



International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai (IIPS)

Prof. C. Chandrasekaran Memorial Lecture

You are cordially invited to the
24th Prof. C. Chandrasekaran Memorial lecture by

Dr. Santosh Kumar Gautam

Associate Professor of Development and Global Health Economics
at the University of Notre Dame

on the topic

From Womb to Mind:

How Early-Life Health and Nutrition Shape Cognitive Development in India

Date: 07th May 2026 | Time: 03:00 PM | Venue: Seminar Hall, IIPS Campus

Santosh Kumar Gautam is an Associate Professor of Development and Global Health Economics at the University of Notre Dame's Keough School of Global Affairs, with a concurrent appointment in the Department of Economics. He received his PhD in Economics from the University of Houston and completed his postdoctoral training at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. His research lies at the intersection of development economics, population health, and public policy, focusing on how early-life health, nutrition, and environmental conditions shape human capital formation and long-term socioeconomic outcomes in low-and middle-income countries. Using randomized controlled trials and quasi-experimental methods, his work examines the effects of maternal care, birth outcomes, and nutritional interventions on child health and cognitive development in settings such as India and Sub-Saharan Africa. His current research focuses on anemia and its impact on cognitive development in India and Ghana, with an emphasis on scalable, policy-relevant interventions. Professor Gautam has published in leading journals, including *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Journal of Population Economics*, *Demography*, *Population and Development Review*, *Social Science & Medicine*, and *Nature Communications Medicine*, and his research has informed policy discussions at institutions such as the World Bank, UNICEF, and the Government of India.



Professor Chidambara Chandrasekaran (1911-2000), known as the doyen of demography in India, was the Director of the International Institute for Population Sciences (then DTRC) from 1959 to 1965. Prof. Chandrasekaran obtained his Ph.D. in Statistics from the University of London in 1938. He also studied at the School of Hygiene and Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, USA. Prof. Chandrasekaran served as Population Adviser at ESCAP, Bangkok, and was associated with the World Bank and UNFPA as a Population Specialist. He was the President of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) from 1969 to 1973. He and Prof. W. E Deming developed the well-known Chandra-Deming formula to provide better estimates of vital events. This technique based on the dual record system was an innovation that is continuously being used by the Sample Registration System in India for collecting vital events. Prof. Chandrasekaran was instrumental in initiating and conducting the well-known Mysore Population Study in the early fifties, which was jointly undertaken by the Government of India and the United Nations. His autobiography -The Life and Works of a Demographer- was published in 1999.

Prof. U. S. Mishra, Dr. Srinivas Goli
Co-ordinators,
Publication Cell and Short-term Training Programmes,

Prof. D. A. Nagdeve
Director & Professor,
(Additional Charge)