nd semester), MBD (2nd year) students, Ph.D. scholars, and faculty members, attended. Through a combination of lectures and hands-on training, students gained practical skills in data visualisation and predictive analytics using R, empowering them to conduct their own data analyses.



Photo: Lecture series: Data Visualisation and Predictive Analytics with R software

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

The International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), formerly known as the Demographic Training and Research Centre (DTRC) till 1970, was established in 1956 under the joint sponsorship of Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, the Government of India, and the United Nations. The Institute is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

The Institute served as a regional centre for training and research in population studies in the ESCAP region. The Institute was re-designated to its present title in 1985 to facilitate the expansion of its academic activities and was declared as a 'Deemed University' on August 19, 1985, under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. The recognition has facilitated the award of recognised degrees by the Institute and paved the way for further expansion as an academic institution. The faculty members and the supporting staff have diverse interdisciplinary backgrounds with a specialisation in some core areas of population sciences, and they are trained in India and abroad.

The Institute is the hub of population and health-related teaching and research in India, playing a vital role in the planning and development of the country. Students from different countries in Asia, the Pacific region, Africa, and North America have been trained at the Institute. The alums of IIPS hold prestigious positions in national and international organisations, universities, and reputed non-governmental organisations.

The Institute offers different post-graduate, doctoral, and post-doctoral courses with scholarships/fellowships from the government of India. After completing the course, students are well prepared for admission to higher degree programmes in the world's best universities, a promising career in teaching and research, a multi-disciplinary professional career in development organisations, and as independent consultants.

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