NATIONAL SEMINAR: 2020

IIPS has organised a national seminar on “Population, Health and Sustainable Development Goals: Performance and Prioritizing Policies” in collaboration with Population Research Centre, Patna University during 13-15 February 2020 at Patna, Bihar. The purpose of the seminar was to understand the synergy between demographic changes in India in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and its laudable objective that no one should be left behind. Hon'ble Education Minister of Bihar Shri Krishna Nandan Prasad Verma inaugurated the seminar and Prof. Rash Bihari Pd. Singh, Vice Chancellor; Patna University presided over the function. In the inaugural address, Hon'ble Education Minster highlighted the population issues in Bihar and how it hinders the development process. He also talked about Bihar's Education and how it has been reshaped in recent years through implementation of various programmes. Dr. KS James, the Director & Sr. Prof. highlighted the importance of seminar and Prof. DA Nagdeve provided the details on the structure of the conference. The fact sheet of IIPS funded Project “Causes and Consequences of out Migration from Middle Ganga Plain” was also released during the inaugural session.

There were a total of two plenary sessions on the topics “Health and Development” and “Development in Bihar”, three special sessions on “Data Quality in NFHS”, “Gender” and “Migration” in addition to the 92 oral presentations in 12 technical sessions and 105 poster presentations. Plenary session on Health and Development focused on family planning scenario, major challenges in reaching to the vulnerable population groups and the role of recent policy initiatives such as Ayushman Bharat in ensuring universal health care. Another plenary session on “Development in Bihar” majorly dealt with the roadblocks in the development of Bihar including high total fertility rate, early marriage, illiteracy rate among women, neo-natal mortality, infrastructure etc.

The conference concluded with valedictory session, including a brief presentation on the three-day workshop by Dr. LK Dwivedi, and distribution of best poster awards. Shri Sanjay Kumar, IAS, Principal Secretary-Health, Dept. of Health, Govt. of Bihar, delivered the valedictory address by highlighting several issues confronting population stabilization efforts in Bihar. He assured that the papers presented on Bihar’s development would be taken note by the government for the implementation of various policies and programmes. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Patna University addressed the valedictory session and emphasized how deliberations in the conference help the policy makers especially in Bihar. The Director & Sr. Professor of IIPS, Dr. K. S James thanked the Patna University for making the seminar successful. At last, Prof. D.A. Nagdeve proposed the vote of thanks, to close the 3-day seminar.

Around 300 delegates attended the seminar. In addition to the Indian participants, international delegates also attended the seminar from Carleton University, Canada, University of California, and San Diego, USA etc.
Prof. D.A. Nagdeve, Prof. K C Das, Dr. Aparajita Chattopadhyay, Dr. LK Dwivedi and Dr. Suryakant Yadav organized the seminar.