



International Institute for Population Sciences

Professor P. N. Mari Bhat Memorial Lecture

23rd February 2024 | 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM | Venue: 3rd Floor, Library Building, IIPS

by

Dr. Shalini Singh

Director, ICMR- National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research (NICPR)

on the topic

“New insights in understanding Cancer”

Dr. Shalini Singh is the Director of the National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research (ICMR) and WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) Knowledge Hub on Smokeless Tobacco and of the National Tobacco Testing Laboratory, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India. Clinician scientist with more than three decades of work experience in various settings including in Medical College (University of Allahabad) providing clinical services and as a researcher at WHO Collaborating Centre for Research at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. She is also trained in bioethics with extensive experience in conceptualizing, designing and coordinating Reproductive and Public Health research. Her research was focused to reduce maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality; improving quality of health care; introducing evidence-based practices including use of technology in health services; testing clinical algorithms for improved diagnosis and better patient care; strategies to strengthen women's reproductive health rights for Respectful Maternity Care, Emergency contraception and reduction in unsafe abortion; and supporting research through identifying research priorities in tribal populations. Current areas of work focus are on promoting research for primary, secondary and tertiary prevention of cancer with emphasis on oral, breast and cervical cancer; capacity building of healthcare personnel in carrying out cancer screening; promoting health and wellness in clinic setting by addressing metabolic risk factors for prevention of cancer and other NCDs.



Prof. P.N. Mari Bhat (1951-2007) had a very distinguished academic career. He obtained his Ph.D. in Demography from University of Pennsylvania under the guidance of Dr. Samuel Preston, a renowned mathematical demographer. Prior to joining IIPS as its Director in 2005, Dr. Bhat worked as a Professor at the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, as Director of PRC at Dharwad, and as Associate Professor at Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum and also at ISEC, Bangalore. His research works reflected a unique combination of statistical acumen and social science perspectives in demographic research. He was pioneer in providing fertility and mortality estimates for colonial India and for the early decades of independence. For a detailed discussion on Prof. Bhat's research contribution to Indian demography, see “P.N. Mari Bhat: An Intellectual Tribute” by M. Das Gupta, S.H. Preston, V. Rao and T.V. Sekher, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. XLII (36), 2007.