



# MEMOIRS



## IIPS GLOBAL ALUMNI MEET 2021

Reconnect – Reinvigorate – Rejoice

Date: 24th – 26th September





**Dr. K.S. James**  
Senior Professor & Director  
Patron, IIPSAA



**Prof. Irudaya S. Rajan**  
President, IIPSAA



**Prof. Archana K. Roy**  
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## The Memoir Team



**Prof. R. Nagarajan**  
Professor & Head,  
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**Pooja Arora**  
Ph.D. Scholar, 3rd Year



**Poushaly Talukdar**  
Ph.D. Scholar, 1st Year





## Alumni Memoir

The Memoir Team was led by Dr. R. Nagarajan (Professor, Department of Development Studies, IIPS). IIPSAA Management Committee has given him the charge of contacting the alumni of the Institute, sending out personalised mail for getting their views on their alma mater for this e-booklet. Several alumni of the Institute, starting from the 1950's batch, happily contributed their memoir for this e-booklet. The memoirs penned by the alumni speak about the history and growth of IIPS, the influence of IIPS on the life and career of alumni, and the contribution of IIPS for the growth and development of the discipline of demography in Indian sub-continent and beyond, especially in Asian region. IIPSAA thanks all the alumni of the Institute who have contributed their memoirs for this e-booklet.

The booklet has been collated, designed and organised by two Ph.D. scholars who are currently studying at the Institute. Ms. Pooja Arora, is a third year scholar who shares her research interest in maternal and child health. Ms. Poushaly Talukdar, has recently joined her Ph.D. course and her research interest revolves around gender issues, female health and reproductive rights. IIPSAA appreciates their contribution for making this e-booklet in a short time period.

IIPSAA hopes that the alumni of IIPS will enjoy reading the memoirs. This is a small beginning. IIPSAA will continue to publish the memoirs in future as well. Those who could not contribute this time due to their busy schedule, can contribute to this endeavour in future. IIPSAA also takes this occasion to invite the longer memoirs from the senior alumni for publishing in its annual e-Newsletter.

**IIPSAA Management Committee**  
**24th September 2021**

We both, Pooja and Poushaly, as students consider ourselves fortunate enough for having the opportunity to bring this booklet together. It is not just another e-book about the alumni; it is an insight into the stories of the numerous individuals, who came to IIPS as a student just like you and me and went out as a complete, successful and established human being. It is like a time machine taking us through the memories of the students and faculties since the birth of the Institute in the year 1956. Through the stories, one can understand how the Institute has helped these individuals grow and itself has also grown in the process. We thank the IIPSAA Management Committee and IIPS for giving us this wonderful opportunity. We will cherish this experience forever.

**Ms. Pooja Arora &**  
**Ms. Poushaly Talukdar**





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

## **Memoir**

### **1950-1959**

- K.C. Zachariah 1
- K.V. Ramachandran 2
- M.V. George 7

### **1960-1969**

- M. Sivamurthy 12
- Arvind Zodgekar 13
- Tarun Kumar Roy 13
- K.S. Seetharam 14
- S.L.N. Rao 15
- Bali Ram 16
- H.C. Srivastava 16
- Shailendra Kumar Jain 17
- Ravi Verma 17
- Ashok Kumar 18
- G. Ramarao 18
- Gouranga L. Dasvarma 19

### **1970-1979**

- Sumati Kulkarni 22
  - C.P. Prakasam 23
  - J. Richard 24
  - A.T.P.L. Abeykoon 25
  - P. Puvanarajan 26
  - Shiva S. Halli 27
  - A.K. Sharma 27
  - Sulabha Parasuraman 28
  - S. Parasuraman 28
  - K. Srinivasan 29
  - Kamla Gupta 30
  - Shireen Jejeebhoy 30
  - Tim Dyson 31
-

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

## 1980-1989

• Madhuree Talwalkar	32
• Ravi Verma	32
• Arvind Pandey	33
• Dharmendra Pratap Singh	34
• P.S. Nair	34
• K. Navaneetham	35
• Dharma Arunachalam	35
• Tran Van	36
• Laisham Ladusingh	38
• V. Kurusu	38
• Prakash H. Fulpagare	39
• Mala Ramanathan	40
• Dhirendra Kumar	40
• Premlal Ratnaweera	41
• Parveen Nangia	42
• S. Irudaya Rajan	43
• Setio Nugroho	44
• Ponnambala Thiagarajan	44
• Ulmiri V. Somayajulu	45
• Rajiva Prasad	45
• Prabir Kumar Rath	46
• P.K. Bhargava	48
• A.G. Khan	48

## 1990-1999

• Sanghamitra S. Acharya	49
• Saumya Rama Rao	49
• Jameel Zamir	50
• S. Sureender	50
• K.G. Santhya	51
• Panthayil Babu Rajan	52
• Bashir Ahmad Bhat	52
• Udoy Saikia	53
• Syamala T.S.	54
• Nandini Roy	55
• Hanimi Reddy Modugu	57

---



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

• Sushanta Kumar Banerjee	57
• Rattan Chand	58
• Arni S.R. Srinivasa Rao	58
• Asharaf Abdul Salam	58
• Jayachandran A.A.	59
• Jayachandran Vasudevan	59
• Phanindra Babu Nukella	60
• Damodar Sahu	60
• Ramana Kumar Agnihotram	61
• Sreenivasan S. Panicker	62
• Lysander Menezes	62
• Nikhilesh Parchure	63
• Sandip Anand	63
• Vishal Dev Shastri	64

## **2000-2009**

• Aravinda Meera Guntupalli	65
• Priyamvada S Todankar	66
• Reena Basu	67
• Ashish Kumar Mishra	67
• Priyajit Samaiyar	68
• Ajeet Kumar Vishen	68
• Ranjana Singh	69
• Chetan Choithani	69
• Ranajit Sengupta	69
• Sangram Kishor Patel	70
• Saurabh Singh	70
• Daliya Sebastian	71
• Sourabh Chakraborty	71
• Shubh Swain	72
• Sudipta Mondal	72
• Ajay Kumar Singh	73
• Nandita Saikia	75
• Raghu Maharishi	75
• Mahesh Nath Singh	76
• Bidhubhusan Mahapatra	76

---

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

## **2010-2019**

• Atul R. Gandhi	77
• Debasis Barik	77
• Kunal Keshri	77
• Manoj Kumar Raut	78
• Ashish Kumar Gupta	78
• Kakoli Borkotoky	78
• Vivek K Mishra	79
• Akansha Singh	79
• Arpita Das	80
• Bhawana Sharma	80
• Sanjit Sarkar	80
• Jitendra Gouda	81
• Pradeep Salve	81
• Vipul Vaibhav Pandey	81
• Mukesh Ranjan	82
• Rishabh Tyagi	82

---



1956-1959



## The First Demographer: From DTRC to the World Bank

In every person's life occurs an event, a place, or a person that brings about a change. One that gives us a new direction, a purpose. Looking back at life, mine was IIPS. Most people consider me an alumnus, but I was never a student at IIPS. I instead, was its first officially appointed Demographer, in 1956. Not that I had any experience or expertise in demography. It just so happened that the then DTRC (Demographic Teaching and Research Centre, later renamed as the International Institute of Population Sciences) could not find anyone to fill that position and they offered me the job, though what I had applied for, was the role of statistician. And I thus became India's first 'Demographer', by title.

Little did I know of the subject then, but we had the opportunity to learn from the best teachers in the world, UN experts, foreign government officials and academia from across the world. Migration was not a hot topic then. As a demographer, there were many other areas to focus on. But those areas were already too crowded with researchers that, I wanted to do something new. Something that excited me.

The first UN expert at DTRC, Dr. Dorothy Thomas was an expert in the field of migration. My association with her helped widen my horizons in the field and I moved on to pursue my Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania. It was then that the University published a report on five-year long research on Internal Migration in the USA. It was the result of relentless efforts of a team of researchers headed by Dr. Dorothy Thomas. However, the report was harshly criticised in the Journal of the American Statistical Association, which disappointed everyone at the University. As a statistician I could understand that the reviewer had used the wrong mathematical formula to criticise the report. I reviewed the review, which was later published in the same journal. It was widely appreciated and I was acknowledged as a migration expert from then on. It was this event that got me recommended to the UN for preparing a manual on the methods for measuring internal migration.

My memories on IIPS dates back to the DTRC days, when we did not have a campus or an office space for ourselves. With an intention to coordinate the demographic projects of several educational and research institutions in and around Bombay, the DTRC by itself had five staff members and functioned at the Director's Bangalow of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, while I joined. On my very first day at work, the Director, Dr. K.C.K.E. Raja, who was a fatherly figure to me, took me to Govandi Station Road and showed me the proposed site for a permanent DTRC office and campus. It is on those 6 acres of land donated by the Tata Trust that the IIPS was built and flourished.

After long years of service at the DTRC, the United Nations and the World Bank, I joined the Centre for Development Studies (Trivandrum) as an Honorary Professor in 1990, where I met Dr. Irudaya Rajan who is also an alumnus of IIPS. Along with him I created one of India's largest migrant surveys, called the Kerala Migration Survey, which has now completed eight successful rounds and continues. This research design has now been replicated and executed in Tamil Nadu, Goa, Punjab and Gujarat. Dr. Rajan, has since then been my closest colleague and dearest friend. Over the years, I have authored or co-authored more than 30 journal articles, 20 books, 25 working papers and a majority of them with Dr. Rajan, after I turned 75. With him I co-founded the International Institute of Migration and Development (IIMAD) in 2019 and as the President of this innovative think tank, I aspire to bring together the expertise of researchers, academia, governments, journalists, media and all stakeholders in the society to undertake comprehensive migration and development research projects that can contribute towards policy making and efficient migration governance for the future.

If you think about it, it all started at IIPS. If not for that place, I would never have become a demographer, researched on migration, been to the places that I have been to or have experienced all that I have.

As I turn 98, I fondly remember all my colleagues, teachers, students, friends and mentors from across the world who have made me what I am. It has been a fruitful journey and I thank all the places, events and people that gave me directions, purpose and content.



**Prof. K.C. Zachariah**

First Faculty of IIPS  
President, The International Institute of  
Migration and Development (IIMAD),  
Thiruvananthapuram



*My memoir reflects on: how I was selected both at DTRC/IIPS (less qualified) and RIPS (unaware of job and in preference to an applicant-Director of IIPS); the birth of PPI and unveiling of CI; debunking of life expectation figure of India; mystery of sex change in the Philippines; hiding/omission of military in Republic of Korea and Iran; omission of huge number of male adults in Tanzania; facing expulsion from a country within 24 hours and extrication of a census in Somalia; establishing population figures in Sudan and Libya; over riding a country President's statement on infant mortality; bold defence of estimates of huge exodus of aliens and thus annoying the country (Ghana) and consequent threat of expulsion and survival for more than 9 years with great honour.*



**Prof. K.V. Ramachandran**

Former Faculty, 1957 to 1972, IIPS

Establishment of a teaching and research centre in India on population was accepted by our government at the Asian Population Conference in Bandung, Indonesia (1955) with the aim of creation of a cadre of trained professional in the field of population and related matters. DTRC (operational from September/October 1956) was fortunate to be provided facilities for starting of the centre at Bombay by Tata Trust making available the Directors Bangalow of TISS (Tata Institute of Social Sciences at Deonar) for opening of its office as also residence for the coordinating Officer, Dr. K.C.K.E. Raja, as well as lecture, laboratory facilities and hostel for the trainees- both Indian and foreign. Tata Trust gave land in nearby Govandi station road for building the hostel, classrooms, offices and Director's Bangalow.

My association with DTRC commenced on 1 February 1957 and continued till June 1972 with a break of slightly more than 3 years. My appointment was surprising because I had no knowledge of Demography and there were many candidates more qualified than me.

We were three at DTRC – Dr. Raja who was a true royal (Samudiri of Calicut Kingdom) was Coordinating officer/Director and he took charge of administering the Centre in addition to coordinating the programme with the parent Ministry (of Health), United Nations through the Economic Commission for Asia and Far East (ECAFE) which later became ESCAP with the membership of also Asia Pacific countries, and inclusion of social dimension of development and cooperating with several organizations in Bombay, Delhi, Poona and Calcutta.

Mr. Zachariah (he got his Ph.D. as part of staff development after some years' service at the Centre) was demographer and I, the statistician. Dr. Raja divided our responsibilities according to our job description. Mr. Zachariah who had both experience in statistics, demography and field research was designated to be in charge of research and I who had only teaching experience in statistics and related fields was put in charge of teaching.

UN provided experts at initial stage – Dr. Dorothy Thomas, Dr. Henry Shryock and Mr. Parker Mauldin to train not only the Indian and foreign students but specifically to guide us in the establishment of firm foundation for the Centre. We also benefited from experts from Japan, Myanmar, Egypt, Holand, USA, UK, etc. in our training and research endeavours. We decided that being the first and only Demographic Centre in the world, our aim should be to project it as a model for other such centres. The Cairo Demographic Centre in Egypt (for Arab and North Africa), CELADE in Santiago, Chile (for Latin America), and much later the two African centres – in Ghana and Cameroons were modelled on DTRC.

There was a Governing Body – first chairman Dr. Mathai followed by Prof. V.K.R.V. Rao (Delhi School of Economics) and an Advisory Council – first adviser, Dr. P.S. Lokanathan (Economist/ex Executive Director of UN ECAFE), followed by Shri Naval Tata (Tata Trust). We benefitted from these eminent personalities in shaping our teaching and research agendas.

As part of the course we introduced economics, sociology and social research, psychology, anthropology, physiology of reproduction, genetics, etc. (I accompanied the trainees to these courses and learned as much as the trainees). Also integrated into the course was some research elements by making the trainees to present two reports – a country study and a research paper relevant to their country/state etc. The country/region study was to familiarise the trainees with availability of relevant data in their country/region whereas the second study was to be deeper research into specific problems pertaining to their country/area and was to be presented at a seminar attended by students and teaching staff (including those from TISS). This was a dreaded ordeal because discussions in the seminar were quite serious and one has to defend his thesis.

But on the whole, trainees got out of stage fright and had taste of defending their thesis/research. These studies were bound and kept in our library.

Also to familiarise and expose the trainees to other similar activities, study tours were organised to Ministry of Health, Registrar General and Census Office, and Indian Council of Medical Research, and Delhi School of Economics, Indian Statistical Institute and All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, and Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona, etc.

These study tours were not only academic, there was action, drama, etc. During one such exercise at Gokhale Institute, Poona there was a skirmish between two of our students – but they were pacified and remained as close friends.

One of the immediate task was preparation of teaching schedules and initiation of research and survey activities. Our teaching staff were assigned teaching schedules and were expected to prepare lecture notes because there were no text books and the relevant literature was spread in journals, publications, etc. Also to derive maximum benefits – both for students and teachers – teaching subject was to be rotated and at least one topic should be new in each year. Though there was resistance from colleagues, in the end, everyone recognised that it was blessing for teachers and students,

Mr. Zachariah got interested in the field of migration and the final product is publication of *“Migrants in Greater Bombay – A Historical Study of Internal Migration in the Indian Subcontinent: 1901–31”*. Since I had no field experience, at the request of Indian Council of Medical Research and Bombay Municipality, a large scale survey of school children in Bombay city was initiated with collaboration and assistance from many persons. Our Indian students were also inducted into the project (though there were murmurs). We all learned a lot on various tests pertaining to anthropometric measurements, physical and mental efficiency, nutritional indices, etc. and about the dismal conditions in the schools and the several problems teachers and other members faced. Report of this survey was published by Asia Publishing House, with financial support from Population Council, New York. There was also another enquiry on the controversial question of sex ratio at birth in the country and its variation over the various regions which involved collecting birth registration data from hospitals in the country. A student (Mr. Basavarajappa) helped in this study which was published in an *Indian Health Journal*.

A UN expert (Dr. El Badry) had collected a sample of survey data on fertility in West Malaysia which was not analysed. Our first Malaysian student – Mr. G. Shantakumar analysed the data and a monograph *“Differential Fertility in West Malaysia”* was published by IIPS.

Even though a main focus of the DTRC was ensuring adequate data pertaining to population in the various countries served by the Centre, it was felt that quality of the data was also of paramount concern. Again, because of paucity of reliable information on vital parameters which was considered as essential, focus was on evaluation, adjustment and derivation of vital parameters from available data. At that stage, the task was enormous and was like solving a jig saw puzzle with a few pieces missing and some pieces distorted. To overcome this situation, heuristic and quick and dirty methods and consistency convergence techniques (based on simple measures like sex ratio, age ratio, survival ratio, growth rate, spatial distribution, forward and reverse projections, etc.) were utilised. The proof of the success of this idea was in estimating correctly the expectation of life India 1951–61 and forcing government to revise their exaggerated figure.

DTRC was committed to serve member nations and certainly our priority was to serve Maharashtra – our host – in analysis of 1961 census. With involvement of Indian trainees (Sivamurthy, Sarma, Vaidyanathan, Khopkar, Natekar and of course our teaching assistant V.A. Deshpande) we observed a strange phenomenon of rural age data being better than urban data. This resulted in creating a new index of digit preference– called Preference Pattern Index (PPI) which delighted the Census Superintendent, Maharashtra but cold reception at DTRC necessitating recognition from London. This led to unveiling of another index (CI: Carrier Index) and PPI shown as most appropriate and recognised. Unfortunately, we were responsible in creating headaches for our students to learn two other indices in their technical demography and PPI was more difficult to compute (especially in the era of grinding machines like Facit calculators). However, Sivamurthy wrote a simple programme in BASIC for computers and all four indices can be calculated by choosing the index after entering the data. Thus, the resistance from DTRC was a blessing because otherwise the index would find place only in the government publication which no one reads anyway. Seeing our work on Maharashtra, the new State of Gujarat requested similar study of their census– which also was carried out.

With similar approach, we unveiled (i) the hidden military populations (around a million men) in Republic of Korea, 1960 and Iran 1966 (by trainees from Korea and Iran), and (ii) the strange picture of a large number of males reported as females in the 1960 Philippines census (by trainees from the Philippines).

With this experience using similar technique, soon after I joined the Accra Centre (Ghana) in 1972, there was a serious problem on number of alien (other African nationals) exodus, resulting in government ordering my expulsion within a month unless my figures were proved correct. Not only was the crisis overcome, but I continued to stay in the country for many years.

Also it enabled identification of large omission of male adults in Tanzania 1966, resolve disputes on population size in Libya 1973 and Sudan 1973 and retrieve the 1975 census of Somalia which had been condemned as worthless. Similarly, infant mortality figures announced by the President (Uganda) himself was proved to be exaggerated and not only gracefully accepted but publicly applauded.

Population is a very sensitive issue – my two papers – (1) population in politics and (2) politics in population at the IUSSP meeting in Brazil details the various sensitive issues on population and how they could be surmounted and truth established.

DTRC was not stagnant, but grew by introducing the diploma, degree (even to Ph.D. level) and corresponding growth in staff strength. The scope of the Centre was widened by introducing courses on communications, family planning, etc. and increasing the staff. However, unfortunately there was bureaucracy, power struggle resulting in mental strain, suspected suicide of one of our former bright students and excellent teacher (Dr. Joginder Kumar), heart attack of a former student and a later Director (Dr. Rele), a situation of civil war culminating in a visit of a UN enquiry group, etc. Many of our excellent staff left for greener pastures.

When the hostel was built in Govandi, I was made warden and students joked that in their kingdom (of Deonar) Raja (Dr. K.C.K.E. Raja) was the king, and I was prince Ram of Govandi. This title however was very short lived because the real king of Govandi soon appeared in the hostel to claim his kingdom usurped by us– the illegal migrants. One night after dinner, one of our foreign students alerted me that there was some hissing sound under the cement bed in his room. We recognised that this is the signal of the King cobra to warn any intruder. Might played role in establishing our right against the legitimate owner.

A golden opportunity to widen the scope of our library acquisitions was presented in DTRC first because the subject covered the entire spectrum of human endeavour and Government of India, Tata Trust, United Nations (HQ New York and ECAFE Bangkok), Population Council (New York) and others provided ample funds to acquire any books/publications we needed.

In cooperation with colleagues like Mailini Karkal, V.A. Deshpande, Ms. Annama Thomas, students like Basavarajappa, Sivamurthy, George, Vaidyanathan and others we could fill our library with books, journals and research publications on various aspects of population. The only problem was that our poor librarian, Miss Sarah Abraham was overloaded and was constantly complaining. Incidentally, before a librarian was appointed, our Administrative Officer (Mr. Avari) had a very simple solution to the problem of just putting books, journals, etc. into files and storing them in steel cupboards (we were many times unaware of available publication which we needed badly). It was our efforts to streamline the processing of books and publications which resulted in the appointment of Miss Abraham. A solution to alleviate her load was found by on job/upgrading training of a Class-IV employee (Mr. Poonam Bhoja) who was the first one to join DTRC.

When ECAFE was designated as ESCAP to include Pacific countries, we received trainees from Fiji, Western Samoa, etc. and we learned many things e.g., that our Bible (UN Population Division Manual IV) needed revision. Until then we blindly believed that in evaluating data quality, the population aged 5-9 was more or less accurate and population of age 0-4 may be adjusted on that premise. In the Pacific countries children are counted twice or more due to cultural practices. This knowledge became helpful to me when a dispute arose in the 1973 Population Census of Libya. ILO experts had recommended Manual IV method. With the criteria of consistency convergence, it was demonstrated that the assumption would result in huge errors in future population estimates and financial and manpower allocation and unnecessary waste of human and material resources. This was proved correct in 1983 and 1993 censuses.

We were fortunate to have had two trainees from Africa – Mr. Daniel K Ghansah from Ghana and Mr. Julien Conde from Guinea. It was a very pleasant experience and paved way for my migration to the new population institute (RIPS) in Accra, Ghana in 1972.



Along with our hectic academic life, we had our quota of excitements and entertainments and clashes. I shall describe one such culture clash in a diverse student/teacher environment. We had four Indians, Mr. K.S. Gnanasekaran (Madras), Mr. C. Mathew (Kerala), Mr. J.R. Rele (Bombay) and Mr. V.R. Rao (Andhra) and four foreign students, Mr. B.B. Aromin (Philippines), Mr. K. Kobayashi (Japan), Mr. Nyen Myint (Burma) and Mr. C. Selvaratnam (Ceylon).

Soon after commencement of sessions, celebration of *Onam* came and Dr. Raja wished to give a typical *Onam Sadhya* (feast) to our students, teaching and other staff at his Bungalow. A typical Malayali lunch was prepared and keeping in view our motto of "*Adithi Devo Bava*" it was decided that guests should first be served by us before we partake of the food. Accordingly, our foreign students and teachers along with some of their friends and guests from our host TISS were to be served by us. Each was given responsibility in serving and I was to serve our speciality- *Chukku Vellom* (boiled water with dry ginger). Accordingly, I filled up the glasses of all the guests and made sure that every empty glass was promptly filled up. I noted that our Japanese guest Mr. Kobayashi was relishing our *Chukku Vellom* and in true Kerala tradition I was prompt to fill his empty glass till I noted that the stock of hot water was depleted. Real shock came the very next day when I met Mr. Kobayashi and appreciated his appetite for our typical "*chukku vellom*". His response was that he hated the water but since in his culture, one should consume what was served by the host, he was politely drinking the water. Then he queried me as to why I was keen on filling up his empty glass. I told him of our tradition of ensuring that the guests' plates are never to be empty. Thus the clash of culture. I shuddered to think how much anguish our student had to suffer. All of us had a hearty laugh over this incident but for all the time Kobayashi was in the Centre, he kept a safe distance away from me being afraid of yet another kind of potion to fill him up.

Another lesson I learnt from DTRC came about when the Director asked me to give a lecture to a group of teachers and students and the public on "Census – a national endeavour with international implications' as part of UN celebrating the 1960 round of censuses to be carried out during 1955-64.

Indian census was scheduled for February/March 1961 and the newly established Maharashtra government was planning their first census. I was very serious and prepared carefully to do justice to my task because the audience was expected to be many important personalities and foreign students.

After the lecture when I tried to pass through the exit door, I saw two hefty young men standing on either side and I had to literally squeeze through when one of the fellow pushed me to the other side shouting something in a foreign language. When I lurched to the other side, the hefty fellow on that side also pushed me and I fell down. I could not understand what they were telling nor the reason for their animosity against me. But soon, some of the audience came near me and lifted me up. Then I asked them why I was being treated so shabbily and abused. Only then did I know that the hefty fellows were Afghans (foreign students in some local college) who felt offended by some remarks in my lecture. They said that I have insulted Afghanistan by saying that they have 'no sense' and only then it dawned on me that I had indeed said that Afghanistan has 'no census' and since they have never heard the word census before, they thought that I have said that they have 'no senses'.

The official language of king (Raja) of DTRC was Malayalam – a large number of professional, administrative, clerical and service staff including kitchen helpers and many students (Mathew, George, Gnanasekaran and Selvaratnam ) spoke or understood that language. With this background, one evening after office time, Dr. Apte from Nutrition Research Laboratory, Hyderabad (helping me in the school survey had to be taken to VT station to catch his train and I told our driver (Krishnan – Tamil ) to take him to VT. He misunderstood or rather thought I was talking in Tamil/Malayalam and took him to his house (veed) in Kurla and only when Dr. Apte realised that instead of railway station, he has been taken to his house did he tell Krishnan to take him to VT station. Fortunately, the misunderstanding was realised and Dr. Apte caught his train.

A near tragedy was providentially averted by my imperious nature of ordering trainees to carry out my requirements. From beginning, I was in charge of trainees from the Philippines and in 1963 when we heard that Mr. Francisco Nazerat was nominated as UN Fellow, I was following his programme and knew that he was coming by United Arab Airlines and at the last minute ordered him to bring some recent publication from the country which I felt as necessary for his research. UNDP Manila conveyed this message and in true Filipino courtesy, he felt obliged to bring these materials – though conveyed to him at the airport waiting to board the flight. He left for his office to pick these publications and missed his flight– and thus lived to see another day. This flight plunged into the sea near Bombay airport with no survivors (28 July 1963). Even though he cheated death, he faced another near calamity when the Indian airline flight he joined



at Delhi was force landed in the Rajasthan desert– but there were no casualties but death was just very near the flight. Finally he arrived after these two incidents – a jolly old person – and was put up in our hostel in Govandi.

A few days after arrival, he had gone to Colaba in the evening on Friday – when foreign students felt relaxed from our tyranny of heavy homework, assignments, long lectures, etc. Since public transportation stops by 9 or 10 p.m., he along with another of our Fellows took a taxi and arrived after midnight. When the taxi driver demanded extra fare, and Nazaret favoured the extra payment but the other student was infuriated, went into the hostel kitchen and picked up a knife to confront the driver and Nazaret. In the gap, the shaken driver had run away and only Nazaret was available. Sensing trouble, Nazaret ran to nearby Govandi station and started running on the railway track to Chembur followed closely by his colleague. Somehow both arrived in Chembur Railway station and went to the Directors house nearby where the Gurkha recognised and sent them back in a car.

Next morning I heard of the drama of the previous night and realised what a narrow escape from death both these fellows faced because the rail track runs over the sea and there are quite large gaps in the track, the night was dark, it was raining and moreover the track is infested with poisonous snakes. I scolded them and warned stern action for any future acrobatics. But both completed their studies honourably and I had contacts with them for many long years.

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▲ Fig. 8 John D Durand of the Population Division, United Nations, at DTRC, Bombay (1961)  
Seen in the picture with John D Durand and C Chandrasekaran are V V Bhanaji Rao, M Sivamurthy and SP Mohanty.



▲ Fig. 9 John D Rockefeller 3rd at the DTRC, Bombay. (1960)

## Some reminiscences of an alumnus

I belonged to the second batch of the IIPS, 1958–1960 as Government of India Fellow and graduated with a post-graduate Diploma in Demography in 1960. After my Master's in economics, I was working as research analyst at the Demographic Research Unit of the Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University when I was selected for studies at IIPS.

I had to pass a medical test to qualify for the scholarship. Dr. Vasirani, the medical doctor who examined me, certified that I was underweight and he put me under observation for six months. Fortunately, before the end of the period I could make up the weight deficiency thanks to the nourishing food provided at the hostel.

IIPS was then known as Demographic Training and Research Centre (DTRC), a regional Centre for the ESCAP region. Very few people in those days knew the meaning of the term 'demography'. I remember the Centre used to get mail addressed to Democratic Training and Research Centre. DTRC became International Institute for Population Studies (IIPS) in 1970. Later the name was changed to International Institute for Population Sciences, keeping the same abbreviated title IIPS.

The study courses were: Technical Demography; Substantive Demography; Statistics; Sociology; Methods of Social Research and Field Survey Techniques; Human Genetics; Physiology of Human Reproduction and Family Planning. Most of the courses were covered in the first year, including the additional work of completing a research report on a selected topic and presenting it in a seminar. This enabled the student to qualify for a Certificate in Demography. The second-year programme consisted of seminar attendance; additional technical demography exercises; and participation of Centre's research works. There were four Indian Fellows in my batch but only two of us, Dr. K.G. Basavarajappa and I graduated with Diploma in 1960. Sad to mention that Dr. Basavarajappa, a long-term colleague and friend, died in 2020 in Ottawa, Canada after an illustrious career in demography.

The Institute was much smaller than that of today in terms of the number of buildings, equipment, students and staff. I still remember the manual Facit machine which we had to use for all the calculations by rotating its handle back and forth. However, the innovative teaching programme developed by the then faculty, the quality of the faculty members and the study and research atmosphere were excellent. The fewer number of students and faculty created an envious atmosphere for studies by getting more attention and help from the staff and enjoying the facilities.

I had the privilege of studying under two Directors, Dr. K.C.K.E. Raja and Dr. C. Chandrasekaran. Dr. Raja - a medical doctor and the Government of India former Director General of Health - one of the finest persons I have known, was the Director only for the first two years, 1956–1958. It was during his period that a comprehensive training programme in demography was developed by the then faculty out of nothing for guidance, which was widely accepted as one of the best programmes for formal training in demography. Dr. Chandrasekaran, who succeeded Dr. Raja, because of his overwhelming stature as demographer with wide ranging experience, could bring about notable progress in the training programme as well as in research activities.

Another notable aspect of IIPS's training and research programme at that time was the presence of very eminent demographers as UN Experts in addition to the brilliant Indian teaching faculty. Dr. Dorothy Thomas of University of Pennsylvania and Dr. Henry Shryock of the US Census Bureau, the two world renowned experts in the field of internal migration, whom I happened to know later, had just left the Institute by the time I joined. I had, however, the privilege of studying with Dr. Margaret Bright of John Hopkins University, Dr. R.M. Sundaram from Burma (Myanmar), Dr. J. Meerdink of Netherlands Statistical Bureau and Donald Bogue of University of Chicago. Dr. Frank Notestein of Princeton University was also there during that time on a short assignment and gave a series of selected seminars. The Indian faculty, in addition to Dr. Chandrasekaran, consisted of Dr. K.C. Zachariah and Dr. K.V. Ramachandran who developed the courses in technical demography, substantive demography and statistics, and the research programme of the Centre. They were excellent professors and researchers. Dr. Chandrasekaran was well known for his research in fertility, family planning, and sample surveys. Dr. Zachariah had pioneered the research on internal migration in India.



**Prof. M.V. George**

CPS 1958–59; DPS 1959–60  
Adjunct Faculty Member,  
Departments of Global Health and Sociology,  
Emory University, Atlanta, USA.  
Former Senior Advisor, Demography,  
Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Canada





M.V. George working in the room using the Facet manual calculator

My foundation in formal demography was laid during the two years when I was at the Institute. Special mention may be made of my research opportunity and experience. For the completion of the first year Certificate Programme, the topic of my research report was a study on fertility differentials in Kerala using mainly census data on number of children ever born to women. It was done under the guidance of Dr. Ramachandran.

In the second year, one of the research works I did was the analysis of a survey data on fertility and family planning of Bengalee women under Dr. Chandrasekaran. It was indeed a unique experience. When I completed the analysis of the data, the drafting of the paper was done at Dr. Chandrasekaran's residence at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in the evenings after dinner. It was the first experience in drafting a technical paper jointly with a great demographer, which reminded me of the ancient *gurukula* education in India. This paper, entitled, "Mechanism Underlying the Differences in Fertility Patterns of Bengalee Women from Three Socio-economic Groups" was published in *Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly* (Vol. X, No. 1, 1962), co-authored with Dr. C. Chandrasekaran.

Another equally important research activity was the internal migration research I could do with Dr. Zachariah and Dr. Donald Bogue. This paved the way for my specialization in migration and to prepare a Ph.D. thesis on internal migration at the Australian National University, Canberra and then to produce the first census monograph on internal migration in Canada while working with Statistics Canada, Ottawa. It also helped in my assignment as UN Expert at the Cairo Demographic Centre, 1973-74 and to contribute to the seminar programme and monograph on 'Urbanization and Migration in Some Arab and African Countries'.

I may also add that pursuits in education and employment have made me a "hyper mover," as an internal mover within India, and as an international mover to 4 countries (Australia for Ph.D. at ANU; Canada working at Statistics Canada in various positions, 1966-2003; Egypt at the Cairo Demographic Center as UN Expert; and USA in Atlanta, 2004 - to the present, worked at Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and currently on Adjunct Faculty at Emory University) over the past 59 years.

In the early years, the main buildings of the Institute were the office building, and the hostel building - a unique type in terms of its architectural design with open courtyard and rooms around it and other facilities. The rooms were for single occupancy, each equipped with attached bath, concrete bed with Dunlop mattress and concrete desk. The only movable thing in the room was a table lamp which one could rotate. The hostel was by the side of a paddy field and there were snakes around the compound. Infact, Dr. Raja got the outer walls of the building smoothed to prevent the snakes crawling on the walls and entering inside. The watchman Gurkha and others have killed several snakes around the premise in the early days. When I visited the Institute on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations and Alumni Meet in 2006, I noticed that the old hostel was replaced by the current multistoried hostel and I could not recognize the place I knew.

The hostel life was stimulating and memorable. There were only about 20 students in the hostel, both Indian and foreign combined. With fewer students there was ample chance to participate in the available indoor games such as table tennis, carom, chess and bridge. Dr. Ramachandran was the warden in the first year and Dr. Zachariah in the second year. There were then two types of mess, one for the Indian students and the other for the foreign students;

both were run by the students. The chief cook and one or two assistants in the kitchen were from Kerala. Because of the language advantage, the two Malayalam speaking students, Dr.C. Mathew and I had to alternate as mess Secretary during the two years to run the mess efficiently and economically. The hostel day was a gala event with various competitions and a dinner get-together attended by the faculty and invited guests. I remember to have got a prize at the last hostel day I attended for the best kept hostel room among the male students. With the good facilities at the hostel, we also had the privilege of entertaining many eminent visitors to the Institute from India and elsewhere. I still remember the meticulous instructions and rehearsals of things to be done by the then Warden, Dr. Zachariah in organizing the special lunches.

The DTRC at that time had a small bus for the use of the staff and students with Mr. Krishnan as driver. This was essential as public transportation to the Centre was poor. There were only very few buses coming to Deonar where the Centre was located. The other transportation possibility was taking the train from Govandi Station. The road going to Govandi Station, however, was terrible to walk by as both sides of the road were littered with human shit and one had to walk very fast or run by closing the nose to escape from the stinking odor coming from the excrement.

Another interesting matter of necessity was that since Deonar was an isolated place with no entertainment activity, driver Krishnan used to take the students in the Center's bus to Bombay city on weekends where we could go to a movie or visit places of interest. We returned to the hostel by the bus before dinner time.

Two notable events took place during my two years. The first was the UN sponsored seminar, "Evaluation and Utilization of Population Census Data for Asia and the Far East" in July 1960. Eminent demographers from India and abroad participated in the seminar. Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao, Director of Delhi School of Economics and Institute of Economic Growth of Delhi University and Chairman of the Governing Body of IIPS, and Dr. C. Chandrasekaran acted as its Chairman and Technical Director, respectively. Dr. Anseley Coale of Princeton University acted as the moderator and rapporteur. There were also several eminent discussion leaders, including Dr. S. Chandrasekhar, who later became the Health Minister of India. The two volumes of the Seminar report are one of the best references on the subject.

The second event was the Institute's convocation in 1960. In those days with fewer students and staff the ceremony was relatively simple without the usual pomp and wearing of gowns and hood for convocations. A couple of days before the convocation, Director, Dr. Chandrasekaran came to the hostel to talk to the students about the arrangements and program of the convocation. At that time one hilarious incident occurred. One girl student, Tip from Thailand, asked the Director about the type of dress one should wear for the convocation. Dr. Chandrasekaran in his characteristic smile looked at Tip and jokingly said "the less the better". This created a lot of laughter among those present. It demonstrated Dr. Chandrasekaran's sense of humor.

.Dr. Frank Notestein, eminent demographer of Princeton University was the Chief guest for the Convocation. He gave an eloquent and inspiring convocation address. I have used one of his thoughtful quotes from this address in a paper, "Demography a Multidisciplinary Science". Since demographic statistics relate to the most significant events in each person's life, Notestein emphasized the need to take extreme care in analyzing demographic data. He said, "When a demographer deals with birth statistics, he has to remember that each of the figures represents a son or daughter; when he deals with deaths, he has to remember that each represents a tragedy; when he deals with migration, he has to remember that it means a movement of homes; when he deals with marriage, he has to remember that he is dealing with a basic institution of human society".

The Institute by then had also added sample surveys as part of its research programme. The family planning survey in Greater Bombay was the first survey conducted under Dr. Ramachandran and Dr. Bogue. I recall a hilarious incident or joke which became known in connection with this survey thanks to Dr. Ramachandran. He and another staff member, Mr. Deshpandey were interviewing candidates to hire as Investigators. They were interviewing a fresh graduate by asking several questions. One question was on "menstrual cycle". He was asked to describe what he knew of menstrual cycle. He was puzzled by the question, thought for a moment and said, he knows of so many brands of cycles like Raleigh, Hercules, etc. but never heard of this brand of a cycle.



M.V. George standing outside in the open courtyard of the hostel



During the past 65 years, IIPS from its small beginning as DTRC became an international institute with the status of a Deemed university. It is indeed a great progress and remarkable achievement. As far as I know, I.N.E.D. in Paris may be the only other comparable institution of this type entirely devoted to teaching and research in population and related fields. May IIPS grow further and maintain its enviable position with numerous accomplishments in the years to come!

I am happy to note that the new dynamic Alumni Association management is arranging the first Global Alumni Meet this year. The IIPS alumni are spread around the world, building a career in their fields of expertise or in further studies, or in a retired life after a successful career in their profession. As an old alumnus of the IIPS, I consider it a privilege to share some of my reminiscences of interest during my time at IIPS as memoir on this occasion. The Alumni Meet will be a good platform to celebrate alumni achievements and their journeys after leaving IIPS. Best wishes for the Alumni Meet!

**1958-1966 Cohort of DTRC Alumni with the former Director Dr. C. Chandasekaran, Atlanta, USA, circa 1970**



Photo Courtesy: Dr. S.L.N. Rao

From left to right: Dr. Ghazi Farooq of Pakistan (not an alumni), Dr. G. Nanjundappa, Mr. B.D. Kale (not an alumni), Dr. Gnansekaran, Dr. Krishan Kohli, Dr. C. Chandrasekaran (Former Director, DTRC), Mrs. Chandrasekaran, Mrs. Kohli, Dr. Kuthiala, Dr. Tara Patankar, Dr. S.L.N. Rao, Dr. Joginder Kumar, Dr. Hanumantharayappa, Mrs. Zodgekar, Dr. Arvind Zodgekar, Sachin Zodgekar (child)

DECADE  
1960-1969







Photo Courtesy: Prof. M.V. George

This group was taken after the DTRC (now IIPS) UN Seminar in Bombay 1960. The list below provides the names of the attendees, including the DTRC staff and students in 1960, with others from India and outside who attended the seminar.

SITTING (L. to R.)		U. N. SEMINAR, BOMBAY 1960	
1. Mr. Amphorn Arunrangsri	8. Miss Nora Powell		
2. Mr. Amir S. Shaheen	9. Mr. Ansley J. Coale		
3. Mr. Manicka Iddaikadar	10. Mr. Fazl Haque Khaliqyar		
4. Mr. Frank W. Notestein	11. Mr. Ashok Mitra		
5. Mr. C. Chandrasekaran	12. Mr. Tomio Fumoto		
6. Mr. Jean Bourgeois-Pichat	13. Mr. K.M.A. Barnett		
7. Mr. V.K.R.V. Rao			
STANDING, First Row (L. to R.)			
1. Mr. Sultan S. Hashmi	14. Miss Lucila J. Lagamon		
2. Mr. Jae Ho Lee	15. Miss S. Tamrazian		
3. Mr. Harry Fell	16. Miss Tip Chalothorn		
4. Mr. Kim Yun	17. Miss N. Coelho		
5. Mr. U. Than Muang	18. Miss M. Coelho		
6. Mrs. Ma-Than-E Fend	19. Mr. Najibullah Amerkhail		
7. Mr. Richard Paw U	20. Mr. John Pike		
8. Mr. S. Hoermann	21. Mr. R. B. Lal		
9. Mr. Alfares G.J.K. Latumoten	22. Monsieur Sithay Long		
10. Mr. Bui Quang Minh	23. Mr. Donald J. Bogue		
11. Mr. M. Chau Van Lieng	24. Mr. Kazumasa Kobayashi		
12. Mr. Kwat S. Sie	25. Mr. Pushkar Nath Pant		
13. Mr. Conrado P. Almuete	26. Mr. Azizullah Khogyani		
STANDING, Second Row (L. to R.)			
1. Mr. A. F. Seldon	9. Mr. K. G. Basavarajappa		
2. Mr. J. N. Bhatta	10. Mr. M. V. George		
3. Mr. H. Kawabe	11. Mr. S. N. Agarwalla		
4. Mr. Robert Daumieres	12. Mr. Ashish Bose		
5. Mr. P. C. Bebarta	13. Mr. C. Mathew		
6. Mr. S. D. Badgaiyan	14. Mr. K. S. Gnanasekaran		
7. Mr. D. P. Dandekar	15. Mr. K. V. Ramachandran		
8. Mr. K. C. Zachariah			

Photo Courtesy: Prof. M.V. George



## My encounter with and continuation of Demography

I was attending an interview in Karnatak University, Dharwad, for a Lecturers' position in the Post-Graduate Department of Statistics, after making the decision to leave the Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai. The Vice Chancellor of Karnatak University, at that time, Dr. D.C. Pavate, told me in the interview itself that I will be given the job, on the condition that I would go to Mumbai to study Demography in the newly started DTRC (Demographic Training and Research Centre) - now known as International Institute for Population Sciences (the IIPS). That was the first time I heard about the subject of Demography and also about DTRC. Although I tried to resist this proposal - saying that I am not interested in Applied Statistics such as Demography, this was not accepted by the Vice Chancellor. Thus, I joined DTRC with a fellowship from the Government of India. Now, looking back, I must say that it was a turning point in my life.



**Prof. Mathada Sivamurthy**

DPS 1961-62

Former Faculty at Cairo Demographic Centre, Egypt.

Chester Springs, Pennsylvania, USA

I completed my Diploma in Demography from the DTRC and returned to Karnatak University and started teaching. At the same time, Dr. K.G. Basavarajappa, who was a staff member in the Department, accepted a teaching position at the Australian National University (ANU). Also, a classmate of mine from DTRC - Jaipal P. Ambannavar, received a fellowship to do Ph.D. in the ANU. Both of them encouraged me to apply for the Ph.D. fellowship in the ANU. I was fortunate to be accepted for a Ph.D. at the ANU. My joy was doubled when Dr. Basavarajappa became my Ph.D. guide. Dr. K.G. (as we used to call him) allowed me the freedom to choose the subject for my Ph.D. thesis. Without realising the risk involved in choosing a new theoretical subject for a Ph.D. research, I took up the theoretical analysis of the Population Growth and changes in the age-sex structure when population is affected by migration. I also produced several numerical models using Australian data, and then successfully verified the theoretical models with actual results. Thus, my thesis was approved and I got the Ph.D. degree. Later, this work was published by the Academic Press, London and received good reviews. When I conveyed the news of this publication to our Director of DTRC, Dr. C. Chandrasekaran, he patted me on the back saying that he was very happy that a book by an Indian - that too, an Alumni of DTRC - was published by the Academic Press.

After I returned to continue teaching in Karnatak University following completion of my PhD, I was invited by the IIPS on two occasions to write research papers for conferences that they convened. One paper was on Mortality Policies in India and other countries; and the other was on developments in techniques for estimating ASFR (Age-Specific Fertility Rates) from limited data. As an alumni of the institute, I felt very happy to have been given these opportunities.

Subsequently, in 1974, I joined the Cairo Demographic Center, Egypt, as a United Nations Demographic Expert and focused on research and training students from several developing countries. During my tenure there, my colleague: Dr. K.S. Seetharam and I published a book on: "Indirect Methods for Mortality Estimation", which provides details of methods for several developing countries for obtaining mortality measures with limited data. After I retired from the UN and returned to India, I established the AppStaR Center (Applied Statistics Research Center) in Bengaluru and Dharwad, to continue research in the field of Applied Statistics including Demography. The IASP (Indian Association for the Study of Population) - the premier Population Association of India, felicitated me in their 2011 Annual Conference held in Lucknow. During this conference, I had the opportunity to present my work on the Analysis of Fertility in India and Its States using Indexes derived from Non-Reproductive Life Tables. This work caught the attention of an editor from the LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, Saarbrücken, Germany, resulting in the publication of my Book in 2013 entitled: Non-Reproductive Life Tables for India and its States (Study of Fertility in India and its States).

While there might be many others of my fellow alumni who have contributed much more in the field of Demography, I am grateful for the opportunity to share some of my contributions to the field. I thank Professor R. Nagarajan for contacting me.



I was at IIPS from 1964-68. I was a staff member as well as student during this period. This is where I got exposed to the field of demography. My experience at IIPS helped me tremendously in shaping my career. I was able to go to America to do my Ph.D. in demography. Subsequently I moved to New Zealand as a University academic and retired from my teaching position in 2007. During my career in New Zealand I was responsible for teaching demography. I was also involved in forming the Population Association of New Zealand. I am on its council as well as a past President. As a recognition of my contribution in promoting demographic discipline in New Zealand, the Population Association of New Zealand made me the first life member of the association. I am now retired since 2007 and enjoying my life traveling around the World and playing golf and bridge.



**Prof. Arvind Zodgekar**

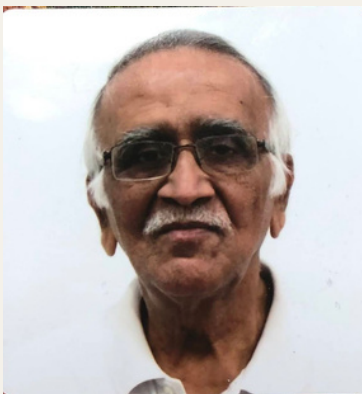
CPS: 1965-66; DPS: 1966-67  
Victoria University of  
Wellington (Retired),  
New Zealand

#### 1964-1966 Cohort of DTRC Selected Alumni, Atlanta, 1970



Photo Courtesy: Dr. S.L.N. Rao

From left to right: A. Zodgekar, K. Seetharam, Mrs. Zodgekar, Sachin (boy), B. Kale (not an alumnus), S.L.N. Rao, Mrs. Kohli, K. Kohli



**Prof. T.K. Roy**

Former Faculty (1966-1999) &  
Director and Senior Professor  
(1999-2004), IIPS

I have spent my entire career (38 years) at this wonderful institution, IIPS Mumbai. Naturally, this is where I gained my knowledge in demography. It was aptly mentioned by a famous demographer once, that "If you breathe in the Chembur Institute, you automatically become a demographer". The students' seminar sessions, I feel, were the ideal ground for the breathing! They were engaging and enlightening and motivated both faculty and students to do further research and helped in the art of questioning. Even after almost two decades of retirement, I am still enthused by that energy – toying forever with demographic data, nowadays as a hobby!

## Recollections of Life and Learning at IIPS

I joined the Demographic Training and Research Centre (DTRC, now IIPS) in 1964 to assist in the project “Migrants in Greater Bombay” and continued until its completion in 1965. During this period, I also worked on estimating “Inter-state migration in India, 1951-61” and Dr. K.C. Zachariah, the principal author, included me as a co-author of the paper under the same title which was published in the *Indian Journal of Public Health* in 1968. This was truly inspirational for me and the experience I gained working at IIPS motivated me to join the Certificate Course in Demography in 1965 and continue on to complete Special Diploma in 1967.

The training at IIPS provided me the solid foundation to pursue advanced study at the University of Pennsylvania where I continued my focus on issues of migration, urbanization and population redistribution and widen my interest and future work on the broader issues of population and development.

The highest quality of training and the unique learning and social environment at IIPS laid the foundation and provided the skillset that were central to my career with the United Nations. The international makeup of the student body and faculty and the co-ed nature of the hostel at IIPS were unique at the time. IIPS was also far ahead of its times in dealing with a multicultural student body helping them not only intellectually but also in caring for their emotional and overall wellbeing.

IIPS provided a learning environment that was stress free and enjoyable. The post-lunch bridge sessions and frequent trips to the city to see movies, joined by members of the faculty, are some examples of the informal nature of the faculty-student relationship.

Looking back, there are many personal experiences and events from my time at IIPS that are fresh in my memory of which the following have had lasting impact both in my personal and professional life.

It was the practice at IIPS to assign one of the students to accompany a visiting dignitary to the airport as a matter of courtesy and to be of help to them. On one such occasion I was assigned the task. As the flight was delayed I took the dignitary to the lounge for coffee/tea. Due to my youthful innocence I invited the driver too to get him a coffee, as it was very late in the night. The matter was promptly reported to the Director, Dr. Chandrasekaran, and I was called to his office the next day. I walked into the office mindful that I might get schooled on appropriate protocol. To my pleasant surprise the Director was appreciative and encouraged me to treat everyone with dignity, a lesson that I have always carried with me.



**Dr. K.S. Seetharam**

CPS 1965-66; DPS 1966-67  
United Nations, UNESCAP, UNFPA & ILO  
(Retired)

When I was working on the project “Migrants in Greater Bombay”, I was assigned to supervise two young graduates to do the laborious task of sorting and tabulation of data using the punch cards. The work was not progressing as planned which I felt was due to lack of their focus. I reported it to Dr. Zachariah who asked me to put the matter in writing and warned me that if I did they could lose their jobs. He suggested instead that I be patient and work with them to improve their skills. Being patient together with being a good listener remained central to my career as an adviser with the United Nations.

As I read about the issue of mental health affecting societies, the following incident comes to my mind. An international student, a good friend of mine and an outstanding student, was showing signs of distress to the point of self-harm. I brought the matter to the attention of the faculty. In dealing with the situation, the faculty understood the psychological and mental stress that he was going through being separated from loved ones back home. Upon careful consideration of the situation including the fact that it was near the end of the academic year he was given the needed support and allowed to continue and successfully complete his study. Issues like this were taboo subjects at that time but are important today. The compassionate and professional way the faculty handled the situation at that time is commendable.

In closing I express my appreciation for the efforts of IIPS and IIPSAA to compile this memoir and am happy to share some snapshots of life and learning at IIPS from 50+ years ago.



### A tribute to my Alma Mater: IIPS

I have studied at many citadels of learning, including the Universities of Mysore, North Carolina, Michigan and Pennsylvania. But, my training in demography at DTRC/IIPS is by far the most rigorous and most complete. The intellectual nourishment and technical skills that were imparted to me by the Institute during 1966–1967 were immaculate and have served me very well all my life, whether it was my subsequent student days in the US, teaching career at universities in the US and elsewhere or my long years of service with the United Nations.

Most importantly, DTRC/IIPS inculcates in its students, for life, a sense of heritage, solidarity and an ever-lasting bond. Over the years, IIPS has become an Alma Mater for hundreds of alumni scattered all over the world.

The Alumni-Reunion-Get-togethers at, among others, PAA Meetings, IUSSP Meetings or UN-sponsored Global Meetings used to renew afresh our collective fraternity. We used to be affectionately called the DTRC Boys or IIPS Fellows-- a title that I loved with pride, still love and will cherish forever.

In closing, I would like to, as a senior alumnus, pay tribute to my temple of learning and wish that her sterling reputation last through eternity.



**Dr. S.L.N. Rao**

CPS 1966–67

Senior Director at UNFPA (Retired),  
New York, USA

**DTRC/UNC Alumni Receiving Dr. C. Chandrasekaran  
at Raleigh Airport, 1967**



From left to right: Mr. Krishan Kohli, Ms. Shipra, Mrs. Chandrasekaran, Dr. C. Chandrasekaran, Dr. S.L.N. Rao, Mr. Jag Sehgal, Mr. Prem Talwar

**Selected Alumni of DTRC and UNC, Circa 1968**



From left to right: Mr. K. Kohli, Mr. K. Seetharam, Mr. RSS Sarma, Mr. S.L.N. Rao



From left to right: Ms. Shipra, Mr. P. Talwar, Mr. K. Kohli, Mr. RSS Sarma, Mr. S.L.N. Rao)

Photos Courtesy: Dr. S.L.N. Rao







**Prof. Bali Ram**

CPS 1966-67; DPS 1967-68  
Adjunct Professor, Sociology,  
Western University, London, Ontario,  
Canada, and Carleton University,  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

I belong to the 1966-1968 cohort of IIPS. Coming from a background in sociology and social work, I found demography, as a discipline, completely alien to me. Fortunately, my training at IIPS opened the door for the rest of my career. I went on to complete my M.A. (Western) and Ph.D. (Ohio State) degrees in sociology; however, demography always remained my area of specialization. My IIPS training was of such superior quality, that my Ph.D. supervisor, Professor William Petersen, exempted me from taking the required courses in technical demography during my doctoral studies at Ohio State. I spent my career as a demographer at Statistics Canada, where I held the positions of Chief, Demographic Characteristics Section and Senior Research Advisor, Demography Division. I was lucky to have among my colleagues at Statistics Canada several IIPS alumni such as Drs. K.G. Basavarajappa, M.V. George, K. Gnanasekaran, and Ravi Verma.

During my more than three decades stay on the institute's campus, I have plenty of memories for different spheres of campus life and I am grateful to IIPS for providing me opportunity for the same. Due to constrain of words, I shall confine with the following anecdotes:

As Demographic Training and Research Center now (IIPS) was the Regional center for the ESCAP region there used to be around 20 UN fellows from different countries. All trainees-Indians and UN fellows- were residing in a same hostel comprising 24 rooms, common mess, lounge with facility of sitting space having TV, newspapers and few recreation facilities viz. carom and Table Tennis and a badminton court made by the trainees including myself. Subsequently few residential buildings were constructed on the campus and students, some faculty and staff members used to live on the same campus like joint family. There used to be cordial interaction among all residents of the campus. Different festivals viz. Holi, Ganesh festival, Christmas, Eid, etc. were celebrated with enthusiasm. An interesting practice was adoption of the UN fellows by some local families. Foreigners were invited to visit such families and fruitful exchange of socio-cultural aspects were shared. It was an opportunity of getting enriched with each other's way of life. Fond memories of those days are eternal.



**Prof. H.C. Shrivastava**

CPS 1967-68  
Professor (Retired) (1970-2004), IIPS





**Dr. Shailendra Kumar Jain**

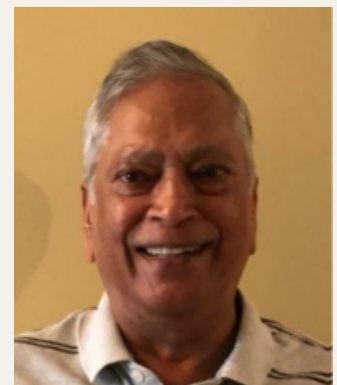
CPS 1967-68

Australian Bureau of Statistics,  
Demography Section (Retired)

My career as a demographer began with my training at IIPS. In 1967, I completed the certificate course in Demography. Nearly 30 participants comprising public servants from government departments in India, South East Asia and independent research students were enrolled. All of us lived as a family in a hostel provided by IIPS in close proximity of the institute's main building.

Soon after completion of my certificate course, I went to USA for a Master's degree in Public Health (1967-68) and a Ph.D. in demography in Australia (1968-72). I worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra during 1972-73. Several appointments followed – 1973-76 to start a teaching and research programme in demography at a University in Ghana, 1976-84 to be a faculty member of the newly started Master's program in demography at the ANU, and 1984-2006 to work as Assistant Director of Demography Section of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Canberra. Finally I retired in 2006 from the Australian Government Service and now happily live in Canberra.

On taking leave from working as the Research Officer, Demographic Research Centre, Dept. of Statistics, Patna University and receiving a fellowship from DTRC, Mumbai, I joined the excellent certificate course in Demography from July 1968 to June 1969. I used to live in Room Number 3 at the DTRC hostel, sharing with Mr. Bhat from Jammu and Kashmir. The room was very nice with the attached bathroom. At the hostel mess, I used to get three meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner). I ate corn flex at the first time there. My favourite teachers were: Dr. S.N. Agrawala, Dr. J.R. Rele, Mrs. Vastala Narain and Dr. K.E. Vaidyanathan. My classmates were: Sunada Mitra, Bhat, Ashok Kumar, Balasubramanian, Rama Rao, etc. I acquired a Silver medal for securing second rank which helped me to get higher degrees, and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania and Georgia. USA.



**Dr. Ravi Verma**

CPS 1968-69

Statistics Canada (Retired)  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada



Dr. Shailendra Kumar Jain receiving certificate in convocation ceremony from Prof. S. Chandrasekar



Dr. Ravi Verma receiving a Silver medal from Dr. S. Chandrashekar, Minister for Health and Family Planning at DTRC Convocation, June 6, 1969



That afternoon in early July 1968, the sky was overcast, and the whole atmosphere did not dispose of anything good, but suddenly I saw a postman with an envelope in his hand. I opened the letter and read it out loud. It said that I was selected to join Certificate Course in Demography at DTRC, Bombay with free hostel and Rs. 250 per month scholarship. My dream came true! I was filled with happiness and excitement. The course was to start on the third Monday of July. After a lot of opposition from my family, somehow I managed to reach Dadar. I took taxi and reached Govandi-Station Road campus. My first encounter in the hostel was with Sawant, a very dedicated and silent worker in the hostel. On Monday morning after briefing, we were taken to a lab and each one of us was allotted a locker and a heavy machine of steel known as Facit for manual calculation purpose. That was the time when electronic calculators were not available. Coming from social science background, statistics and calculations were tough for me. But, a very supportive culture nurtured by the staff, faculty and students helped me to struggle. I started enjoying and I had great time with my friends. Many times, we used to miss last train at VT station and took first train next day at 4 AM. The Director Bungalow was at the main gate; he would catch us and used to give us long sermons in the early morning.



**Prof. Ashok Kumar**

CPS 1968-69; DPS 1969-70  
Former Faculty (1970-79), IIPS  
Consultant, Centre for VUVA  
Studies, Lucknow

The exam result of the first year was disastrous. With great anxiety, I approached the Director and begged for a job at the campus. He counselled and motivated me to continue studies and join Diploma Course in Family Planning Communication and Action Research. I did so and academically did well in this course. At the age of 22, I was appointed Faculty Member of IIPS. This was turning point of my life. Since then, I did not look back. With the foundation built in the Certificate Course in Demography, I kept on moving from one to other prestigious organization with challenging assignments in India and abroad. Today, at the age of 73, I am academically active and keep on contributing to a chosen field.

In retrospect, five years, first two years as student and last three years as Faculty, at DTRC (later on IIPS) were the best years of my life. Few words cannot capture my feelings and memories of many incidences and people. If I start mentioning them, the list will be endless.



**Prof. Rama Rao**

CPS 1968-69; DPS 1969-70  
Professor (Retired) &  
Former Faculty &  
Former Offg. Director (2004-05), IIPS

We all can describe IIPS in so many metaphors. There is a famous quote “Life is like a journey on a train”. For me, IIPS is that train. You have asked me a very difficult thing to do - summing up my IIPS journey which is more than half my life in 150 words or less.

I was fortunate to join IIPS as a student in 1968 when it was still called DTRC (Demographic Training and Research Centre) and continued my journey here as a lecturer, reader, professor, finally retired as an officiating director in 2005. During this time, I met diverse people, from academic and other backgrounds, in India and internationally, and all have helped me evolve as a person and have had a lasting impact on me. Personally, I am proud of the three initiatives I started during my stay at IIPS. Ganesh Chaturthi - In 1986, as part of the cultural committee, we started a 5-day long Ganesh Chaturthi festivities in IIPS. I am happy that IIPS is continuing this tradition, even today. Next, I started the Credit Cooperative Society with Mr. Randeria where loans at lower interest rates were made accessible to all. People from all sections benefited tremendously through this programme. Lastly, for the first time ever in 2005, we awarded an honorary doctorate degree to an eminent personality, Padma Shri Avabai Bomanji Wadia, founder member of the Family Planning Association of India.

While there were many memorable moments and achievements professionally, I am thankful to my students who kept me going throughout my journey at IIPS - they were my strength and my assets today.

## Happy memories of DTRC/IIPS

After completing my M.Sc. in Statistics from Patna University, I started working at its newly established Demographic Research Centre in September 1966. Having accepted the notion of making a career in Demography, I applied for admission to the Certificate Course in Demography at the Demographic Training and Research Centre (DTRC), now known as International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS). My first memory of DTRC/IIPS goes back to 1969 when I came there for an interview for admission. I arrived at the DTRC hostel late at night and found that the hostel mess was closed and the Warden, the late Dr. K.K. Kapil out to dinner. On his return Dr. Kapil showed me to my room. The next morning, I had breakfast and met with Tarun Kumar Roy (Professor T.K. Roy, former Director of IIPS), whom I knew from my Patna University days. The interview was taken by the late Dr. S.N. Agarwala, former Director and Dr. K.V. Ramachandran. I returned to Patna knowing that I was selected for admission as a Government of India Fellow, with a monthly stipend of Rs. 250, which was enough in those days to meet the costs of subsidised hostel accommodation, meals and other expenses.



**Prof. Gouranga Lal Dasvarma**

CPS 1969-70; DPS 1970-71  
Flinders University, College of Humanities,  
Arts and Social Sciences, Australia

Our fellow international students received the equivalent of Rs. 1,000 as UN sponsored fellows. The hostel was a single-storey building with 24 rooms, all but three or four of which were twin-shared rooms, but each room had its bathroom and toilet attached. There was a large dining hall, a common area with a big radio (no TV yet), a corner with carrom board and an area with a table-tennis board. The main building, across a small garden had two storeys where the ground floor had the library, most of the staff members' offices including the Director's, while the second storey had classrooms, a laboratory, a seminar hall and more offices for staff. The Director's residence was near the front gate. Our mode of outside connection was either a train from Govandi Station or bus/taxi from near the Deonar bus depot on Sion-Trombay Road. On the other side of the road was the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, and a little to its west was the famous R.K Studio.

Among the Faculty in my time were Dr. K.V. Ramachandran, Dr. J.R. Rele, Mr. T.K. Roy, Mr. U.P. Sinha, Mr. D.N. Saxena, Mr. S.P. Mohanty, Dr. K. Venkatacharya, Dr. K.E. Vaidyanathan, Dr. Vatsala Narain, Mrs. Asha Bhende, Mrs. Malini Karkal, and Mr. K.B. Suri. The Director, Dr. S.N. Agarwala also gave a few lectures.

In my time there were three International Experts who also taught. They were Dr. Ladislav Ruzicka (United Nations Expert), Dr. George Immerwahr and Dr. James Maslowski (USAID Experts). While I remember all their teaching, special mention must be made of Dr. Ramachandran and Dr. Rele who made things look easy through their fluent and spontaneous lectures. I also remember the long hours spent with manually operated Facit calculators to work on the exercises set by Dr. Ramachandran. In the research area a few of the Faculty members, namely Dr. Venkatacharya, Mr. T.K. Roy, Mr. U.P. Sinha and Dr. Immerwahr were doing computer simulation. They wrote programmes in FORTRAN IV, which were transferred to punch cards at the Institute and taken across the city to Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) at Colaba. They would submit the punched cards to TIFR and go a few days later to bring the results. I can remember their frustration when, after the long commute to and from Colaba they would find out that there was an error, either in card punching or in programming and had to go back to TIFR with corrected cards.

I enjoyed my studies at IIPS and learned much. I was very happy that I scored the highest marks at most examinations and assignments. On the eve of our Convocation, I learned that my classmate G.N. Shastri would probably get the Golden medal for best performance in Certificate course. The Convocation took place in the Seminar Hall where Dr. Ruzicka, in the role of "Dean" called out the names of the graduands who received the parchments for the Certificate and Diploma courses from the Director. When time came to announce the names of the awardees of the Golden and Silver medals for the top two performances in the Certificate course, I heard my name being called for the best performance! Quite overwhelmed, I walked to the podium and received the Golden medal from the then Minister for Family Planning, Mr. K.K. Shah. My year-long hard work had paid!





Receiving the Golden medal from  
Minister Sri K.K. Shah



Receiving the Diploma parchment from  
Minister Shri Kisku

I also have happy memories of my life at the DTRC/IIPS hostel. The hostel mess used to be run by a contractor, but people were not happy with the quality of food and its cost. So, the new Warden of the hostel, Mr. V.S. Badari and we decided to run the mess ourselves. A new cook, Mr. Nair was appointed along with two or three helping hands, and I was appointed the first Mess Secretary. On the first day of the new arrangement it was a race to have lunch ready for students and a few Faculty members who ate at the mess. Thereafter things ran smoothly. The job of mess secretary added an extra load of work to my already tight schedule with studies and assignments, but I was able to manage things well. I remember a funny incident when one day one of the helpers at the hostel, Mr. Sawant came to me and said "Sa'ab, ghaslet khalas". I had no idea what he was talking about, but I found out later that Sawant wanted to convey that we were out of kerosene. That was my first lesson in Marathi! We passed our spare time playing table tennis, carrom or sometimes volley-ball. Our Director was fond of playing carrom. He did not like losing a game, so every now and then he would send his son to the hostel to ask our best carrom player to stand by as his partner and two other players to complete a foursome. There were many evenings when we would sneak out before the Director's "messenger" came.

New students were given at least two welcome receptions, one was at the Director's residence and the other at the house of the hostel physician, Dr. Parikh. Faculty members also invited students to their homes. The institute organised day trips for the students to important sites in Bombay.

Another memory is that of our Study Tours to visit demographic centres around the country. This time our study tour was done in two parts. In the first part, led by Mr. U.P. Sinha, we visited the centres in Delhi, Jaipur and Baroda. In Delhi we met with the then Minister for Health and Family Planning Dr. Sripati Chandrasekhar. We also made a trip to Agra and saw the Taj Mahal. In the second leg of our study tour, led by Mr. V.S. Badari, we visited Pune and Dharwar. During this trip we travelled by taxi from Dharwar to Panjim, and returned to Bombay by steamship, sailing along the western coast and arriving in Bombay 22 hours later.

The hostel mess used to put up special menus for Sunday lunches, and the mess used to be closed on Sunday evenings when we would go elsewhere for dinner.



Convocation 1970. Gouranga Dasvarma, Gold medallist is seated in the 3rd row, 3rd from left.

On many Sunday afternoons we would suddenly decide to watch a movie. This led to a scramble for trains, buses or taxis, often arriving at the movie theatre late. But we watched the movie anyway, and soon after the interval we would start thinking how we would get back to the hostel.

I returned to IIPS to study for Diploma in Population Studies in July 1970 by which time the name of DTRC had been changed to IIPS. This time round, I was appointed Hostel Prefect (an assistant to the Warden, Mr. U.P. Sinha who lived in the newly constructed staff flats). I also served as Mess Secretary twice. This increased my workload quite substantially, but I was able to maintain my top position in the class. However, the institute did not award any medal for the best performance in the Diploma course.

My successful studies at DTRC/IIPS helped me secure a Ph.D. scholarship from the Australian National University in 1975, and I completed my Ph.D. under the supervision of my former IIPS teacher, Dr. Ruzicka.



DECADE  
1970-1979





I would like to share four unforgettable incidents:

As you all know, IIPS earlier used to get students from many Asian countries- Indonesia, Malaysia, China, Bangladesh, Philippines, etc. Once to present the results of a three country project (India, China & USA) on 'Population and Land Use', I had gone to one international meeting. There some of our past students from various countries came to meet me and were speaking proudly about IIPS. Then one Delhi professor from our project team said, "Just as a sailor has a wife in every port, you seem to be having students in every country".

Once I was invited as a discussant to a Seminar in Jamshedpur, where six Tata companies and six non-Tata companies made presentations about Family Welfare Programme in their companies. Honourable J.R.D. Tata was chairing the session and was listening to my comments. After the session he came to me and said "You are very competent. Are you a Demographer"? I said proudly "Yes, I am from IIPS, Bombay". Then he said "I know it as DTRC. India needs good demographers. Your Institute has a very important role".

When Dr. Pathak was president of IASP, I was its vice president. We were sent by government of India as a delegation to participate in the IUSSP conference in Beijing, China. There we organized an Alumni meet. One of our past students from China, who was a minister in Chinese government, said in his speech "IIPS is the backbone of all our demographic teaching and research in China because all of our expert demographers have been trained in IIPS.

Let me tell you IIPS was not 'all work and no play'. We had lots of fun too. Once for Mumbai Doordarshan, I had written a skit in Marathi about amusing answers that we get from rural women to simple questions like 'what is your age' and 'how many children you have given birth to'. Once on IIPS annual day with my two dear faculty friends we performed the same skit in Hindi. Prof. Bhende acted as mother-in-law, myself as daughter-in-law and Mrs. Kanitkar as the interviewer. The response from audience was hilarious.

When I see a picture of this program these and many more such memories make me very nostalgic in the evening of my life.



**Prof. Sumati Kulkarni**

Former Faculty (1971-1999), IIPS  
Former Offg. Director (1999)



Prof. Sumati Kulkarni, Prof. Asha Bhende and Prof. Tara Kanitkar performing a skit (1987)

## Change with time

I had completed my CPS and DPS from International Institute for Population Studies during the time when its name was changed from Demographic Training and Research Centre (DTRC). Further, when there was a change in the name from Population Studies to Population Science (IIPS) by then I had joined IIPS as a faculty. As a faculty I was assigned lectures to teach MPS. During that time, I had a great zeal to complete my Ph.D.

When I started my work for Ph.D., I had to carry out large secondary data analysis; I had to shift from FACIT to SPECTRUM computer. Mrs. Annama Sebastian was in charge of the computer system and she helped me in writing programme for data analysis in BASIC language. SPECTRUM was extremely slow and used to take around one hour to run ten by ten correlation matrixes.

In a short time there was a change from punch card system to direct data entry system in data analysis. During that time, UNFPA gifted VAX-11/780 mainframe computer to IIPS. VAX-mainframe computer works on virtual memory with tape drive and 130 column bi-directional dot matrix printer having 8 GB memory. VAX system was extremely fast and took no time for ten by ten correlation matrix computation.

I was quite surprised how fast this new system works! I understood that it allocates 'page' and swaps the page and stores in DISK. On demand it calls back the page and allocates the storage space on 'first come first serve basis'. Later, SPECTRUM computer was sold as scrap.

I had stored all my research work in different files in the system. One day, I wanted to get the list of files I have stored, so that I can plan for my data analysis. With that intention I gave a command as `c:/dir/print *.*` from my user id and password. My understanding was the computer will print the list of files. However to my surprise, I found that the dot matrix printer started printing page after page running in to 20, 25 pages. I found that computer was printing the contents of the data files and not the list alone. I went and told Mrs. Sebastian and she came to check but could not understand the problem (as we are very new to the system). She switched off the printer power and printing stopped after a heap of printing stationary accumulated. After a minute she switched on the printer for normal users and again it started printing the contents. Within a minute another twenty printed pages accumulated and she switched off the printer in anger! I ran away from her sight. Later she consulted the system programmer in TIFR and corrected the command.

After few days I approached her apologetically. She explained the mistake to me. She informed that `*.*` is a "wildcard" command and computer will not understand anything and dumps complete contents. She also explained how to stop the "print queue". We think that "computer will think what we think". But computer thinks on the same lines through specific system commands!! I realized that we have to change according to system and understand the systems commands. IIPS has given me opportunity to learn.



**Prof. C.P. Prakasam**

CPS 1970-71 ; DPS 1971-72

Former Faculty, IIPS

## IIPS - a life changing experience

IIPS stands tall among the institutions offering courses on 'Population Sciences'. True to its name, students have been drawn from many developing countries. In my batch, (Certificate Course, 1971-72), persons from Afghanistan to Fiji Islands, including Indonesia and the Philippines were enrolled. Indian students drawn from different States, from Punjab to Kerala, and from Gujarat to West Bengal, with a Masters degree in a variety of disciplines, such as anthropology, economics, geography, mathematics, statistics, sociology, social work, etc. entered the course and at the completion of the training came out as Population Scientists. It was a good 'melting pot' experience.

Studying in IIPS was an interesting new experience both academically and socially. In the course covering almost 12 months, we were exposed to new ways of training, only three hours of didactic lectures in the forenoon and, the afternoons and evenings were free -- available for us to consolidate and extend the knowledge imparted in the forenoon. The term paper gave lots of opportunities to creative thinking. At the end of the course, all were given certificates. Nobody was degraded. When a candidate was not able to accomplish what was expected of him/her, he/she was not downgraded as a 'failed' candidate. Instead, such person was given Course Completion certificate. It is the greatness of institution.

All academic staff were well qualified and their talents were available whenever we approached them. That made the journey through Population Sciences smooth and interesting. The academic staff did not confine their teachings only to the requirements of the syllabus but generously shared their experience in the field of their expertise. That was really enriching.

An added attraction was, there was no text book for any of the courses. Candidates were encouraged to use the library to equip themselves academically. There was a small well-equipped library, with essential books, journals, rare manuscripts and old census documents (some in Microfiche slides). The library used to be open beyond the regular working hours to facilitate long hours of reading. The role of the librarian cannot be minimized.

Study tour, lasting about ten days, took us to offices and institutions where consumers of various aspects of 'Population Sciences' were. We were able to comprehend clearly application of 'Population Sciences' - who uses, when, how and for what purpose. It was really rewarding and enlightening.



**Prof. J. Richard**

CPS: 1971-72

Professor of Biostatistics (Retired),  
Christian Medical College, Tamil Nadu

Staying in the only small hostel, partaking meals from the only mess attached to the hostel brought all of us together more closely. The mess closed after lunch on Sundays and that gave us opportunities to explore the variety of restaurants in Bombay, of course mingling with Sunday crowd, from Chembur to Colaba. Relishing variety of cosmopolitan food once a week for Sunday dinner had been refreshing.

The courses of IIPS have been recognized by top Universities in the world. The candidates could easily get into excellent universities for higher studies. When I joined the Department of Demography, Australian National University, Canberra, there were already three IIPS alumnus doing Ph.D. We not only renewed/strengthened our relationship but also created a lifelong family friendship. Still we relish it. The foundation was IIPS.

In short, IIPS sharpens the knowledge, changes the attitude towards learning and research to reach excellence and equips the person to boldly take decisions to solve the problems of Population and Development of the Country.



### Impressions of life at IIPS in the early 1970s

My stay at IIPS in the early 1970s was a relatively pleasant and fruitful one indeed. It was my first travel to a foreign country. I was looking forward to my visit as it was the first time I was traveling by air and Bombay was a well known city in Sri Lanka due to its movies and film stars. I was of course more interested in learning demographic techniques as universities in Sri Lanka, at that time did not have courses in demography. I was also conscious of what my boss in the Planning Ministry, Dr. Meegama told me before I left for Bombay. He said “this is a life time opportunity and the efforts you make in your studies at IIPS will be in proportion to your future success in professional life”. Professor Rele, who was the Director at the time when I left IIPS, in his testimonial wrote as follows: “Mr. Abeykoon was always attentive in the class. He was sincere, hardworking and consistent in his work. This enabled him to get the best out of his training at this Institute. He has an aptitude for research, and from his performance I have no hesitation in saying that he has great potentialities for outstanding research work.”

On arrival at Bombay airport, I was met and taken to IIPS. There I was led to my room in the hostel which was very different to what the students enjoy now. Another issue I had was the food. Being a non-vegetarian, it took me some time to adjust. Leaving home for the first time and living in a foreign land also took time to adjust. An elderly Indian student who was perhaps nearly twice my age was very helpful during this uneasy time. As my focus was on studies, I was quick to adjust to the new environment.

I was able to quickly jell with both foreign and Indian students and relax in the evenings at the common area of the hostel listening to radio music. Although TV had just arrived in India, we did not have a TV in the common area in the hostel. This did not bother me much as we did not have TV in Sri Lanka.

What I appreciated most at IIPS was the standard of teaching. In that respect I have to mention Professor Rele who was an outstanding teacher. Teaching was demonstrated on black boards. There were no power point presentations. There were no pocket calculators and mobile phones. We used Facit mechanical calculating machines. Nevertheless, the students had no complaints to make as that was the level of technology available at that time.



**Dr. A.T.P.L. Abeykoon**

CPS: 1972-73

Senior Fellow, Institute for Health Policy,  
Sri Lanka

Another, interesting and rewarding experience was the study tour, where we had the privilege of visiting other prestigious Indian institutes that teach or collect demographic data. Visiting the Statistical Institute in Calcutta was of special significance to me as my father who was a government Officer was trained there in the early 1950s. Visiting government agencies such as the Registrar General Office and other agencies in New Delhi further broaden my outlook in the field of population studies.

Subsequently, when I went for my Masters degree at Cornell University and later to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where I earned my Ph.D., the basic training I received at IIPS was very useful.

Best wishes to the faculty and students of IIPS



## IIPS: A Centre of Demographic Excellence

I am indeed so very pleased to express my sentiments as an alumnus of IIPS when it is to hold its first Global Alumni Meet 2021. It is with a sense of pride that I wish to express that I was a student at IIPS during the 1973-74 academic session as a UN, ESCAP fellow from the University of Colombo in Sri Lanka. My nomination to partake in the programme was triggered by the need when the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) liaising with the University of Colombo for establishing a Demographic Training and Research Unit (DTRU) at the university. With Demography as a subject not weaved into the university curriculum then, I was chosen from the Geography department to proceed to IIPS for the initial training in Demography. It was the time when Professor J.R. Rele had assumed as the Director of the Institute.

Having settled down at the Institute, a programme of very intensive training in the varied aspects of Demography began. The different segments of the subjects had two components of learning. The approach to teaching the core areas of the discipline Fertility, Mortality and Migration was by a method of dealing with the techniques and the substantive aspects of the subjects separately by academics well versed in the areas of knowledge. This I would contend did have very desired effects at the receiving end. There were 24 subjects in all handled by eminent academics all well versed in the areas they handled and they were all equal to the task. I remember Dr. Pathak handling the statistics lesson with only the chalk in hand holding the floor for an hour imparting the best.

Besides the intense academic exercise, I went through facing many exams., I was happy about the frequent outings I had with my friends to Chembur in the evenings. It is a place which becomes a hive of activity from evening and offers a wide range of shopping opportunities and restaurants. In this regard, I wish to indicate that I was very happy with the entire group following the programme with me that year. However, there were three who were so very close to my heart, there was one K. Kalyanasundaram from Pudukkoday, S.N. Balaraman from Chennai and Mari Bhat who later became the Director of the Institute and I am so sad that he is no more.



**Prof. P. Puvanarajan**

CPS 1973-74  
University of Colombo (Retired)  
Sri Lanka

On my return back after my training at IIPS to my position at the UNFPA sponsored programme at the University of Colombo, I had the pleasure to work with Dr S.L.N. Rao who is again an Alumnus of IIPS sent by the UNFPA to function as a consultant on the Demography programme in Colombo mooted by the UN.

To me, IIPS has been the launch pad for my demographic career. Having gained such special training at IIPS, it was so very smooth sailing for me when I went a few years later to the Centre for Population Research at the Georgetown University in Washington D.C. to pursue my Master's programme.

All in all, I would regard IIPS, Bombay as a centre of expertise handling the task of teaching and research population. It plays a pivotal role in imparting demographic knowledge and I am happy to be a beneficiary of its service.

I wish the Institute and all those manning it many more years of productive service both nationally and internationally. I am so thankful to Professor Nagarajan for providing me this opportunity to speak my mind about this esteemed Institute.



The International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) provides an excellent grounding in Demography and equips students to compete internationally. The paper I wrote as a Ph.D. student with a friend was adjudged as the best paper by Population Association of America and we were honoured with the Dorothy Thomas Award. The environment in IIPS is so intellectually stimulating, as a first year student in 1975 along with Professor Harish Srivastava, I presented a paper on estimates of birth and death rates of Tribal Population in India at the National Population Conference, and its review was published in most national daily newspapers in different languages. It also appeared in national primetime TV news and the Planning Commission of India contacted us for the paper. That year I also wrote another paper on the effect of migration on urban fertility, and the Editor of the *Journal of Family Welfare* was impressed with the paper that it was published immediately. During that time, the Government of India was thinking of compulsory sterilization as a population control policy, as a second year student, I wrote a paper on effect of compulsory sterilization using Monte-Carlo simulation technique, and it was published in an *International Journal of Simulation*. During my two years (1974-76) at the Institute, I was also socially enriched by students from all over India and from other Asian countries. They have remained my lifelong friends.

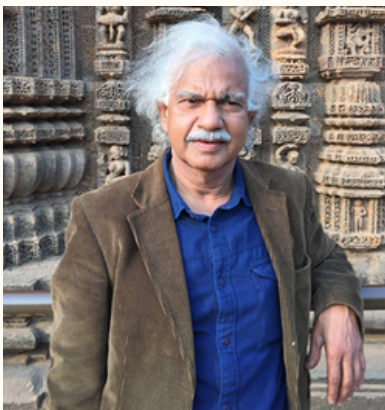


**Prof. Shiva S. Halli**

DPS: 1974-76

Professor,

Dept. of Community Health Sciences,  
University of Manitoba, Canada.



**Prof. A. K. Sharma**

CPS: 1975-76; DPS: 1976-77

Professor (Retired),  
IIT Kanpur

I joined IIPS as a CPS student in 1975 on the recommendation of Mr. Banwari Lal, the then Head of Statistics Department in Meerut College, Meerut. Whatever I have achieved in life it was all due to IIPS. Most importantly, I learnt the importance of learning after joining IIPS and for the first time interacted with foreign students. I was placed second in CPS and first in DPS. After completion of DPS I was looking for a job. Prof. P.C. Saxena and Prof. K.B. Pathak almost forced me to join IIT Bombay as a Ph.D. student and even paid my fee (Rs. 400). Studying further was something which I did not want to do at that time. But then the life was smooth. I retired as a professor from IIT Kanpur.





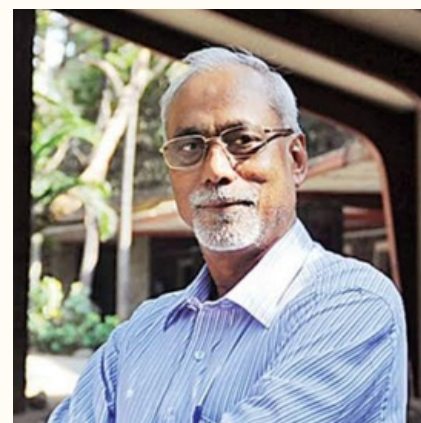
**Prof. Sulabha Parasuraman**

DPS 1976-78; Ph.D. 1985  
Former Faculty (1983-2011), IIPS

In April 1972, I joined the International Institute for Population Studies as Miss. Sulabha Ghogale as Technical Assistant and after a very long association of 40 years, left the institute as Dr. (Mrs.) Sulabha Parasuraman as Professor. I am sure that the editors of this publication will try to change Population Studies in the first line to Population Sciences. But really, when I joined IIPS, it was International Institute for Population Studies and not International Institute for Population Sciences; though the acronym IIPS remained the same. I am very proud, that I was associated with IIPS in all the possible positions. I was a Technical Assistant, Certificate student, Ph.D. student, Assistant Professor (then Lecturer), Associate Professor (then Reader), Professor, Head of the Department of Population Policies and Programmes. Once, when the director and all my seniors were away, I was the Acting Director also. My association with IIPS continued even after my retirement, with involvement in couple of research studies. Like many of my senior colleagues I spent all my working life at IIPS. I owe it to IIPS for everything in my life. IIPS not only gave me a degree but knowledge, nourished my research aptitude, gave me a job, provided me housing in my difficult time. I got all my best friends in IIPS, even I got my husband in IIPS. I forward my best wishes to my alma mater.



I came to the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) in 1977, as a student of Certificate in Population Studies (CPS). I still feel that my decision to join IIPS, from the other three educational options, was the correct one and life changing. Till today, I cherish the memories of the stay in the old hostel with an open courtyard and rooms around it, Saturday afternoon visits to Byculla market in the jeep to buy vegetables and fruits for the week and midnight tea sessions at dining hall. We had very good teachers. Prof. S. Mukherji was my CPS dissertation guide, and subsequently my doctoral dissertation guide. One of the most important outcomes of my student life was that the myth that, Anthropology students do not do well at IIPS was broken. I stood second in CPS. IIPS is the great institution that absorbs students with varying capacities, brings them to an equal level, and allows them to prosper from there. To study at IIPS is a great privilege, and I am grateful for my education there.



**Prof. S. Parasuraman**

DPS: 1976-78; Ph.D.: 1981  
Former Director (TISS)

### My dominant memories of IIPS

I joined IIPS on 17 June 1978 directly as a Senior Professor and Director. Though I had a M.Stat. degree from the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, a MS in Public Health from Harvard, and a Ph.D. in Demography from Kerala University, I had never been a student of IIPS, nor a faculty member when I joined as the newly recruited head of institution. Hence, I was perceived as an outsider intruding into the IIPS territory. From my side also, I was initially reluctant to accept the assignment as the Director because the institute was functioning as a project under 5-year plans and there was the real possibility of it being closed down any time. I felt it might be risky to get into a project-based job in one's middle age and that too one where I might not be wholeheartedly welcomed.

However, my commitment to make the institute a permanent body started almost immediately upon my joining. This was a common ground for all. With relentless work ignoring my family obligations and cooperation from all concerned, I was able to expand the academic and geographic scope of the institute by making it a deemed university in 1985. We finally received the confirmation on 14 August 1985. This day has become one of the most memorable for me and all at IIPS and is etched permanently in my memory. It would be no exaggeration to say that it was almost a continuous struggle over seven years with various government departments to get the deemed university status.

A large number of students from many Asian countries with financial assistance from the UNFPA were trained at the IIPS. For the first time in the history of the institute, I was able to attract students from China, and one of the students Mr. Jiang Zhenghua went on to become the Chairman of the State Family Planning Commission in China. The challenges were enormous in dealing with very diverse group of international and national students.

There were serious cultural and language barriers to overcome and frequent misunderstandings between foreign and Indian students to be resolved amicably and with tact and diplomacy.



**Prof. K. Srinivasan**

Former Director & Senior Professor  
(1978-1992), IIPS

However, these challenges were also the most rewarding as we witnessed the deepening friendship and bonds between the students, transcending national borders.

This international get together of IIPS Alumni is a symbol of such a bonding. I am also proud that many of the students who received Ph.D. under my guidance have made their mark professionally and achieved excellence with original contributions to the field.

During my tenure, I was also able to initiate the first National Family Health Survey (NFHS-1) in the country during 1991-1992. This was possible because of the economic liberalization in 1990 that allowed Indian data to be accessible outside the country.

As the years pass by, I am happy that I can still be active professionally and contribute as much as I can. My most recent book, *Population Concerns in India: Shifting Trends, Policies and Programmes* published in 2017 has been translated into other Indian languages. I attribute my sustained passion for demography to the regular interactions I have with many bright young students and colleagues at IIPS. I appeal to all young IIPS alumni to also sustain their passion for research in demography as long as they can and wish them every success.



## My Journey at IIPS

I joined IIPS in January 1979. The unique multidisciplinary faculty of the Institute provided me a great opportunity to understand the multifaceted dimensions of population phenomena, more deeply. Besides teaching several courses at the Institute and completing many national and International research projects, I was also involved in many other academic and administrative activities of the Institute. Several times I accompanied students as faculty guide for their study tours. All this provided me great opportunity to have personal interactions with many foreign and Indian students as well as well known academicians. In the last 12-15 years of my career, I was actively involved in the national family health surveys. Involvement in the second and third national family health surveys was not only a great learning experience but also a big exposure to work with several national and international academicians, other prestigious institutions and donor agencies. I retired in 2010 with lot of satisfaction and with a sense of achievement. I had a long journey (31 years) at IIPS where I got the respect, love and support of so many of my colleagues, supporting staff and students that enriched my life. Working at IIPS was a great pleasure and satisfying.



**Prof. Kamla Gupta**

Former Faculty, IIPS  
HoD, Department of Migration  
and Urban Studies, IIPS



**Dr. Shireen Jejeebhoy**

Supernumerary Reader (1979-81), IIPS  
Director, Aksha Centre for Equity  
and Wellbeing, Mumbai

## Memories of a “superfluous” reader

When I heard I was offered a position as a Supernumerary Reader I didn't know the meaning of the word, and my Prof. John Durand, who had a dry sense of humour, said it meant “superfluous”. I hope my almost three years on the faculty were not superfluous.

My very first boss was Dr. Srinivasan, and who could have been a better mentor, always encouraging, always inspiring. My room-mate was Radha Devi and who could have asked for a more serious yet funny colleague, she taught me the importance of friends as colleagues. This was my first (and sadly, only) teaching job – I loved teaching and my students helped me unknowingly to overcome my shyness and fear, they themselves were fearless and enthusiastic, and I would work well into the night on each next day's lectures, often falling asleep with pencil in hand (pre PC days) to be able to meet the challenges they posed.

When I joined IIPS, trudging from South Bombay on the 90 bus, the board on the door to my office read “Dr. Miss Shireen Jejeebhoy” and it incensed me. I used to go home and fume – “in a few words they have announced my sex, marital status and educational qualification” and when it was too much, my brother challenged me, he said if it meant so much to me why was I too scared to express my misgivings and get the board changed. Well, I did, and IIPS' great artist Mr. Padmashalli, obliged, and from then on my board just read “Shireen Jejeebhoy”.

My career began in IIPS and for giving me this foundation, I will always be indebted to its director, faculty, students and staff.



## Memories of IIPS

My early work in India took me chiefly to Delhi and Bangalore. But wherever I travelled, I always bumped into graduates from IIPS. So it was very clear that I had to visit the Institute at the first opportunity—and this happened in 1979 while I was staying with friends in Bandra. The Director of the Institute at that time, who remained the Director until 1992, was Professor K. Srinivasan. I found him to be extremely friendly, knowledgeable, dynamic, and indeed wise. And, it was he who invited me to be the United Nations consultant at the Institute in 1981.

In those days, IIPS was a very much smaller institution than it is today. Initially, I resided in the hostel. The students were incredibly friendly. There was a lot of laughter! I recall being amazed at how much rice some of them could eat! Later, I moved to a small hotel near Shivaji Park. Each morning a minibus ferried staff from nearby Dadar to the Institute, and then back again in the evening. I remember very well conversing a lot with Shireen Jeebhoy in the bus. Later still, I stayed in the FCI guesthouse, high on the hill above Chembur.

I was a terrific experience. Everybody was so open and welcoming. Of course, the students came from all over India, plus countries like Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, and Sri Lanka. The staff at the Institute taught me an enormous amount. It would be inappropriate to single out any specific person. However, as well as Professor Srinivasan, they included Radha Devi, Kamla Gupta, Shireen Jeebhoy, Malini Karkal, Sumati Kulkarni, Subrata Lahiri, S. Mukerji, K.B. Pathak, Faujdar Ram, Usha Ram, T.K. Roy, Prem Saxena, and Harish Srivastava. I spent many a happy afternoon watching TV with U.P. Sinha and his wife and children. There were also frequent student volley-ball matches on campus. Even in those days, the Institute had quite a few visitors from abroad. I recall, in particular, Jack and Pat Caldwell who frequently stayed in the guest house and, I know, regarded IIPS with very special affection.

Over the years, I have regularly returned to the Institute—for conferences, lectures, seminars, and other events. I have been fortunate indeed to have known every Director from Professor Srinivasan through to Professor James. And, subsequently, there have been other staff members who have become firm friends, notably Professor Arokiasamy (who worked with me in London) and Professor T.V. Sekher (who shares strong historical interests with me).

As noted, the Institute has grown greatly, and it has also become more complicated in structure. Much of this has been due to the increasing involvement of IIPS in the design, running, and analysis of large-scale surveys—starting, perhaps, with the 1992–93 NFHS. This development has been extremely important. However, and thankfully, the Institute has also managed to retain its key academic demographic core. In addition, of course, its teaching activities have expanded hugely. And the Institute’s physical infrastructure is now very impressive indeed.

The Golden Jubilee Celebrations of 2006 were especially memorable. They involved demographers attending from all over the world. It was impossible not to be struck by the huge changes that had occurred at the Institute, and indeed in Chembur and Mumbai more generally. The Director at the time was my dear friend Professor P.N. Mari Bhat. His death, in 2007, at such a relatively young age, was tragic, and a huge loss to the Institute and the subject of demography.

The last time I visited IIPS was in 2019. Professor James was immensely hospitable as always, as of course were his colleagues. I gave a talk on India’s population history. And Professor Usha Ram introduced me to an extremely impressive bunch of research students. Alas, for obvious reasons, I have not been able to visit since then. But I intend to do so at the first opportunity. Of all places beyond my own institution, IIPS has had the strongest and most enduring relationship for me. It is an association that has lasted for more than forty years. And I hope that it will last for many years more.



**Prof. Tim Dyson**

Former Faculty, IIPS  
Emeritus Professor of Population  
Studies, London School of Economics,  
United Kingdom

DECADE  
1980-1989



Years in International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) has been a golden period in my life. It was here that I got my first job. In the job itself, I was sponsored by the Institute for Training in Certificate Course in Population Studies in 1979. I have very fond memories of all these days. Along with valuable demographic knowledge, I gained lifelong friendship of some wonderful personalities. Association with most of them nourished my personal and professional life. I must specially acknowledge lessons learnt from the accomplished lady demographers. I realized their preciousness more and more as the time passed. Being a part of well-known projects like the pretesting of World Fertility Survey Questionnaires, Area Projects in Bihar and Rajasthan etc. gave me opportunities to learn from world-famous demographers. IIPS is a grand family spread worldwide. I remember how great I felt when Prof. Rele affectionately referred to me in Honolulu as “from my institute”. It is really fortunate ‘to be from IIPS’.



**Dr. Madhuree Talwalkar**

CPS 1979–80  
State Demographer (Retired),  
Government of Maharashtra.



**Dr. Ravi Verma**

Former Faculty (1980–2002), IIPS  
Regional Director,  
Asia Regional Office,  
ICRW, New Delhi

“Unbelievably diversified, despite being a gated community, IIPS is like a melting pot of hierarchies and diversities and blending of professional and personal lives. Over two decades of my intimate association with IIPS, living inside the campus and teaching and learning with the students, transformed me quietly and for ever. Both my sweet and bitter memories at IIPS are characterized by the openness, compassion and mutuality from my colleagues, students, staff and families. I always had a feeling that the comradery among IIPSians is tied not only to the discipline of population studies/demography but how lives were lived and learning were inculcated, nurtured and celebrated within the Govandi campus of the institute. I wish this Alumni mega event a great success – let the beautiful memories of IIPS Govandi campus overtake the realities!”





I am grateful to IIPSA for inviting me to write this short memoir on the occasion of global meet in September 2021.

I am proud to say that I have been associated with IIPS as faculty for about two decades since 1982. On the momentous occasion of global meet, I wish the IIPS emergence as a model multidisciplinary university that has an inclusive notion of quality product of human resource, quality research and quality data required for evidenced based policy planning.

I recall, the Founder's Day of the Institute on 14th August which is celebrated with lots of activities and cultural programmes by the students and the staff of the Institute, as an unique opportunity for the students to introduce and increase interaction among themselves and the faculty.

Besides teaching from learned faculty, IIPS has an excellent library that is rich not only in terms of collection of books and journals related to population and health but also rich in terms of excellent academic environment. The staff of the library were so helpful that they would pull up material that we were looking for, faster than a computer, maintaining an excellent culture and environment.

The computer centre of IIPS is a learning zone of data analytics. One can spend time analyzing data from several large-scale surveys including the data from Census and surveys.

The presentation of student's term-paper used to be the most memorable part of IIPS training where students were assigned marks for each component including content, presentation, defence, and participation in others' papers. I felt this was one of the best parts of IIPS education programme making its alumnus of the highest quality.

Given the India's new education policy, IIPS strives to be one of the best multidisciplinary "research university" in the world and I congratulate the faculty and staff of the Institute under the dynamic leadership of Prof. K.S. James for taking the Institute to further heights.



**Prof. Arvind Pandey**

Former Faculty (1982–2002), IIPS  
Former Director, ICMR-NIMS





Joined IIPS as a CPS student in the month of June 1981, forty years back. It was a GOD's blessing to get admitted to a course which shaped my life so wonderfully and that association goes on. Faculty of IIPS were/are so helpful to provide academic as well personal support, especially Late Prof. Sukumar Mukherjee, Kunj Bihari Pathak, K. Srinivasan, U.P. Sinha, Prem Chandra Saxena and Tarun K. Roy and C.P. Prakasam. Many other teachers such as Arvind Pandey, Ravi Verma, Bhargava and Faujdar Ram played the role of teacher and mentor. Present faculty is best and supportive in academic activity whenever and whatever required. Administrative staff is excellent till today.

One of the best quality of those IIPS colleagues and students is their helpful nature. Whatever needed they had always provided to me. Wherever I went, people from IIPS met with so much love and affection that it is most memorable. Wish the best for inculcating helpful nature.



**Prof. Dharmendra Pratap Singh**

CPS 1981-82  
Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences,  
Mumbai



**Prof. Dr. P.S. Nair**

Former Faculty (1982-1986), IIPS.

I joined IIPS in 1982 as a Reader (supernumerary) in the Department of Migration and Urban Studies, thanks to Prof. Srinivasan the then Director. It was after taking my doctorate degree in Sociology-Demography with Distinction from the University of Brussels, Belgium. Along with me late Prof. Vemuri was also appointed as Reader. The HOD was Prof. Mrs. Vatsala Narain and Prof. Kamala Gupta was one of my colleagues in the same Department. From my student days in Kerala, I kept IIPS (erstwhile DTRC) in high esteem and hence the opportunity to join IIPS as a faculty was extremely satisfying. I chose IIPS as against similar offers from some other prestigious Institutions in India which offers such appointment without usual formalities.

I had received encouragement from Prof. Srinivasan and cooperation from all colleagues and staff abundantly. At that time, family accommodation was a serious problem. So, my family could get accommodation in two rooms in a dilapidated old students' hostel only in the campus. Frankly, therefore, we couldn't enjoy the accommodation. I left IIPS in 1986 to take up the position of Professor/ Director, PRC, Dharwad.

Academically, my short stay in IIPS has been highly rewarding. I taught Migration, Multi-state Demography etc. I could edit a book on Youth in India, along with Prof. Vemuri and Prof F. Ram who was Lecturer then. Several papers came out including one in Demography (USA) in 1985. I remember my journey to Florence along with Prof. Srinivasan to attend the IUSSP conference where I could meet with Prof. Louis Henry, the legendary French Demographer.

Although, it was a short stint in my long career, I consider it as a golden period academically and I always feel attached to IIPS as my second home.



I was fortunate to have had a rewarding learning experience during the six years I was at IIPS, beginning 1982–83 when I did my CPS programme. I was offered from the waiting list and therefore joined the programme a month late. My first meeting with Prof. K. Srinivasan who was then Director and Prof. Saxena who was coordinator of the CPS programme was splendid. The programme gave so much opportunity for learning, and the best part of the programme was all India study tour led by Professor T.K. Roy. The tour was great opportunity to visit and learn from leading population research centres and scholars in India, and the trip was full of fun. The seminar paper presentation was another positive aspect of the programme. My advisor was Professor Arvind Pandey who was patient with my writing and was a great source of support. I was excited to see that my seminar paper was later published in the *IIPS Newsletter*. The seminar paper presentation was great: the debates and discussions among Professors Mukherji, Saxena, Pathak, Pandey, Gotpagar, Prakasam and others were lively. I was very fortunate to have Professor Saxena as my Ph.D. supervisor and mentor. His constant encouragement and motivation and consistent feedback made me to complete my Ph.D. on time. We used to sit up late into the night and early morning to go through the thesis chapters. His inspiration greatly impacted my academic achievements. Our association and collaboration continue to this day. The library was great and the reading environment in the library was marvelous. My memory also goes back to the lovely time that I had with my friends Dhanasekaran (roommate), Dharma, Irudaya Rajan, Thiagarajan, Bhagatji, Alesan, Laddu Singh, Sandhya, Chandrasekar Rao, Ramesh (roommate) and many others. My association with the teachers and friends has had great impact on both my academic and personal life.



**Prof. K. Navaneetham**

CPS 1982–83  
Department of Population Studies,  
University of Botswana,  
Gaborone, Botswana



**Prof. Dharma Arunachalam**

CPS 1983–84; Ph.D. 1987  
Professor of Sociology, School of  
Social Sciences, Monash University,  
Melbourne, Australia.

I was a CPS student in 1983–84, and then continued as a Ph.D. student until the end of 1987. IIPS, being the only premier population institute in Asia, provided unique career opportunities. I, along with my contemporaries (e.g. Usha Agrawal, Bipin Bihari Das, Chatterje, Kurusu) were privileged to learn under the guidance of leading international scholars at IIPS including professors Srinivasan, Mukherji, Pathak, Bhende, Kanitkar, Roy, Gotpakar, Karkal, Sinha, Radha Devi, Ravi Varma, Nair and Rama Rao. We were the first to be housed at the new hostel; the first to be introduced to desktop computers on the ground floor of the library; and also the first to use the conference room in the library for the end of year paper presentation that was regularly attended by the Director. Dr. Ravi Varma, the hostel warden then, managed to install a colour TV. Evening news time (Hindi and English) was most popular; so did weekly quiz programme. Bhagatji, Sayeed Unisa, Sandhya Rao, Mishra, Thiagarajan, Ramesh and Alesan were, among many others, regulars for these programmes. We would not have survived without Chandran, Nayak, Suresh and Dinesh in the hostel kitchen. IIPS was true a reflection of India's diversity and its values. Non-academic life at IIPS was equally exciting: led by Kurusu our international colleagues (from Guam, Solomon Island, Samoa, Korea, Afghanistan, Bhutan and Nepal) would make monthly pilgrimage to city central!



In 1982, I was selected by the General Statistics Office (GSO) of Vietnam to study demography under an ESCAP scholarship at IIPS Mumbai, India. This was a one year course (1982-83). Joining the course with me were three other people from Viet Nam (two from GSO and one from the Institute of Sociology). In addition to Vietnam, the IIPS also had students from China, Myanmar, Nepal, Bangladesh, Thailand, USA, Sri Lanka, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Bhutan, Afghanistan and India.

The content of the course was very new to us, because during that time Vietnam has no training in demography, but only training on population statistics. We found the subjects here were very interesting and useful. Among the subjects that I liked best were those that study birth; death; migration; socioeconomic and demographic factors affecting birth, death and migration; urbanization; methods to evaluate and estimate fertility, mortality and migration; population estimates and projections; population policies; and family planning programme and evaluation.



**Ms. Tran Van**

DPS 1982-83

Assistant Representative for  
UNFPA (Retired), Viet Nam

I had a very good impression of all the teachers and service staff working at the IIPS. They were very open minded and ready to help us in our studies as well as in school activities. Speaking English was not common in our schools in Viet Nam, therefore our English was very poor compared to other students. But the teachers and Indian students were very patient in supporting us. They were also very open and always ready to help us when we had problems. We have great respect for Director Prof. K. Srinivasan, Prof. K.B. Pathak, Prof. (Mrs.) A.A. Bhende, Prof. S. Mukerji, Dr. (Mrs.) Vatsala Narain, Dr. P.C. Saxena, Dr. D. Radha Devi and many other teachers that I could not tell in this short memoir. I am especially grateful to my teacher, Dr. Saxena, who guided me writing the "Term Paper" at the end of the course. We also very much enjoyed the tour trip (about 3 weeks) at the end of the course. We got to visit and exchange population research experiences with institutes in many states of India and had the opportunity to learn more about India's history and culture.

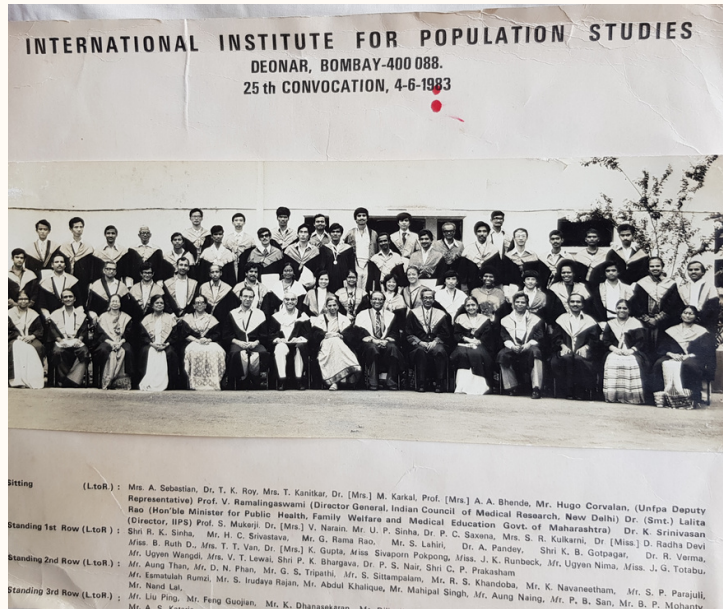
I really miss the dormitory, campus and library of the IIPS. I was really impressed by the huge volume of books and precious documents which were arranged very logically and scientifically in the library. The library staff in particular were very enthusiastic and friendly in helping us find reference books. Although the dormitory was simple, it was clean, safe and convenient for living and studying. In the dormitory for international students, there was a self-catering kitchen if they do not like Indian food. I love and still miss the Indian brown tea at the tea break. There was a small soccer field in front of the dormitory where we played volley ball and football after class. On holidays we often went shopping in Govandi or Chembur markets.

I consider myself very fortunate to have studied and learned about demographics at the IIPS. The knowledge I had acquired at the IIPS has helped me having a better understanding of the relationship between population and development and contribute more effectively to the research, population policy and reproductive health programme for Vietnam. Thanks to my demographic background as well as my working experience in population statistics, in April 1990 I was recruited to work for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Viet Nam as National Programme Officer (NPO) and latter to be the Assistant Representative for UNFPA in Viet Nam. At these positions at the UNFPA Country Office for 24 years, I am happy to say that I had been able to make a significant contribution to the success of UNFPA's support programme to Viet Nam in the field of Population and Development, Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) and Gender Equality. During 24 years working for UNFPA, I had also recommended the Government and UNFPA support for sending many students to study demographics at the IIPS.

Most of the Vietnamese students studied at IIPS later have held important positions in state agencies, research institutes and universities. This evidence further proves that IIPS training programme has been very useful and effective. In other words, I want to say that the IIPS training programme has made an important contribution to the training of key cadres for Vietnam and many other countries in the field of population and development, reproductive health and gender equality.

I am very proud to have been a student of the IIPS. I would like to express my gratitude to the teachers and staff of the IIPS as well as to the Indian students who had given me useful and meaningful days of study. I do believe that the IIPS will be growing more and more and becoming a bigger training and research institute as well as a pool of professional and consultancy on population sciences, not only for India but internationally. Thank you !





25th Convocation, 1983



Picture taken on the starting day of the course



Picture taken in front of the hostel during the first week of the course





## Everlasting memory of IIPS

I got admitted twice for Certificate in Population Studies (CPS). First in 1981, but left midway incomplete to join Assistant Director's post in Manipur, and second time in 1985. Thus, I have two batchmates of CPS. Probably I was the first to who have been given Ph.D. admission without fellowship as all 10 seats were full and I was also among the few in IIPS that time to get ICSSR fellowship for Ph.D. Most of the teachers were very caring and supportive of students and I got special blessing from Dr. Srinivasan to admit me second time in CPS, from Late Dr. S. Mukherjee for admitting me in Ph.D. when no Ph.D. seat were available and from Late Dr. K.B. Pathak, my mentor, guide and philosopher friend. I must also mention the attention given to the students by the then Librarian, Late Shri Randheria, his assistant Shri Rao and library staffs Late Shri Sathe, Late Shri Powar, Shri Patel and cleaner Late Omprakash. I also got brotherly soft corner treatment from Dr. Ravi Verma, the then Hostel Warden by way of turning blind eye to unauthorized cooking in the room and keeping guests without permission. Mess boys of those days were like friends to all students and take care to provide extra non-veg to students who have good appetite.

I could join IIPS as Reader in 2002 as the first in the panel my friend Dr. Uday Sankar Mishra preferred to stay with his parent organization. I also had the blessing of Dr. T.K. Roy then then Director and Dr. G. Rama Rao the then Head of Mathematical Demography & Statistics for giving me an opportunity to return back to IIPS in the role of a faculty. There is no parallel to the gentleness of Dr. Roy and liking of people from the northeast by Dr. Rao. As a teacher I get satisfied with the performance and interest of Statistics and Computer by students from social science background. I have also to underline the confidence shown to me by Dr. F. Ram, the then Director.

In my short tenure as an Acting Director (March 1, 2017 to November 19, 2018) of the Institute, I enjoyed the cooperation and support of both faculty and non-teaching staff. I also got support of all officials in the MoHFW in administrative, financial and project related matters. It was a challenging time to manage all activities of the Institute with limited space but fortunately BMC gave clearance to the long pending IIPS new main building in my tenure. It did not take time for me to demolish the old IIPS main building to make ground for the new IIPS main building. I was extremely happy to hand over the charge of the Director to Prof. James to further strengthen IIPS. Long Live IIPS.



**Prof. Laishram Ladusingh**  
CPS 1985-86  
Former Faculty (2002-18) & Former  
Offg. Director (2017-18), IIPS.  
Vice-Chancellor,  
Bodoland University, Kokrajhar  
Assam



**Dr. V. Kurusu**  
DPS 1983-84  
Associate Professor of Economics  
V.G. Vaze College, Mulund (E),  
Mumbai

During my CPS course I enjoyed portraying Shivaji Maharaj in the new-year day celebration in IIPS hostel. I also liked the all India tour conducted under the leadership of Prof. Rama Rao. During DPS days back in 1985, the field visit for conducting health survey in old Belapur village under the chairmanship of Dr. U.P. Sinha was a notable activity done during that period. I am grateful to the institute for teaching me new things and shaping my professional career as a professor.



## My journey as a student and staff at IIPS

It's a matter of pride for me to recall my journey of being first as a student and later an employee from Dhule district of Maharashtra to this esteemed Institution since the year 1985. After completing my Post Graduation in Geography in Shivaji University at Kolhapur, it was my last visit to my Department before leaving the lovely university and the city of Kolhapur, I saw the advertisement of International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) on the Department notice board. Being international level institution and also the population is my fascinating subject, I immediately posted my application for the admission into Certificate course in Population Studies (CPS) to IIPS.

After a few days, I was called upon for an oral interview and that was my first visit to Mumbai city too and I got selected for the admission. I was allotted Room. No. 326 in IIPS Hostel and the attendant Mr. Sawant was facilitating me in providing all the logistics. Mr. Sawant was Marathi language speaking and good human being became my first colleague in the campus.

There were 32 batch mates in my class, with 17 foreign students from 12 different countries and 15 students from 10 different states of India. The transition of my rural Maharashtrian culture to the national and international cultures while studying CPS at IIPS and that too in the city like Mumbai was indeed a foremost turning point in my life. I, being a social person, easily got adjusted to all my international and Indian batch mates despite having my rural based pronouncing style and a limited vocabulary of both English and Hindi languages. The senior students in the IIPS campus like Dr. Thiagarajan, Dr. Irudaya Rajan, Dr. Navaneetam, Dr. Alesan and Dr. Dharmalingam also kept on encouraging me with fun and pleasuring moment and also guided me academically whenever I approached all of them.

Exposure to such diverse cultures has assertively impacted my life. It was a nice experience to spend time with all my batch mates along with the exposure to different cultures, languages, food habits, etc., which has actually changed my way of life. I am extremely thankful to IIPS for the opportunity of joining the CPS course and giving me such courteous batch mates having diverse cultures. In the middle of course training, we were also taken to a study tour by IIPS and Dr. Radha Devi was our accompanying faculty member. It was a great exposure visit to various national and international institutions including WHO, UNICEF, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare which helped us in panning our future career.

I feel very proud to state that all my batch mates have achieved success in their respective careers and are enjoying key positions all over the world. It was possible only because of the teaching and excellent mentoring by the teachers at IIPS.

I'm grateful that the journey to IIPS has not only taught me the academic skills, but also the crucial life lessons like believing in oneself, questioning to know things and making impossible to possible. My Alma Mater-IIPS taught me that the world is full of possibilities and the curriculum gave me a life skill that I will always treasure.



**Mr. Prakash H Fulpagare**

CPS 1985-86

Research Assistant, International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai

After successfully completing the CPS at an academic and research-based peaceful environment of IIPS, I further got the opportunity to start my professional career at IIPS in the field of research. It gives me a great pleasure to mention that I got an opportunity to work very closely with almost ten distinguished and well-regarded Directors and almost all the faculty members in connection with different research projects and also to execute administrative and academic activities as UNFPA Project Officer for Diploma in Population Studies (DPS) course for foreign students, Programme Officer for MA, and later as Research staff for the Department of Extra Mural Studies and Distance Education.

Taking advantage of various opportunities at IIPS, I also devoted my efforts to discharge all the responsibilities. As a result, I further got the opportunity to work as a Principal Investigator/Coordinator in nine different small as well as large-scale survey research projects along with faculty members.

Based on the vast knowledge in field research and administration gained at IIPS, the UNICEF offered me the position of Consultant to monitor the large-scale survey known as MICS in Goa, Daman & Diu, and Rajasthan for three years 2000-2002. Subsequently, considering my dedication and passion in research and administration, I was later offered a position of Director by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MoHRD), Government of India, at Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), formerly known as Shramik Vidyapeeth in Dharavi-Mumbai from 2006-2008.

I also got involved in the activities of the IIPS Alumni Association (IIPSAA) in the year 2011, initially as Secretariat and later as a Member of the Management Committee and Secretariat. I completed all the essential legal procedures and contributed in organizing various workshops and programmes for alumni, membership drive, fund raising and many more. This dedicated service to IIPSAA still going on.

Today IIPSAA is an integral part of my Alma Mater and along with IIPS, the IIPSAA has also acquired generous recognition. It gives me a very pleasing feeling that I have also contributed for the growth and development of IIPSAA'. Thank you, my dear Alma Mater-IIPS!



### Tea around a tree: evenings in IIPS

My fondest memory of IIPS is centred around gathering in front of the IIPS New Hostel at the end of a day of work in the evenings, a stainless glass of tea in hand, exchanging pleasantries with friends and colleagues. These discussions could be about learnings of the day, every day happenings or planning for the evenings (and late night if some of us were planning to see a late night movie). But standing under the tree, watching out for random crows on it or sitting on the bench, below it, we talked, shared, fought, wrote stuff on the mud below with sticks fallen down from the tree; the tempo waxing and vaning with the faculty passing by – on their way home to the quarters. We built a bonding, a camaraderie that holds strong to this day.



#### **Prof. Mala Ramanathan**

M. Phil. 1987-88; Ph.D. 1988-91  
AMCHSS, SCTIMST,  
Medical College, Trivandrum



#### **Prof. Dharendra Kumar**

M.Phil. 1989; Ph.D. 1993  
IIHMR University, Jaipur

I stayed in IIPS from 1987-1993 and those days becoming a mess secretary in IIPS's mess is very privilege position. You are the person who decides the menu largely in consultation with members and have easy access to mess during cooking and service hours. I remember my seniors Ladu Singh ji, Janradan Yadav ji and Singh Saheb from Andaman Nicobar, they all were doing M.Phil and asked me to serve Alu Palak at least once in a week. However, I and my other mess committee members did not agree. I remember Singh Saheb along with other two friends themselves cooked the Alu Palak curry (Spinach Potato) and it was very tasty and healthy dish and most of us appreciated. I learned cooking of Alu Palak from them. I cannot forget this incidence and always remember these seniors.





**Mr. Premalal Ratnaweera**

CPS 1987-88

Secretary General (2018-19),  
Sri Lanka National Commission  
for UNESCO (Retired)

A heterogeneous group of students from most states of India followed the CPS course in 1987-1988 batch including myself for which the UNFPA funded for me.

Prof. Srinivasan and an elite group of teachers including Prof. Rama Rao, Prof. Pathak, Dr. Ram, Dr. Asha Bende and others taught us the subject of Demography for CPS course. Basic principle of demography, statistical methods, demographic transition etc., were well explained by our teachers. At the end of the course, a study tour covering most parts of India was organized of which Dr. Bhargava coordinated the event. The cities of Delhi, Agra, BHU, Bangalore, etc. were covered. During this tour I was able to associate myself with Indian friends very closely. We had valuable discussions with the academia and government staff at BHU, Delhi, Bangalore, Kerala and Madras on this tour.

On the completion of the course, I resumed duties at the Population division of the Ministry of Planning in Colombo. The subject knowledge, experience in the Indian environment at IIPS benefitted immensely for my official career in the Ministry. Thereafter, I worked at the Social Services Ministry as Director. Later, at the Ministry of Transport I performed duties as Additional Secretary. Before my retirement from government sector, I served as Secretary General of the UNESCO in Colombo office until January 2020.

The memorable events: In 1988 something happened in Colombo when Hon. Rajiv Gandhi visited Sri Lanka. The Director of IIPS instructed me to stay inside of the IIPS premises for my safety. Even though, I stayed in the hostel most of the academic staff treated me as a family member, especially Dr. and Mrs. Rama Rao. Every Sunday, we watched Ramayanaya, with all my friends in the lobby.

The Executive of the UNFPA, Dr. (Mrs.) Naffik Sadik visited the IIPS. We also had the opportunity to meet Dr. Mahamad Sattar, Dr. Unies and Dr. Denis Chao (Director of Research Triangle Institute, USA) at the Institute. When I observed my Indian friends working hard till midnight, I had to follow them for better results that helped me for my good results and career development.

Recently, Dr. Prabir Rath with the family from Goa visited Sri Lanka on a tour. That gave me great pleasure recalling our IIPS family. When Prof. Srinivasan came to Colombo, Sri Lanka, I missed him while I was away from the country. At present, I am living in Malabe, near Colombo, with my family. My wife is a Professor at Colombo University and my daughter is following a Management course at Colombo University.



Photo courtesy: Mr. Premalal Ratnaweera (Sri Lanka)







There are umpteen sweet memories of IIPS but I can share only a few of them. In a nutshell, I had a wonderful time at IIPS. It was like a family to me where we worked together, shared our knowledge with others, socialized, and had a lot of fun, forgetting the differences of age, status, class, caste, religion and other social separators.

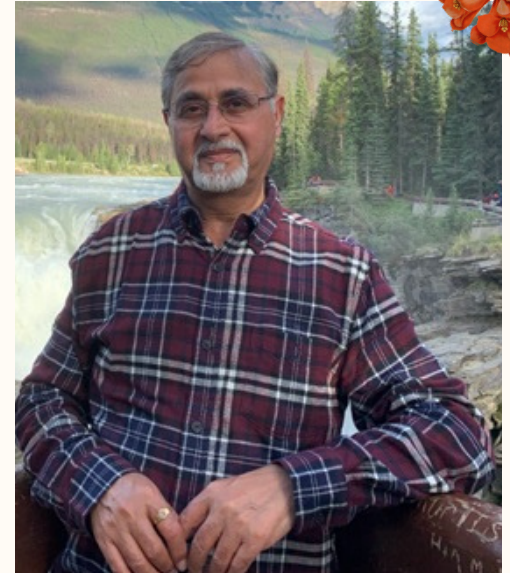
After joining as a faculty in IIPS, initially I was placed in a hostel on the campus, few other faculty members, both married and unmarried, stayed there. Other older colleagues were staying in the apartments on campus. There was a lot of interaction with faculty, staff and students. It was a nice time. When the quarters in Nerul were completed, we got an apartment there. The institute provided us with a bus service to commute to campus every day. Staying there was not the same as staying on the campus in terms of interaction with students. However, some of us - Ram, Ramesh, Surender, Saumya and some others used to play badminton early in the morning in the Nerul campus. It was a wonderful time.

Academically, IIPS provided a very conducive environment. Perhaps I should say that IIPS provided an academically infectious environment where everyone was working hard and inspiring others to work hard. We had several projects and were always busy with research. Though I joined there as a faculty member, I consider Prof. T.K. Roy my mentor as I learnt a lot from him through collaborative research. With the introduction of the first NFHS, work ethos became more intense. It gave new opportunities to the faculty, research staff and students. We got the opportunity to interact more with researchers from the PRCs and United States. During my involvement in the NFHS, I got the opportunity to work with many amazing researchers. The most charismatic of them was Fred Arnold.

Socially, there were frequent get-togethers. We used to have picnics at Alibagh and other places, and had family dinners together. The institute used to celebrate annual Sports Day and Cultural programmes where students, staff, faculty and children participated and had a lot of fun.

The unique characteristics of IIPS are its research culture, collaborative work, support from the institute to researchers, and trust of the funding agencies on IIPS researchers. I got the opportunity to work with researchers from IIPS, PRCs, University of Hawaii, Macro International and other organizations and learned a lot.

I think IIPS is a premium institute which has trained thousands of researchers. Many of them are occupying very high positions in government, international organizations, universities, and NGOs. Their contribution to policy making and evaluation is immense. IIPS should keep doing the amazing work it is known for.



### **Prof. Parveen Nangia**

Former Faculty (1988-2003), IIPS  
Full Professor,  
School of Liberal Arts,  
Laurentian University, Canada





## IIPS – My turning point

For a boy hailing from a tiny village in Tamil Nadu, the only dream was to be a teacher someday. I lost my father at a very young age. My mother was a school teacher. She would start walking from home quite early every day, collect kids from different houses in the neighbourhood and take them to school with her. She always told me that when I grew up, I should also become a teacher, but not a teacher of her kind, carrying children to their classrooms, but a teacher, for whom the students shall wait. But it was never an easy dream. My brother, who was ten years older to me was the first one from my village to complete schooling. After him, it was me. Which means, in ten years nothing much really changed in our village. But because my mother was a teacher, and a hardworking woman, she inspired us to achieve things that were new even to us. After completing my schooling, I went on to pursue my undergraduate degree and later my Master's degree in Economics at Madurai Kamaraj University. After the completion of the degree, my only plan was to get an M.Phil./B.Ed. so that I can go on to pursue a career in teaching as I had always wanted, as my mother had always wanted. But unfortunately, or fortunately, that year the university did not accept fresh candidates to their MPhil programme. Which meant I would have to wait another year for it. I was devastated.

### **Prof. S. Irudaya Rajan**

DPS 1983; Ph.D. 1989

Chairman,

The International Institute of Migration and Development (IIMAD), Thiruvananthapuram

Then I saw a newspaper advertisement about a one-year certificate course in Demography at IIPS, Bombay. Truth be said, it was neither the programme nor the institution that caught my attention. But the fact that, if selected for the interview a train ticket to Mumbai would be provided. For someone who has never travelled beyond the borders of Tamil Nadu, it was an attractive offer. I immediately applied, and was called for the interview. But the real challenge began after I was selected into the programme. The course was highly technical and I couldn't follow a word. Three months passed by, before I decided to talk to the then director of IIPS, Dr. K. Srinivasan about my desire to discontinue. He said I could leave, but only if I repaid the entire scholarship amount that I had received during the period, which was Rs. 1200. That was too much for me to afford at that time. I immediately decided to carry on with the course because I was sure that I did not want to bother my mother anymore for money. But Dr. Srinivasan also promised me that he would do everything in his power to help me complete the course. He asked the other teachers to give me extra training. A few months later, I completed the course as the topper of my class and received a gold medal from the then Health Minister of Maharashtra.

My ambitions had not changed. I had no intention of being a demographer. But before I left, Dr. Srinivasan asked me to apply for a Ph.D. fellowship. Back then, IIPS offered a single Ph.D. fellowship every year. Irrespective of whether or not I wanted it, I applied for his sake. Two months later, I received the offer letter. I was offered a monthly stipend of Rs. 800, which was greater than what most jobs would offer those days. I went back to IIPS.

Over the months I spent there, Dr. Srinivasan constantly encouraged me to move abroad to complete my studies. It was a trend those days to go abroad for Ph.D. But I was sure of two things. One was that I wanted Dr. Srinivasan as my guide, and the second was that I wanted to be at IIPS. Though he was reluctant in the beginning, he finally agreed to my request and became my supervisor. He suggested two topics for my research, but I could not agree to neither. Finally, I came up with a topic of my own interest, which was to use the Parish records from my church to study the historical demography of the community and I thus became a demographer.

I took my first job at the Centre for Development Studies as an Assistant Professor. Dr. P.N. Mari Bhat, another IIPS alumnus, was my colleague, just returned from abroad after completing his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. At CDS, I was recognized as a social demographer as I did not quite understand the technical aspects of it. But through Dr. Mari Bhat I learned the technical

aspects of demography, and we worked together as a team. He was not only a colleague, but also a great friend. He later on became the director of IIPS. He left us all too early. But he was one of the most brilliant demographers I have ever known and he made me a better demographer than any education ever could.

My fascination was always for ageing and getting into migration was one of the most fortunate accidents of my life. Dr. K.C. Zachariah, was appointed as an honorary professor at the Centre for Development Studies in 1989. He was a long-time associate of the IIPS, and had literally laid foundation to the institution. He had retired from the World Bank and was just not interested in anymore work. I tried to motivate him to work, but he was just not interested. Eventually, we got closer and he told me that he had started working on a Migration in Mumbai during his earlier IIPS days and wanted to do migration research again, as the last assignment of his life. He asked me, if I could help. I readily agreed. We worked together on a research design, got it funded and thus happened the first Kerala Migration Survey. We had no intention of taking it further, but to our surprise it was extensively read, discussed and appreciated. Now we have completed eight successful rounds of KMS and the idea has been replicated and executed in four other states – Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Punjab and Goa. Together with Dr. K.C. Zachariah, several articles, books and publications have been made and he is one of the reasons that I am today acknowledged as a migration expert. That led me to start a new thinktank in India, called The International Institute of Migration and Development (IIMAD) in 2019.

As I recall my IIPS days, I still remember the village boy who had small dreams and ambitions. Crossing paths with Dr. Srinivasan, Dr. P.N. Mari Bhat and Dr. K.C. Zachariah made me dream big, achieve things that I would never have dreamt of as child, and I thank destiny for bringing them into my life.

I only have one advice for all the young researchers out there. The point is not to do what twenty other people are doing today. The point is to be the first to start doing something. But when you do, do it such a way that it is talked about twenty years later too. That's the secret of successful researchers. Wish you all luck.



Before writing what is the impact of my study in IIPS as the memoir, I should express that I had been so excited with fun during my stay for eleven months in Bombay city in 1987. The major reason was that because I was still a bachelor at that time so that I had no problem at all to do anything I wanted. In fact, my dream of studying in overseas had come true. During my stay in Bombay, I honestly had many experiences that I did not do in my own country. Living in hostel, buying fruits in Govandi and Chembur markets, cooking and sharing with my country mate and local students, going back and forth to my consulate office in city area every weekend and involving as a flag raiser in Indonesian Independence day, and once in while being drunk as well were the list memories that I had done during my stay in Bombay. However, the most unforgettable experience that I couldn't forget forever in my life was that I was really falling in love with the Indian girl in M.Phil. class. I couldn't forget how affectionate when she talked to me and so did I. Don't ask me to mention her name. Let this romantic love live forever with me and her only. Due to ethnic barrier, we couldn't continue our relationship. I do hope she always remembers me and be happy with her husband and her family.



**Mr. Setio Nugroho**  
CPS: 1987-88  
Statistician, BPS Statistik,  
Indonesia

Now it is time for me to telling the impact of my study in IIPS on me. Well, I think I am the one who was very lucky, particularly after returning from IIPS. The demography I learned in IIPS, which included all the knowledge about fertility, mortality and migration have not been far away from me up till now. After returning from my study in IIPS, I proceeded to my study in Flinders University Australia for my masters degree. This was due to the fact that I could show the IIPS certificate to the interviewer at that time. Amazingly, I met the head of the Social Studies department at the university who was previously a lecturer in IIPS. I am right now about 60 years and always involved with demography, whether as a government employee or as college lecturer in my country. Teachers like Dr. T.K. Roy is still in my mind. Thank you so much IIPS.



**Dr. Ponnambala  
Thiagarajan**

CPS 1981-82; Ph.D. 1990  
Freelancer, New Delhi

I have a connection with IIPS as a student as well as a staff. I joined the CPS programme in 1981-82 batch and completed my doctorate in September 1990. I am the first Ph.D. from IIPS, Bombay. Also, I worked as a Research Officer in the Baseline Surveys in Maharashtra and Gujarat for the area development project from 1982 to 1985. Subsequently, as a Senior Research Officer in NFHS-1 from 1992-94. My other connections with IIPS were with the flagship projects of NFHS 1, 2, 3 & 4, DLHS 3 & 4 and GATS-1 project. We were the CPS students during the silver jubilee of IIPS and I also attended the golden jubilee celebrations of IIPS. I am constantly in touch with faculty, staff and students of IIPS for the last 40 years.

As a Government of India fellow in CPS and Ph.D. programmes, my financial issues were minimised by IIPS. When I worked under Dr. (Mrs.) Asha Bhende for the baseline surveys and Ph.D, my research orientation was expanded, especially on sociological perspective, gender equality, survey research, amicable nature and training capability. I learned research management while working under Mrs. Tara Kanitkar in NFHS 1. The multi cultural exposure in IIPS enhanced my knowledge and interest in Indian languages and culture, especially in southern languages, Odiya, Hindi and Bhojpuri.

Almost a decade from 1981 to 1992 was a golden moment in my connection with IIPS, where I studied, worked, made many good friends, shaped into a good personality and researcher.







As a student of M.Sc. Statistics from Andhra University, I first visited IIPS in 1986 as part of our study tour. I decided then itself that I should get doctorate from IIPS. I joined IIPS in 1987 for M.Phil. and Ph.D. with fellowship. The course work of the M.Phil. helped immensely in enhancing knowledge which helped in my career subsequently. We were taught by senior faculty of the IIPS. For instance, Prof. Srinivasan, taught us the population policies. I was able to complete both M.Phil. and Ph.D. in three years due to the support of many including my guide Prof. Sukumar Mukerji from whom I understood the importance of time management and adhering to the time schedule. The role of library and computer centre was crucial in my research work at IIPS.

Soon after submission of my Ph.D. thesis, I got selected as Research Executive by Operations Research Group in 1991 only because of my training at IIPS. I got support from IIPS alma mater in India as well as abroad in my professional research work as well as IASP work. As a Ph.D. scholar, I attended the IUSSP conference held at Delhi in 1989 (thanks to Prof. Srinivasan) and IASP is hosting the IPC 2021 with my active involvement as IASP president. I give credit to IIPS for this. I am fortunate for my association with IIPS which has a high brand value.



**Dr. Ulimiri V Somayajulu**

M.Phil. 1987-89; Ph.D. 1991  
 Founder, Sigma Research and consulting and President, IASP



**Prof. Rajiva Prasad**

DPS 1982-83; Ph.D. 1992  
 Professor (Retired), IIPS

We were about to finish up our classes and break for M.Sc. (Statistics) final examination. One fine morning Prof. Sams Alam Khan who taught us Quality Control told us, "If any of you get an opportunity, please attend a course at IIPS, Bombay". After a few days, Prof. Rudranand Prasad in his vital statistics class opined, "There's a Demography Institute in Bombay which provides specialized knowledge about such events". And one fine day (finally) my dream came true. Thanks to my professors and The Great IIPS (*mere sapno ki rani*). My teachers referred the names of Professors Sukumar Mukherjee, U.P. Sinha and T.K. Roy too.



It gives me immense pleasure to write an eventful memoir for my Alma Mater. I entered IIPS in July-August 1987 as a CPS Student after my PG in Geography from Ravenshaw College, Cuttack in then Orissa. I have an unforgettable and dignified CPS selection interview under the Chairmanship of iconic academic administrator, Prof. K. Srinivasan and a father like Coordinator Prof. T.K. Roy. These personalities along with the accomplished then senior faculty members were making us so comfortable during that interview that we felt as if we were facing a galaxy only of well-wishers to bring out the best in the candidates. We were accommodated in the five-storey IIPS hostel to face the interview and reimbursed the Railway two-ways fare without slightest of the hassles. The selection list was put up exactly as per the schedule showing the exemplary sincerity of IIPS worthy of the name. On joining the first day of the CPS, I saw our batch mates from many states of India in addition to trainees from countries like China, South Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Afghanistan, Sri-Lanka, Nepal, etc. which was nothing less than a dream for me that I had foreign Students as my compatriots.



**Dr. Prabir Kumar Rath**

CPS 1987-88; M.Phil. 1988-93  
Associate Professor of Geography,  
Goa University

Dr. P.K. Bhargava was our Hostel Warden and Mr. O.K. Prasad was our Hostel In-Charge. Both of them made the stay in the hostel most comfortable with varieties of food and eventful days. We had the opportunities of playing cricket, badminton, TT, etc. in the available spaces then in the company of the senior faculty members like Prof. S. Mukherjee, Prof. Ravi Verma, Prof. T.K. Roy and the family members of the staff staying in the campus then. The atmosphere was of an extended family in the evenings, Saturdays and Sundays after very serious and effective academic schedules from 9.30 a.m. to 5.45 p.m. every day. The senior Ph.D. Scholars, DPS Trainees and our Co-Batch mates of integrated M.Phil. students were like the creams and icing spread on the happy cakes.

I have not seen heaven yet but those days were not lesser than that. IIPS was an academic paradise for us. Many of our then hostel mates are the present day's leading lights of IIPS and carry forward the golden legacies even today. Prof. James, Prof. Sayeed, Prof. Bhagat, Prof. Usha and Prof. Kailash are some of them, whom I can easily remember now.

We had a memorable Mumbai darshan trip by the IIPS bus covering almost all the leading points of then Bombay including Canary Caves under the supervision and coordination of our revered Dr. P.K. Bhargava. Prof. Srinivasan and Prof. T.K. Roy had nominated me as the Cultural Secretary and my roommate Mr. C. Rajeev as the Sports Secretary for the year 1987-88 and our friends Mr. K.M. Sathyanarayana, Mr. Dharendra Kumar, Mr. Vinod, Mr. Pradeep Panda, Mr. Manoj Guru, Mr. G. Gautam and Mr. Govind Raju as Mess Secretaries from time to time. We were given the Institute's Minibus to go to Byculla wholesale market to bring the vegetables of our choice for the week for the hostel mess. The cooks and the kitchen staff were very hospitable to all the consumers. Sanitation and cleanliness were maintained to perfection by the appointed Staff.

The Gardeners and the maintenance staff did their duties in full dedication. The TV Room allowed us to view news, cricket matches and movies during the weekends. A telephone kept near the lift provided free phone call facilities for the hostellers to call any and unlimited local numbers. I remember we could make STD calls even freely in emergencies from the Reception Office.

Treated water was available during those days both in the Institute and the Hostel, which was rare in most of the Universities then. We enjoyed each and every function covering the National Days, Ganesh Chaturthi, Saraswati Puja, Holy, New Year's Day, Sports Day, Cultural Function Days, Convocation Day, etc. We had many visitors from different parts of the nation and different parts of the world staying in the IIPS Hostel during their visits. One night, a lady Professor from Australia arrived late night and rooms were not vacant at that moment; me and my roommate Rajeev offered our room for her and we moved to our Sri Lankan friend Mr. Ratnaweera's room to sleep on the floor with our bedsheets and towels. There were numerous such events to temporarily accommodate spot visitors in our room since the Institution's Drivers were comfortable to approach us. Sometimes, we happily slept in the TV Room. Mr. O.K. Prasad was a grand hearted man to make all possible

attempts to provide a shelter to every Institutional visitor including me during my extended M.Phil. period. During the extended period, I was a college faculty in Goa but visiting IIPS during my vacations as a student; however, the warmth was not lesser in any measure. Prof. Pathak (Director) and Prof. Lahiri (Hostel Warden), who extended me all possible help. Hence, IIPS maintained an accommodative and liberal culture.

My memoir in IIPS is incomplete without the indelible experience of IIPS library. It was a free and easiest possible access library of the eighties in India. Mr. Randeria, K.V. Rao, Mr. Mistry and the staff members extended every possible help to all visitors irrespective of their level or status. We, the CPS students shared the reading tables with the top level institutional faculty and visiting professors from across the nation and globe. Photocopies were also provided very easily.

The best academic part was witnessed during our seminar presentation days, where highly competitive and healthy intellectual arguments used to take place culminating in the best possible suggestions for the students to make the best seminar paper.

Whereas the best co-curricular part was the all India Study Tour under the leadership of Dr. P.K. Bhargava to CDS (Trivandrum), ISEC and ICMR (Bangalore), MGRDI (Madurai), PRC (Gandhigram), SCERT and PRC (Bhubaneswar), BHU (Varanasi), NIHFV (New Delhi), etc. It has an unforgettable impact on each one of us, probably travelling in First Class Coaches, visiting almost 2/3rd of India within 21 days. The team was PAN-ASIAN but moved like one family. By God's grace not even one health issue for any one of us. Prof. Bhargava had entrusted the schedule maintenance responsibilities with me, which taught me a lot to be an event manager in my teaching career till date. For the last two decades, I am fortunate to be an honorary consultant to my fellow colleagues from various Universities of India in this front. All of my friends will remain in my heart forever. I am fortunate to be in contact with many of them till date on personal fronts keeping this unbreakable thread of IIPS. I feel quite proud of the achievements of anyone associated with IIPS as a tribute to my Alma Mater. Mr. Lal Ratnaweera from Sri Lanka is one such example for me. A group photograph during the Convocation, May 1988 provides the glimpse of that glorious year.

In 1988-89, I got into my M. Phil. programme with some of our CPS batch mates. It was another year at IIPS. We had the same warmth, patronage and respect for each other. Dr. Somayajulu and Dr. Sathyanarayana were some of the closest friends for me during 1988-89 in the hostel and library.

We had continued all cultural and sports events but the 3 days Goa trip by IIPS bus stands out as the most memorable one. I completed my M.Phil. in extended time from IIPS in 1993 under the guidance of Prof. Kamla Gupta. Later I have been associated with IIPS and some events during the International Conference in 1993 in Goa and 2006 in Mumbai. I feel fortunate also to be associated with some Ph.D. evaluation of this legendary Institution. It is a matter of contempt and indebtedness.

In 1989 July I was selected as a Lecturer in Geography in a Government College in Goa but wanted to spend some quality time with my IIPS family before joining; I requested to defer my joining date by a month for that. I lost my seniority by a month for that error, but never regretted it till 1993, when some of my present colleagues superseded me in some fronts by sincerely joining on time. Now with maturity, I persuade everyone not to waste even an hour to join a job from the given opportunity.

Later on I completed my Ph.D. from University of Mumbai in Geography. I am indebted to the Department of Geography, University of Mumbai, which is another indelible Alma Mater to me. I shall remain ever grateful to all my alma mater like my schools, colleges, IIPS and university of Mumbai. These institutions are my temples and the teachers therein are my Gods and Goddesses for me. Each one has given everything possible and the memories give nostalgic feelings. May God bless all these Institutions forever to carry forward their legacies. I feel blessed to be a product of my alma mater. Last but not the least, I beg for unconditional apology from everyone for any of my mistakes during my association with IIPS.





I have joined as CPS student of 1975 batch. Later, I have been associated as faculty member from 1980 to 1992. At IIPS, along with my teaching assignment, I have completed my Ph.D. under the guidance of my respected Guru ji Professor P.C. Saxena. He has been my continuous mentor in shaping my national and international professional career. Because of his hard and sincere guidance, my thesis was rated very high and I was awarded Rockefeller Foundation Special Postdoctoral Fellowship in Population Sciences for advanced research at the Population Research Laboratory, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA during 1989-90.

At IIPS, I have been associated as Warden of Hostel for three years as well as organized various excursion tours to Goa, Ajanta, Ellora and other places for the students. I have also been in-charge for organizing all India Educational Tour Programme of CPS students of IIPS.

In fact, continuous guidance of my teachers and senior colleagues of IIPS have played a huge role in shaping my professional life. Because of my education and initial professional career at IIPS, I had the opportunity to work as: Director, PRC, Dharwad; Demographic and Economic Advisor, Kingdom of Bahrain; Visiting Scholar & Postdoctoral Fellow at Population Research Lab, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA; and Director, Chaudhry Ranbir Singh Institute of Social and Economic Change, Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak, where I have organized IASP conference during 2015.

A unique feature of IIPS is that, even if any unknown IIPS Alumni meet each other at any part of the world, they instantly feel that they are members of the same family. It happened to me several times in India and abroad even though I left IIPS in 1992. We IIPS Alumni have strong bonding. Even today, I have strong association with my teachers, colleagues, IIPS students to whom I taught at IIPS during 1980-92, and those who are currently teaching in IIPS as well as in India and abroad.



**Prof. P.K. Bhargava**

CPS 1975-76; Ph.D. 1988  
Former Faculty (1980-92), IIPS  
Director (Retired),  
Chaudhry Ranbir Singh Institute of  
Social and Economic Change,  
Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak



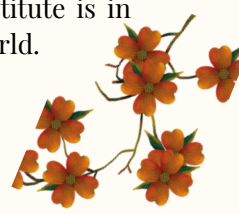
**Dr. A.G. Khan**

CPS 1988; M.Phil. 1989; Ph.D. 1996  
Associate Professor  
Department of Sociology  
Gulbarga University

It all started with joining IIPS in the year 1987. Spending a decade of my life in IIPS has taught me many things before I put a full stop to my journey....I learnt, enhanced, developed and it has given me the opportunity to explore the entire country and even the world as vasudhaiva kutumbakam (one family) through the lens of IIPS. For this reason, I always remain thankful to this unique institute which moulded my personality in such a way that society is recognizing me as a good teacher, mentor, motivator and a researcher. To spell out candidly, I am very glad and contented wherever I am placed and serving right now. With this, I would like to quote it as

Rishte wo nahi jismein roz baat ho  
Rishte wo bhi nahi jo har pal saath ho  
Rishte toh vo hotein hain jismein kitni bhi duri ho  
Phir bhi dil mein unki yaad ho.....

I always missed it and in fact I am missing and will be missing my IIPS life till my last breath and I believe that all alumni would agree with me. Eventually, now it's time to think how best we can pay back to our institute. In this way I extend my unconditional promise to aid IIPS in possible ways whenever the institute is in need of my service as one among 4000 alumni stretched all over the world.



DECADE  
1990-1999



IIPS will always remain in my memory, very importantly for the space it provided for my academic enrichment in my early years of career. Prof. Tara Kanitkar, the then HoD of Department of Development Studies, where I had joined, Prof. Sumati Kulkarni and Prof. Guruswamy were very supportive towards my efforts to complete my pending doctoral research. Mr. Randheria and Mr. Mestry readily helped me find the books and extended other support in the library for my teaching and doctoral research. I must mention the support extended by Mr. Karunakaran and Sunandaji in the computer Centre. Teaching the course on Social Research Methodology along with Prof. Ravi Verma and Prof. B.M. Ramesh was an opportunity to learn from senior colleagues. Everyone - my peer and senior colleagues contributed in my academic growth in many ways directly and indirectly. I wrote my first paper on tribal population with Prof. Harish Srivastava, got exposure to the large scale surveys and writing reports based on their data.



**Prof. Sanghmitra S. Acharya**

Former Faculty (1990-99), IIPS  
Professor, School of Social Sciences,  
Jawaharlal Nehru University,  
New Delhi

On the personal front, I made some very good friends in the faculty as well as among the then (during 1990s) senior research scholars. Prof. Sayeed Unisa, Prof. Mala Ramanathan, Dr. Renu Kapoor, Prof. Shyamala. Prof. U.S. Mishra, Dr. A.G. Khan, Dr. Thiagarajan, Dr. G. Rangayan... the list can get fairly long! (with apologies whose name I am missing out). The connection with Prof. Kamala Gupta and Prof. K. Sita, then Visiting Faculty (who was subsequently my Ph.D. examiner too!), was also on the commonality of our basic academic discipline. "The Lunch Club" had some vibrant discussions ranging from politics to personal through academics! The members - although kept changing over time, discussions remained in the memories for ever- Dr. Soumya Ramarao's accounts of her tryst with agencies outside India, Prof. K. Sita's experiences in University of Bombay, Prof. Gupta's perils in driving every day to the Institute, everyday classes or even the food ordered from the canteen would provide us with enough to talk about! Nine years at IIPS are precious moments of my life. And on the lighter note, not to miss out on the claim to fame that the current Director of the Institute has sat in the MPS class I had a chance to teach!!

**Reflections on IIPS**



**Dr. Saumya Rama Rao**

Former Faculty, IIPS  
Senior Associate  
Population Council, New York

My first job right after I finished my Ph.D. at the University of Southern California was at the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS). I joined as a Supernumerary Reader in 1991; the Supernumerary Reader which was a position that IIPS had for Indians returning after having studied abroad. As a young woman on her first job, it was heartening to see so many other women professors— Prof. Tara Kanitkar, Prof. Sumati Kulkarni, Prof. Radha Devi, Prof. Kamla Gupta, Prof. Sulabha Parsuraman, Prof. Sayeed Unisa and Prof. Sanghamitra Acharya. Each one of them provided inspiration.

I enjoyed my time teaching and doing research at the institute. In my first year at IIPS, I have strong memories of the World Population Day celebrations—this was the first time ever that I had celebrated July 11th in this fashion. There were so many interesting and exciting events in the field at that time—ICPD/Cairo was just around the corner and the field was moving into reproductive health, the first NFHS survey in India was being planned, and IIPS had also started a correspondence course on demography. Working at IIPS gave me a solid grounding on the needs and priorities of the country and set me on a trajectory for a successful career. I am grateful for my time spent at IIPS—I have made many friends and connections that still endure.



To IIPS, I owe the best and the most engaging years of my life. The skills, networking, and practical exposure that I gained from this premium institution has helped kick start my journey as a demographer and SRHR programme specialist. I wouldn't trade my experience in the IIPS for the world, and I am grateful to the family that I made through my time, not only with my classmates but also the faculty and their families, who were kind enough to welcome us in their homes. From the delicious south Indian food in the mess hall, unlimited morning chai to the delightful conversation from people around the world, my time in IIPS was one I fondly look back on. Being the cultural secretary of IIPS, I had the pleasure of taking foreign students to cultural events. I was exposed to diverse cultures, met with different people, and grew as a person. I cherish my time in IIPS as it was truly a place of knowledge and bliss.



### **Dr. Jameel Jamir**

MPS: 1991-92  
Director of Programmes &  
Performance,  
IPPF, East, South East Asia and  
Oceania Region (ESEAOR),  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



### **Dr. S. Surender**

Ph.D. 1993  
Former Faculty (1992-98), IIPS  
Dept. of Population Policies &  
Programmes

### **IIPS reminds me of:**

Those lovely rainy days  
Govandi station  
Hostel rooms  
National and international friends  
Creative and hardworking faculties  
Systematic arrangements of books in library  
Research interest  
Common TV hall  
Computer and SPSS  
Sports competition with faculty  
Ganapathi Pooja and Holi celebrations  
*Journal of Health and Family Welfare*  
Foundation Day  
Friendly office staff, and  
Tea at hostel

These will always remain fresh in my memories.  
Wishing IIPS many more laurels in the days to come.

## The Journey of a Rebel

"She is normally abnormal", my best friend used to joke about me!!! I have been a nonconformist and it is that brought me to IIPS for further studies. I recall my teary-eyed Amma asking me the day before I left for Bombay the first time to join IIPS whether I really wanted to study there because she worried about my safety as a young woman and I wanting to prove her that my gender cannot stop my dreams. The transition from a student of Economics to a student of Demography wasn't easy; my teachers were brilliant, but I found discussions about fertility, mortality and nuptiality boring; and the library was my comfort zone. I remember reading an article on reproductive morbidity in the *Health Transition Review* in 1993; that article fascinated me, and I decided to pursue something related to sexual and reproductive health for my research. There were naysayers because my basic training was in Economics, but I persevered, and the journey continues. As Albert Camus said, "I rebel; therefore I exist".



**Dr. K.G. Santhya**

MPS 1991-92; M.Phil. 1993  
Senior Associate,  
Population Council,  
New Delhi

It is my pride and pleasure to note a few lines about IIPS. I was an IIPS student during 1987-1993 to complete my M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees. I am currently the System-wide Chair in General Studies, at Higher Colleges of Technology, UAE. Being a student, I could have not asked for any better experience than what I received from IIPS. The world-class facilities for learning and research and the outstanding professors have been the cornerstone of my professional and personal success. Well-equipped and modern on-campus housing had been of great comfort and convenience. IIPS offers a truly global learning and research environment. My life has truly changed for the better, with opportunities and optimism and I can't ever seem to thank IIPS enough. I have no hesitation to acknowledge that "who am I now" is largely due to IIPS. I still cherish my invaluable IIPS experience. IIPS is indeed my personal pride.



**Dr. Panthayil Babu Rajan**

M.Phil. 1987-88; Ph.D. 1993  
Senior Lecturer - General  
Academic  
Higher College of Technology,  
UAE



**Dr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat**

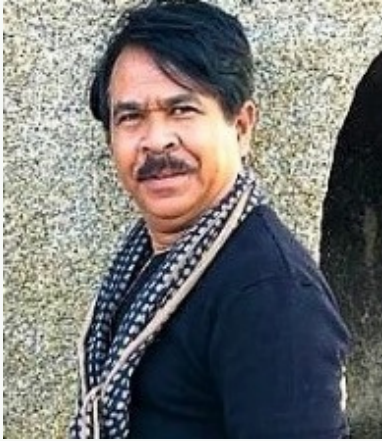
MPS 1994-95  
Coordinator,  
Population Research Centre,  
University of Kashmir, Srinagar

I was the first person to join PRC Srinagar as a faculty in 1988 and had no formal training in Population Studies. There was hardly any person in the University of Kashmir, who could guide me. Luckily, it was IIPS which organized a two week Survey Research Methodology workshop in 1989 that provided me a chance to interact with other PRC colleagues regarding the research activities of the PRCs. This workshop also provided me an opportunity to interact with the then faculty of the IIPS. While I was discussing the activities and the problems of our PRC with Prof. K. Srinivasan (the then Director of IIPS) in his office, Prof. Tara Kanitkar and Prof. Asha Bhende stepped in and joined the conversation and when they came to know that PRC Srinagar has just started functioning and do not have any collection of books, all the three shared some important books and journals from their personal collections for our PRC. This gesture of these eminent teachers has taught me the lesson to lend my books to any one in need without expecting them to be returned.

I found most of the IIPS faculty who delivered the lectures during the workshop so affectionate, that I decided to pursue MPS course from IIPS in 1994. I feel proud and lucky to have been the student of faculty who are extremely profound in their knowledge and scholarly in their approach. Although working in the PRC had helped to gain some basic understanding of population studies, but my demographic techniques got molded so nicely at IIPS that enabled me to reach the present status.

I worked with IIPS in the first four phases of NFHS and people do admire my training and monitoring capabilities but I owe it to the TOT during NFHS-1 imparted by Prof. Tara Kanitkar (May her soul Rest in Peace) and Dr. B.M. Ramesh.





### **Dr. Udo Saikia**

MPS 1992-1993  
Associate Professor,  
Flinders University, Australia

### **In search of the story behind the “decimal points” – my journey as a demographer that started at IIPS**

As a final year postgraduate student studying Economics at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (year 1992), Pune, I was a little uncertain and confused about my future academic destiny. While most of my batchmates had decided what was next, I was still undecided. However, I knew that I wanted to choose a career which would connect me to the grassroots of our society. The soul searching of my career destination and my desire to develop my capability to meaningfully contribute to the society was not easy, but I did find answers in the word “demography”. That was when Prof. Balasubramanian, Head of Demography at Gokhale Institute introduced me to IIPS. After my initial introduction I did not waste any time; I booked an overnight bus ticket (popularly known as Asiad buses) to Mumbai, making sure to request the bus driver to stop at Chembur! That overnight journey became one that initiated the next phase of my career as a demographer, and I did not look back.

Although the experience itself was short (as a student of one year Master of Population Studies course), the influence it had on me has been long and still continues to this day. I learnt from Prof. Sumati Kulkarni (who was my supervisor for postgraduate thesis), how to present demographic data in such a way that it tells a story about the very nature of our societies. More specifically, I started learning why it is significant to not just find why TFR is 3.4 not 3.1 but more importantly exactly why and how “women’s empowerment” can be vital in those decimal point differences in TFR!

It did not take me long to fall in love with interpreting such demographic data and soon I started seeking my own answers to certain demographic phenomenon that I saw around me. This led me to find answers as to many demographic issues such as why there was a demographic divide between north India and south India, how and why culture dictates those decimal point differences, how youth bulge can lead to demographic dividend but at the same time could end up in social conflict too if a proper policy is not in place! It was IIPS that created my hunger to explore such issues, and I continued as a demographer – but more as a social demographer. I later joined the London School of Economics to further my demographic studies and then finally ended up at Flinders University in Australia to undertake my PhD in Population Studies! As a PhD student I continued my investigation for the “decimal point differences” in tribal communities in Meghalaya and Assam and successfully answered why despite high women’s autonomy Khasi women in Meghalaya had the highest fertility in India (around 1998-99).

It has been almost twenty years since the IIPS laid the foundations for me to pursue my dreams as a demographer! My journey searching the “decimal point differences” continues in my current role as an academic at Flinders University. My work has proven to be not just confined to an Indian context but to also extend to numerous other societies. As a demographer and an evidence based policy researcher, I now mostly work for the United Nations in assisting small island nations in the Asia Pacific region to produce their National Human Development Reports (to learn more about my work in the development of these reports click this weblink).

I wish the Global Alumni Meet 2021 a great success!

I got myself enrolled in IIPS in 1987 as a student of Certificate Course in Population Studies and eventually moved onto M.Phil. on completion of the Certificate in Population Studies. I finally moved out of the Institute in 1994 with a Ph.D. in Population Sciences. What was typical that first struck me on taking admission at this Institute and on joining the hostel was that this hostel is common for both the men and women students unlike the Pune university hostel where I had resided for my post-graduation in Anthropology and was overwhelmed by the deduction that this institution is going to be equally progressive and liberal in its thinking and outlook too.

As IIPS is the premier institution in the field of population for the South Asian countries, we got exposed to both theoretical and contemporary issues on population in these region with the realm of exposure and the academic genre spanning beyond the rudimentary aspects and capable of equipping us to the understanding of the different cultures of the world in a wider and balanced perspective with contributions from students belonging to the countries of Asia like Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, South Korea, China and Afghanistan, and even from the African countries.

Memorable were the periodic get togethers we used to be part of during the occasions of Deepavali, Christmas and New Year which were a class apart and capable of piercing the barriers various aspects of life seem to erect and etching enough lasting impressions that are incapable of eroding with time and space.

In retrospect, it is the academic knowledge and professional excellence we all have painstakingly gained during our stay at IIPS that has shaped my career, for which I remain grateful and appreciative of the Institute and the faculties we were fortunate to have had.

The classes taken by population legends like Prof. Srinivasan, Prof. T.K. Roy, Prof. Mukherjee, Prof. Kanitkar, Prof. Bhende, Prof. Radha Devi and Prof. Ravi Verma were so inspiring and capable of widening the horizons of knowledge and understanding that enabled us to function independently and in imparting similar skills to others to perform to their full potentials. IIPS also gave a lot of vibrant friends and acquaintances with whom I continued to have interaction all through these two and a half decades.



**Dr. T.S. Syamala**

CPS 1987-88; M.Phil. 1988-89;  
Ph.D. 1989-94  
Associate Professor and Head  
Population Research Centre,  
ISEC, Bangalore

### **IIPS – An institution to reckon!**

I had completed my MA in geography from JNU in 1990 and joined IIPS the same year for MPS in the batch of 1990-91. IIPS campus was smaller compared to JNU and initially, I felt claustrophobic. The first thing I remember was getting annoyed at Surender as he laughed at me looking at the IIPS hostel building when I disembarked from the taxi.

Madhavi Priyadarshani was my roommate in MPS. IIPS was like a cocoon that nurtured me to take every assignments of my life seriously.

IIPS gave me an opportunity to meet people from far away lands. I had a chance to interact with foreign students from East and Far East – Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Haiti, Cambodia, China, North Korea, Bangladesh, Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka and also from various African countries such as Sudan and Liberia. I remember, Dr. Samuel Otter, from Sudan; from whom I learnt a lot by interacting with him, listening to his Ph.D., and other common interests. Another person I remember very vividly was Farooque from Afghanistan, who used to think of his homeland and his Ph.D. work very passionately.

I remember my seniors and am still in touch with most of them – A.G. Khan, Satynarayana, Surender, Sayeed Unisa, amongst others. I am also in touch of my juniors. I remember having fun while watching matches between faculty and students, visiting Lonavla, Khandala, and the various programmes held by students on Foundation Day and other occasions. With time, IIPS has become taller in my eyes. I learned many things at IIPS – mainly from listening to my teachers, reading the Population Studies book by Tara Kaniitkar and Asha Bhende, and of course visiting the Library. I did a Special Paper on National Capital Region with Dr. Kamla Gupta in MPS; M.Phil with Dr. Shekhar Mukherjee and Ph.D. with Dr. D. Radha Devi. In my course of doing these dissertations, other faculty of IIPS also helped such as Dr. Guruswami, Dr. T.K. Roy etc.

I actually wanted to leave MPS course because of Statistics, however I stayed put due to two people from IIPS. One of them was Tara Karnitkar, my course coordinator for MPS who heard me through patiently when informed that I got through in JNU for M.Phil, and asked me to go for my next MPS class.



**Dr. Nandini Roy**

MPS 1990-91; Ph.D. 1996  
Senior Manager – M&E  
Magic Bus India Foundation

I had told my fears to Dr. R.K. Sinha. He tried to tell me that no one fails in MPS and counselled me against leaving IIPS and inspired me by telling that there are many geographers who have made undeniable mark in the field of statistics. It eventually paid dividends – my oscillation stopped and I completed MPS successfully, registered for M.Phil. and eventually completed Ph.D. in 1996. For my MPhil, I worked on female migration to Calcutta slums. I enjoyed working on it, especially the field work in Kolkata and writing about it. It was based on push and pull theory of migration with respect to migration of destitute women to Kolkata. I would not have registered for my Ph.D. if Dr. A.G Khan had not insisted that I should do my Ph.D.

For my Ph.D., I originally wanted to work on informal sector in Kolkata but eventually decided on women's work participation and decision making in squatter settlements of Calcutta. Now, when I think back, I think I just continued my M.Phil. work and looked into deeper social economic and demographic characteristics that determine empowerment of women for my doctoral work.



remember Dr. Sumati Kulkarni (a very unassuming person), Mrs. Sebastian (I liked her a lot!) and Dr. S. Lahiri (he was a great story teller! I learned a lot listening to him). I remember all the technical officers who took the practical classes in MPS – Dr. Sahu, Dr. Fulpagre and others; they were deft in their work and learned. One thing I really regret was an opportunity of managing the kitchen expenses, I did not take it as I was scared of handling finances. After completing my Ph.D. I worked with Dr. Arvind Pandey, Dr. Ravi Verma and I am in touch with most of the teachers. I remember studying population policies, attending luncheon and dinner party hosted by Industrialist such as Godrej. Had the chance to meet and hear on population issues by Mr. Sunil Dutta, the famous actor and film maker; Nani Palkhiwala, the famous jurist; Ashish Bose, Dr. Padam Singh, etc. IIPS has wonderful library and librarians, Randheria Saheb knew where every book was located and where it could be found if not in the book rack. I still wish to visit IIPS and read through the old books, a treasure trove.

My teachers, seniors and peers at IIPS taught me to be humble, observant, and methodical and to communicate what is there in my mind, to be graceful in acknowledging mistakes and espoused that there is no age limit to learn. I do not know whether I could make IIPS proud of me but I am proud to be part of this alumina and I constantly make efforts to hold the banner of IIPS high. My parents were also part of my journey to IIPS.



38th Convocation, IIPS 1996



Hostel room, Nandini Roy with Prasad, Mamta, Hira  
(my room mate during Phil/PhD)



World Population Day, 1990



IIPS Hostel Mess

I came to IIPS in June 1988 from a rural background. Late Prof. Sharma and Dr. Somayajulu played an instrumental role, in my admission to IIPS. I pursued MPS, M.Phil. and Ph.D. at IIPS, during 1988-94. Had I not joined IIPS, I might have landed in a bank/Govt. office. During MPS, I was, mostly, in a dilemma to pursue research or try for job! When I performed badly in UPSC-exam following MPS, I came to know research is my destiny. Luckily, I received the Govt. of India fellowship for M.Phil. and Ph.D. Late Prof. Mukherjee and Prof. Pathak motivated me to do research, and my guide (Prof. Ram) provided me with much needed guidance to secure a job even before completing Ph.D., in 1994. Since then, I am working in small/big NGOs, mostly conducting research on the topics of RMNCH and nutrition. Right now, I am working as M&E-head at ICRW, New Delhi.



**Dr. Hanimi Reddy Modugu**  
MPS 1988-89; M.Phil. 1989-90;  
Ph.D. 1994  
M&E Head, ICRW, New Delhi



**Dr. Sushanta Kumar Banerjee**  
MPS 1994-95; Ph.D. 1999  
Chief Technical Officer (R&E)  
Ipas Development Foundation  
New Delhi

Coming to the IIPS has been one of the best decisions of my life. The four-year journey (one-year MPS & three-years Ph.D.) allowed me to deal with many exciting avenues. I have fully explored my interests in different domains, ranging from academic to social life. At the beginning of my MPS degree, I was a little worried about my decision to join this institute since I had an excellent opportunity to carry out my research at another reputed university. But within a month, I started realizing the true strength of this institute which usually remains hidden for many outsiders. The true power of IIPS has been its eminent faculties, library, out of box thinking, and family bondage which led us not only to complete our research work with great success but empowered us as true professionals to compete with global scholars. Today, I am mainly because of IIPS, and I always feel proud of saying, "I am the alumni of IIPS." This academic institute has opened up many doors to me and allowed me to carry the flag of IIPS globally. Contrary to the global market trend, IIPS never promotes its sweet presence, probably because of its legacy of producing true professionals.



**Dr. Rattan Chand**

M.Phil. 1994; Ph.D. 1999  
MoHFW (Retired),  
EGROW Foundation, Noida

My association with IIPS goes back to 1990s when I completed M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees in Population Studies. Prof. (Mrs.) S. Kulkarni has been an excellent mentor and guide. During 2008 to 2015, I closely interacted with Director (Prof. F. Ram) and Faculty of the IIPS when I was Chief Director (Statistics) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. I participated in various meetings of the Governing Council, Executive Council and Academic Council of IIPS. The effort has been to enable IIPS to function as an excellent academic institution by providing full administrative and technical support from government side. The infrastructure at IIPS has been a major concern and continuous steps were taken to improve it. I wish IIPS to be a top global institution in the field of policy and academics.

In Indian Demography, I was inspired by the selfless leadership of K.B. Pathak, J.R. Lele, S. Mukherjee and P.V. Sarma. They in my opinion provided genuine leadership to IIPS's growth, Indian academic demography, and collective wisdom. Meeting students from almost all the states in India and a few cities from abroad and exchanging culture and ideas were some of the nice things that happened to me. I continue to cherish them always.



**Prof. Arni S.R. Srinivasa Rao**

MPS 1995-96; Ph.D. 2000  
Director, Laboratory for Theory and Modeling, Medical College of Georgia, U.S.A. & Department of Mathematics, Augusta University, Georgia, USA



**Dr. Asharaf Abdul Salam**

MPS 1991-92; Ph.D. 2001  
Center for Population Studies,  
King Saud University,  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Being brought up in a village, after having qualified in MA Psychology, I received a scholarship to study MPS at IIPS. It was an aimless journey but with high aspirations. Not being well focused in studies, I have never been a good student. But, with an urge to excel, I have continued with IIPS projects and thereby registered for Ph.D. It took a long time to finish Ph.D. due to my work outside IIPS (more than one year) and my studies abroad (INIA/University of Malta for one year). After completing Ph.D., my struggle continued by serving NGO sector and private sector in Mumbai. Slowly, I was able to apply my education and skills developed at IIPS in my employment. With that knowledge, I have served the Faculty of Public Health of Garyounis University in Libya and Center for Population Studies of King Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. I confidently offer all credits of my transformation to IIPS and its eminent faculty, student and staff community.





**Dr. Jayachandran Vasudevan**

M.Phil. 1992-93; Ph.D. 2000  
 Statistics and Monitoring Specialist  
 & Regional Multiple Indicator Cluster  
 Survey Coordinator, UNICEF East Asia and  
 Pacific Regional Office, Bangkok, Thailand

It was in July 1992 that I boarded the train from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala to Bombay (Mumbai). My first long journey alone to one of the (in)famous metro cities. After arriving at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus known as Victoria Terminus at that time, despite some guidance from Raja (my senior) it was a struggle to find the sub-urban local train ticket counter and to board the Mankhurd train with my broken English and Hindi.

I never realized one year at IIPS would fly by so quickly and time had come to say goodbye to IIPS after completing M.Phil. After a few months, I had returned to IIPS to join Ph.D. programme, but I ended up joining the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-1) project instead. Joining the NFHS or any other project for that matter was not in my scheme of things at that time and was an unexpected turn in my life. But after that turn I have never looked back...and that journey continues.

"IIPS days are one of the most memorable and fruitful times in my life. Joined IIPS for MPS course with lots of hopes and dreams and went on to earn a Ph.D. degree from the institute. Now while looking back, I can definitely say that IIPS has immensely inspired me in shaping my upbringing, career and life.

It is worth mentioning here that my MPS term paper was on India's population projections and after about twenty-five years I had the opportunity to be part of the Technical Group on 2019 Population Projections for India & States constituted by National Commission on Population, MoHFW – just wondering how life comes a full circle! Still continuing the legacy that IIPS has permeated in me by relishing fond memories, by connecting seniors, contemporaries, and juniors both professionally and personally. I sincerely wish all the very best for IIPS in its transition phase and its future endeavours."



**Dr. A. Jayachandran**

MPS 1994-95 ; Ph.D. 2000  
 Avenir Health, New Delhi

Professionally and personally, I am happy today. I owe this happy life to my association with IIPS. IIPS laid a foundation for my personality development through the course pedagogy, beautiful cooperation and excellent guidance of the family. I prefer to say 'family' than 'faculty' as I was considered a part of their family and I ecstatically remember my active participation in *Ganesh pooja* at each of their homes and parties!! IIPS greatly helped us recognise a third sector, not-for-profit, which is not very well known, and provided us a great opportunity to contribute to the social impact. With good number of years of experience in not-for-profit, today, I reached the leadership level and leading the mission of an organisation, and a lot of this credit goes to the able guidance I received during and after IIPS days. I did my MPS and Ph.D. from the institute.



**Dr. Phanindra Babu Nukella**

MPS 1995-96; Ph.D. 2000

Chief Executive Officer

VISION 2020: The Right to Sight-INDIA



**Dr. Damodar Sahu**

CPS 1986-87; Ph.D. 1999

WHO Fellow on Epidemiology and  
Biostatistics, Scientist F,  
ICMR-National Institute of Medical  
Statistics, New Delhi

It is well said that the "Journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step". Looking back and reflect on the single step, started as a CPS student at IIPS in 1986. I have had some memorable moments which changed my attitude towards life and taught me important lessons thereby refining my personality. Particularly, the diversified cultural regime, life at classrooms and hostel, companionship with the professors and friends, and the library was amazing. As I embarked upon the Journey of excellence as a student, the Institute polished and crafted the talent and honed the skills during 15 years of work experience (1987-2002, RA, RO & SRO) at IIPS which are treasures to safeguard my future. IIPS gave opportunity to work meticulously on large-scale health surveys i.e., NFHS 1 & 2, and MICS-II (as consultant) at UNICEF India and completing my Ph.D., which paved the way for the future opportunities. The knowledge, skills and experience garnered here, culminated into work regime thereby transcending into profession where as I am today. At last, I enjoyed every aspect of my IIPS life and feel privileged to be associated with my alma mater.

I feel like I was a different person who was so excited to be headed towards Mumbai from a small town called Guntur. People often say that “you find yourself in university,” but I already completed two years of university life then, yet to find the best in myself. Soon after completing my master’s degree from Andhra University, I was in a career dilemma and heard great stories about IIPS from our seniors and visitors from IIPS. My imagination built around studying population sciences, IIPS looked like an oasis in the desert.

In summer 1995, I stepped on the soil of IIPS the then, Bombay, to pursue my MPS. I had anxieties about this big Metropolitan City-Mumbai (mostly depicted as a crime city by RGV in his movies), language, culture, and career. Additionally, the cab driver who bought me to IIPS cheated for 150 rupees on that very first day. However, soon after, I was greeted by a serious-looking but warm hostel manager Omprakashji. He handed over a key to my shared room on the fifth floor of the new hostel. Laltu was allotted as my roommate, and then I realized that my Hindi was not that bad for communication. I am sure it might have some solid South Indian accent. We had a brief introduction and a get-together that evening with all my classmates in the room of Anup Murari, and we had the first glimpse of the IIPS party. Summers in Mumbai is like eating hot samosa with a cup of tea; it smells good and tastes even good; slowly IIPS campus opens its arms of affection, and I quickly fell in love with it.

The meal was good enough, but we had to be accustomed to the same version of Dal and Curd every day; curry is the only changing factor. Some seniors are busy looking, and others are relaxed (depending on the guide, it seems), but all are very friendly, unlike the university culture of ragging. Seniors started stories about IIPS legacy and its greatness, about successful journeys of seniors, and remarkable love stories (some failed ones too). I could hardly wait to get started post-dinner sports sessions under the flood lights. We could always come up with late-night sandwiches near Govandi station or inspired to prepare late-night omelets with some other’s eggs in the refrigerator. I confess that I never did it myself, but just part of the crime by eating them. It took several tries before I become comfortable. While, we all come to IIPS to settle with a career, that’s just a significant part of my life experience. If I don’t opt to go there, I would have missed the golden moments of my life. I have made friends, made some temporary enemies (oops-childish then), and done some naughty things (dramatic, but maybe true). We attended Christmas carols, participated in Ganapathi processions, played skits, did yoga with Dr. Das, danced too much in the open air, and sometimes cried while facing tough academic guys such as Arni and Rajiv Ajay, and others.



**Dr. Agnihotram V. Ramanakumar**

MPS 1995-96; Ph.D. 2000  
McGill University Health Center  
Associate Director/Adjunct Professor  
Montreal, Canada.

At IIPS, we have taken part in several workshops, conferences that I care to count, met some of the brightest people I will ever know, and traveled as much and as far around India as I could. It has also given me a unique exposure and opportunity to get to know a wide range of international students with varied backgrounds. Overall, it is a remarkable academic deed.

When I look back on these experiences, I feel great, but I also know that I’ve learned a lot from esteemed professors at that time and an excellent academic environment. The best thing about going to IIPS is that besides earning two prestigious degrees (MPS and Ph.D.), I had the chance to mold my life through all the above activities and more. Post-IIPS has been a bit of a whirlwind since I have chosen my career in cancer research, which is different than my training. However, IIPS influenced my perceptions about life, employment and motivated me to emerge as a complete and humble human. Unknowingly, my heart fills with joy, and my eyes blink with sparkles whenever I hear that name; I strongly urge that I owe a lot to IIPS and look forward to paying back at every opportunity life offers me. So say it loud long live IIPS and sing it proud today.



My time spent from 1990 onwards at IIPS was amazing and will be a treasure to me throughout my life. During that time, I was fortunate enough to be associated with some renowned demographers of that time such as Prof. K. Srinivasan, Prof. P.C. Saxena, Prof. Tara Kanitkar, Prof. T.K. Roy, Prof. Pathak, Prof. U.P. Sinha and so on. I am very much indebted to the following individuals: my advisors at various courses Dr. S. Lahiri, for MPS, and Prof. Arvind Pandey for M. Phil. and Ph.D.

I got to spend some quality time with my friends at IIPS which will be a part of my memories and those are my friends forever. After completing my courses at IIPS, I was fortunate enough to be associated with the US Department of Education in one of the US Territories in the South Pacific, and I continue here with my wife and daughter.



**Dr. Shreenivasan S. Panicker**

MPS 1991, M.Phil. 1992, Ph.D. 2003  
Mathematics Coordinator,  
Department of Education,  
Pago Pago, American Samoa, USA



**Dr. Lysander Menezes**

MPS 1992-93; M.Phil. 1993-94;  
Ph.D. 2004

Independent Contractor,  
Innovation Ecosystem Design  
Practice, New Delhi

My IIPS education has helped me reinvent myself professionally a number of times. I realized through the teaching and the many discoveries of books I made in the library that most socio-economic phenomena have an underlying demographic dynamic, which was an eye-opener for me. My training in Economics prior to entering IIPS was focused on rational choice of individuals, evolutionary game theory and the other aspects of microeconomics. However, after IIPS I started getting interested in a niche area of Health Economics, called the economic epidemiology of infectious diseases, as well as in the domain of convergence of mortality patterns.

I have been influenced by all my teachers in IIPS to whom I am deeply grateful, for the opportunity they gave me to learn and experiment with ideas. Prof. Subrata Lahiri was kind enough to allow me to offer economic epidemiology of HIV/AIDS as my Ph.D. topic. This was a clear example of how professors in IIPS allow freedom of thought and experimentation. IIPS has shaped my mind and thinking in more ways that one can imagine. I am deeply grateful that life saw it fit to bring me to study at IIPS.

IIPS – This is not only an academic institution, but a miniature world. My teacher during my M.Sc. introduced this name to me for furthering my academic studies. So, in July 1998, I became the MPS student of this prestigious institution. I had to spend only about ten months as I saw the MPS programme schedule. And those ten months superimposed the knowledge of Demography over the Statistics. IIPS proved to be the launch pad for my career at PRC.

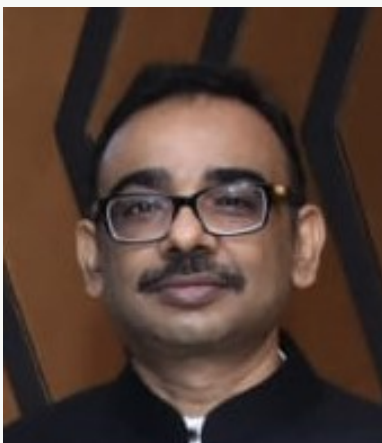
There is nothing like ‘memory’ of IIPS, it is still a part and parcel of my life. In MPS, apart from visionary teachers, we were blessed with caring guardians, inhaling though provoking Demography fundamentals to their applications in framing policy and simultaneously sipping tea from the ‘IIPS Canteen’, sponsored by our teacher. All that was a unique experience. I still remember the first lecture of Dr. D. Radha Devi, who punished the whole class for coming late and later gave party in the class room. As a student I got many friends coming from far off corners of the countries. All of them were unique in their own way. There were occasions when whole Team-MPS-1998-99 was busy in exam preparation, some sitting on the stairs, on the bench, walking in the corridors of Hostel, and some in their nest (The Room).

All through these years, since I passed out from IIPS, my engagement with IIPS has strengthened more and more, professionally and personally also. My two friends Prof. Aparajita and Prof. Chander Shekhar are now teaching at IIPS and numerous colleagues and friends are bringing glory to the fame of IIPS. As an alumnae – I can proudly say ‘IIPS’ is the ‘Brand’ and we all are ‘Brand Ambassadors’.



**Dr. Nikhilesh Parchure**

MPS 1998-99  
Research Investigator,  
Population Research Centre,  
Dr. H.S. Gour Central University,  
Sagar, Madhya Pradesh



**Prof. Sandip Anand**

MPS 1999-2000  
Xavier Institute of Management,  
Bhubaneswar

My memory goes back to July 12, 1999, when I had reached IIPS at 2 a.m. Population clock was ticking in the midnight, and I was full of anxiety while entering the institute. I wasn't sure where I was going to stay that night. But, to my surprise as soon as I reached there, hostel room key was given to me. And that was it. It was a sign of a great institute which welcomed its students in an extraordinary way. It is very difficult to imagine an institute in India where hostel allotment shall be done during midnight. As the journey further moved, this greatness continued to get endorsed, everywhere, in the classroom, in faculty quarters, amongst peers, with seniors. All were so supportive, friendly, and caring. One year of education at IIPS changed my life and even before the convocation I had my first corporate job.

It was in 1994 when I had given my final year post graduation in Economics examination at BU, Bhopal, MP, and perhaps I was very lucky to clear the prestigious UGC examination in my maiden attempt and had the opportunity to join JNU and IIPS at the same time to pursue my further research interest. Though I was very much keen to join another premier research institute in Economics i.e., Indira Gandhi Institute of Developmental Research (IGIDR) Mumbai and prepare for Indian Economics Services.

My teacher and dissertation guide from Department of Regional Planning & Economic Growth (RPEG, University Teaching Department, BU, Bhopal) Prof. Madhu Verma (who later moved to IIFM Bhopal and a renowned Environmental Economist) strongly suggested me to go for IIPS.

Joining IIPS at that point in time was one of my best decisions as it helped me changed completely as a person. We were introduced to demography and research methodology by the best faculty who were at par with faculty from any other global institution. Prof. T.K. Roy, Prof. Arvind Pandey, Prof. G. Rama Rao, Dr. Ravi Verma (still indebted to him and Dr. B.M. Ramesh for teaching us research methodology concepts), Prof. Sumati Kulkarni, Prof. Kamala Gupta and Prof. Radha Devi.

Environment at IIPS was quite student friendly where we were exposed to presentations in the classroom, term papers, one of the best libraries in world, a very high-tech computers lab, very interactive environment with faculties, seniors, peers, and juniors that helped me build my personality as a demographer and researcher.

In September 1995, I got an opportunity to join my doctoral work under one of the best faculty in technical demography and former director of IIPS Prof. F. Ram. His technical strengths, open mindedness and clarity of thoughts influenced a lot my own way of expressions at various forums.



**Dr. Vishal Dev Shastri**

MPS 1994-95 Ph.D. 2001  
Research and Evaluation Section,  
UNICEF India Country Office, New Delhi

My journey with IIPS continued even later after leaving IIPS campus, when I joined Population Foundation of India, New Delhi where I got an opportunity to work closely with Prof. K. Srinivasan (Former Director, IIPS and Former Executive Director, PFI New Delhi). It was while working with him I published a paper on population projections for the then Planning Commission's vision 2020 document and various papers and presentations using indirect techniques for SRB, IMR, etc. My learning continued even later while working closely with Dr. Sathyanarayana, with whom I worked closely on family planning projections for MoHFW, and we were part of Technical Working Group in 2006-07 and an Expert Group member in 2002-03.

IIPS and its environment has significant contribution in my career as a demographer and public health researcher and whatever I am today, it is because of a right advice from Prof. Madhu Verma and correct decision to join this institute. I sincerely wish all the very best to IIPS, its past and present faculty, all alumni, and its future endeavors.



DECADE  
2000-2009





Memories from 2000 batch



### From an “useless element” to Associate Professor in Global Health

On an afternoon during my lecture in my high school, I received an anonymized note which read something like Barium and Potassium = nothing. Useless element. If you are wondering if the message had something to do with a chemistry lecture, let me tell you that Barium and Potassium referred to caste symbols. The person sending it messages me that as an intercaste person, I was useless in society. Such incidents raised curiosity on inequalities. They further led me to explore health inequalities which led me to study Anthropology at the Hyderabad Central University (HCU) and later Demography at the International Institute for Population Sciences.

After clearing the entrance exam, the first faculty member I met at IIPS was Prof. Radha Devi. When I met her, I was slightly worried about moving to IIPS despite securing the M.Phil. position at HCU. After talking to such a brilliant and independent female academic, I decided to stay back in Mumbai and never looked back. In that year, I took all the baby steps needed for an extended research journey. I remember being taught by the best of the professors. I missed female role models briefly during my HCU days. But professors Sumati Kulkarni, Radha Devi, Sulabha Parasuraman, Kamala Gupta and Sayeed Unisa and visiting professors Asha Bhende and Tara Kanitkar were the most inspiring female faculty I ever witnessed.

During my Master of Population Science in 2000-01 academic year, Dr Mittinty Murthy, a Ph.D. student, encouraged me to write a paper and send it to IASP. I was told that I was one of the first, if not the first, Masters students to present at IASP. Prof. Roy then further encouraged me to publish. I also received excellent support from Prof. Verma when I was working as a Research Associate. Once I started my Ph.D. in IIPS in November 2001 as a student of Prof. Roy, I had further opportunities of strengthening my academic learning. Soon after three months into my Ph.D., I received the Chandrasekhar best paper award at the 25th Annual IASP Conference organised in early 2002 at IIPS.



**Dr. Aravinda Meera Guntupalli**

MPS 2000-01

Lecturer, University of Southampton,  
England

Shortly after presenting my work at the Economics and Human Biology conference in Germany, I was offered a research and teaching assistant job. After completing my Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Tuebingen, Germany, I worked at the University of Southampton and the Open University before moving to the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. Looking back, I can safely say that IIPS laid a strong foundation for my research career. The institute nurtured me to carry out independent thinking and taught me several ways of inspiring students through teaching and supervision.

Looking back, IIPS was also the place where I made lifelong friendships. It was once in a lifetime opportunity to meet friends from all walks of life. A special mention goes to all the *didis* of the hostel wing who inspired me on several matters. It is always my pleasure to visit IIPS and meet faculty members and friends who now work as faculty members at IIPS. In 2015, I had the opportunity to run a workshop for Ph.D. students and going back to IIPS always brings great joy. I always ensure that I stay in the hostel if rooms are available to relive my hostel days including late night badminton.



What a day to express my gratitude towards my Alma Mater - IIPS on teacher's day. I am more than 100% sure that today what I am expressing about the role of IIPS in shaping our life will be echoed by many many IIPS students.

Year 1998, I entered IIPS and was surprised to see the vast range of syllabus designed for MPS course. It ranged from fertility, mortality, migration to statistics, sampling, business economics, research methodology etc. These times were golden times for our batch as we were blessed by teachings of our Director, Prof. Pathak. The knowledge imparted to us by our esteemed Professors Sulbha Parasuraman, Sumati Kulkarni, Sayeed Unisa, Radha Devi, Kamla Gupta, Ravi Verma, Faujdar Ram, T.K. Roy, Arvind Pandey, Arokiasami, Guruswamy, Lahiri, Srivastav, Singh and Mukherjee laid foundation of our understanding of so many subjects that developed us as strong demographers. It was our immense fortune to interact and learn from these subject experts of India.

Our IIPS is, a "Dhyanpeeth" for each one of us. The mixed, international culture, extremely supportive teachers, a fully equipped computer lab, computerised library and unique hostel where all gender, both national and international students, stayed and studied together. The exposure that we got to Indian Census data, NFHS, DLHS and many more such large-scale surveys helped us gain a deeper insight into India's socio-economic, demographic field.

Every batch of only 15 students from varied background is a unique feature of IIPS. The institute not only ensured our academic excellence but also contributed to our overall development. We learnt the art of analysing data, putting the findings in holistic perspective, writing abstracts, writing papers, presenting them in many conferences and defending them on our own. As a researcher getting into depth of the subject was taught to us through J.R. RELE award paper as well as Ph.D. thesis. Additionally, the cultural and sports events added to our overall development. How can we forget those golden memories?

During my batch, we all also had the fortune to interact with Professors Asha Bhende, Tara Kanitkar, Steve, James, and Ashish Bose which are experiences that we cherish throughout our lives. Dr. Ravi Verma is the key person who broke the culture of silence around reproductive and sexual health in India and brought in so much insights that researchers and organisations across India started contributing to this subject from a very different perspective. Today, many people think that sampling and regression modelling are so easy but it was Prof. T.K. Roy who always looked into every step so rigorously and demonstrated that how a "regression model" and "sampling" actually get build up. He made us think, write programmes, develop many models and then identify which one is a good model and why? We can go on talking about each *Guru* for hours that we were blessed with and that is beauty of IIPS faculty.



### **Dr. Priyamvada S. Todanakar**

MPS 1998-99; Ph.D. 2002  
Head, M&E, Technoserve

I came from an Anthropology background but my IIPS teachers especially Prof. Sumati Kulkarni had a pivotal role in my development. Prof. Kulkarni, who was leading NFHS-I is a well-known entity in India. Whenever she taught us all economic theories, demographic dividend, business economics, etc, it used to be a unique ride for all of us. She was and is very strict till date. She taught me many things during my MPS and Ph.D.

My batchmates Archana Roy, Deepali, Shrivanti, Saket, Manimala, Ravindra, Pramod, Pratibha, Hokip, Shrichand Bushi, Deepankar, Uma Shah, Sangeeta, Vinita Ramachandran and Nizam have a special place in my life. We became friends for life. Nizam taught me statistics, Archana taught me geography. We supported each other without having competition of winning gold, silver medals and J.R. Rele award for best seminar paper. Our seniors and juniors Rajaib Acharya, Vishal Shastri, Madhumita, Shalini Verma, Emily, Rajesh Chavan, Ashutosh Ojha, Malousha, T.R. Dilip, Piyanka, Neeranjan, Aparajita, Sarita, Vinod Mishra, Virupax, Vivek Sharma, Ajay, Shilipi, Janardhan, Chandrashekhar and many more achieved a great feat in their professional spheres.

I stood at 3rd rank, received J.R. Rele award, completed my Ph.D. and went on to work in development sector. I headed Research and Programme verticals in my professional capacities as M & E Head, Senior Researcher, Programme Director, etc for various organisations such as PSI, FHI 360, ICICI Foundation, Kotak Education Foundation, Narottam Seksaria Foundation, Americares and Techoserve. In each of these roles, what I learnt from IIPS was of immense value. These professional achievements would not have been possible had I not been blessed by my IIPS *Gurus*.

Many of our IIPS teachers and staff passed away in the last couple of years - Bhende, Kanitkar, Rajashree, Randeria and M. Sekar. On this day, we miss interacting with them but I am sure they are blessing us from the heaven. May their soul rest in peace. We, IIPS students will always remain indebted to our unique Institute and to our teachers.



**Dr. Reena Basu**

MPS 2000-02  
Population Research Centre,  
Dr. H.S. Gour Central University,  
Sagar, Madhya Pradesh

After joining Population Research Centre, Sagar in the year 2000, I planned to take up MPS course through distance learning at IIPS in 2002 and visited the Institute several times.

As I walk down the memory lane of my alma mater, I am filled with nostalgia. The ecological setting of the institute exuded unconditional support and facilitation. All faculty members reached out to us with their special inputs. Prof. T.K. Roy's gentle assuring smile, Prof. Usha Ram's easy-going demeanour of resolving anything at hand, and Prof. G. Rama Rao's special concern for our stay in the new hostel, evoke memories of a student friendly environment. The library was a treasure house for learning. Stary eyed students with dreams, the Institute's mess and everything reminds me of an old English song 'Those were the days my friends I thought they'll never end'.



**Dr. Ashish Kumar Mishra**

M. Phil. 2003-04  
Senior Specialist (M & E)  
India Health Action Trust  
Uttar Pradesh

Looking back at my two and half years of my life spent in IIPS, I reminisce with fond memories. Getting into IIPS, I had immense opportunities to learning and growth both individually and professionally. The courses and the pedagogy offered at IIPS helped me in deeper understanding of subject matter, society and data. The interactions with peers and teachers from diverse background helped deflate my stereotypes and broadened my horizon. The training I received at IIPS helped me submit my Ph.D. thesis within three and half years, including one and half years' coursework offered at IIT Kanpur.

I cherish with fond memories the discussions held with my seniors and classmates sitting on long bench in front of IIPS hostel. I am reminded of a saying by my respected teacher that "the students' should see their face in the mirror when they join the course and when they go out", in a true sense, this is a reality and it applied to me.





### **Priyajit Samaiyar**

MPS 2003-04  
Norwegian Refugee Council  
Head of MEAL, Amman, Jordan

The IIPS will always remain the turning point of my life. I first arrived at IIPS as someone who probably was least knowledgeable about the whole area of study on population and I very clearly remember my interview at IIPS. It had some tricky questions on statistics, which I guess, were answered to the satisfaction of the panel members. However, for me the most appealing was the warm gesture of the panel members, which made me feel welcome. I was even offered a cup of coffee along with the panel members during the interview which was completely unexpected in my first ever interview!

Every lecture I attended at IIPS offered new learnings, which enlightened me and changed the way I look at the demographics and socio-economic construct around myself. My research and critical thinking abilities got wings at IIPS. Every day I spent on campus had something new in store with a perfect mix of work, study, extra-curricular activities and of course leisure. I am thankful to all my teachers, support staff, my seniors and my friends at IIPS who have positively contributed to what I am today. I feel extremely proud to be associated with IIPS.

"It was IIPS that strengthened my professional career in the domain of population development. The unique nature of curriculum with presence of an eclectic mix of national as well as international students (students from Nepal, Bhutan, Vietnam and Kyrgyzstan) coupled with campus stay, provided a broad picture of different cultures, practices, norms, etc., in addition to the in-depth understanding of research methodologies and perspectives of population development. I firmly believe that IIPS is a large family wherein faculty members strengthen and augment skill development of students, and look after their needs and requirements like guardians while students stay away from their homes and families. Moreover, interaction with other staff members is akin to interaction with one's own siblings. During my tenure at IIPS, I also learned about the ethnographic research techniques which has been a great asset for my career development."



### **Mr. Ajeet Kumar**

MPS 2004-05  
Consultant, Programme Management,  
National e-Governance Division (NeGD)  
Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology,  
Government of India, New Delhi.





**Dr. Ranjana Singh**

MPS 1999–2000; Ph.D. 2005  
Associate Professor  
Indian Institute of Public Health,  
New Delhi

Joined IIPS as MPS student in the year 1999. The life at IIPS had made significant change in me, both professionally and personally. The relocation to IIPS was the first move for me, outside the protected environment of home, but I sailed through it easily due to the cordial atmosphere of IIPS, where we get to meet people from all across India. I had an opportunity to learn from highly dedicated and research oriented faculties and seniors at IIPS, which motivated me to pursue my Ph.D. During the tenure of 5 years at IIPS, I got many exposures in the field of research including paper presentations at various National and International conferences. Not only in the field of academics and research, I have nice memories of various fun trips along with friends at IIPS including Khandala trip, night movie shows, etc. Overall, I must acknowledge that where I am at present is all because of the exposures I had at IIPS.

It gives me great joy to write a short note on my association with IIPS. I have so much to share but I will try not to be too carried away and focus on the role of IIPS in my career. IIPS is one of the finest educational institutions I have had the privilege to be a part of, and it was the excellent research-based training I received from the institute that shaped my career interest in academia. IIPS education was also pivotal in helping me advance my career: I cleared UGC's JRF for doctoral studies, and I also received a competitive Ph.D. scholarship to study at the University of Sydney (USyD), Australia which I ultimately chose. Even though my doctoral research at USyD was in the domain of development geography, my education in IIPS that involved modules on quantitative research methods, field surveys and data analysis helped me immensely in my Ph.D. research, and that training continues to help me in my research and teaching work. I am forever grateful.



**Dr. Chetan Choithani**

MPS 2009–10  
Assistant Professor,  
School of Social Sciences,  
National Institute of Advanced Studies,  
Indian Institute of Science Campus,  
Bengaluru, India



**Mr. Ranajit Sengupta**

MPS 2006–07  
MAMTA HIMC  
Assistant Director, M&E and Research,  
New Delhi

In 2006, when I appeared for the interview at IIPS for admission to MPS, I heard a-lot about the institute and was very keen to get admission. My dream came true and my journey at IIPS began on the World Population Day, 2006. I passed out from the institute in 2007 and worked for 1 year with Dr. T.V. Sekher before moving to New Delhi for job. IIPS learning and its culture helped me a lot and still I find the same so relevant on my daily professional work. The institute and the faculty played a pivotal role in shaping my career in the field of development sector. I am thankful to my IIPS for what I am today.



**Dr. Sangram Kishor Patel**

MPS 2003-04; Ph.D. 2009  
Project Lead, Population Council,  
New Delhi

I am very fortunate to be part of IIPS family and alumnae. I completed my MPS in 2003-04 and subsequently my Ph.D. in 2009. IIPS has provided me an excellent platform for learning, activities and career growth which has taught me to be better and better in both personal and professional life day by day, deal the difficult situations in life with more confidence and overall to be a good human being. The integrity and cohesion shown among the teachers, seniors, and juniors in IIPS is very unique in the world, which keep all the IIPS family members intact always. I have travelled half of the world so far on my professional assignments which is due to the platform given by my alma mater. Whatever I have achieved today or up to the position in my professional life is largely due to the learnings gathered from IIPS and I will always be indebted to it.

When I heard good news of getting admitted into IIPS, it gave me a sense of pride, happiness and excitement. It appeared that I have fulfilled my dream of pursuing Research in Population Studies from one of the best deemed universities in the country, established in July 1956. Truly speaking, before leaving IIPS as a Research scholar, I learnt modern research techniques especially quantitative survey, qualitative and ethnographic research, data analysis, documentation and presentation. An in-depth knowledge in software packages used for qualitative and quantitative data analysis, like SPSS, STATA, ANTHROPAK, Atlasti and Epi-Info honed up my skill in research. The teachers at IIPS knew what their students measured up to hence were supportive and always preferred customized solutions and remedies. They were not only teachers but acted as friend, philosopher and guide and always stood with us in thick of times. Lastly, I must say that IIPS is not only a deemed university but a world in itself especially in Research in Population Studies not only in India but in Asia. Above all, IIPS is a pathway to broaden horizon, enlighten thoughts and trigger ideas to say the least.



**Dr. Saurabh Singh**

M.Phil. 2007; Ph.D. 2017  
Assistant Manager,  
Monitoring & Evaluation,  
Save the children, New Delhi

My first visit to IIPS was as part of a study tour when I was demography student in Kerala University. Like any other demography student, IIPS was a dream destination to me for my higher studies. I joined IIPS in 2005-06 for MPS and enrolled for Ph.D. in 2007. I am indebted to the institute for helping me to grow professionally and also in my personal life, where I found my soul mate. I would like to share the most memorable journey of my life in IIPS and the care and support I have received from the IIPS family.

The three years of my Ph.D. tenure not only gave me a degree, but also, I have gone through the two beautiful moments of my personal life- got married and become a mother. The care and support of my friends, seniors, juniors faculty and the staff during the time was unforgettable and I would like to confess that I never felt that I was staying in a hostel and no family members was around me.

When I came back with my two months old son to complete my thesis, IIPS provided me all the required facilities- allowing my mother to stay with me, and even helping to set a cradle in my room. The love and care from all members of IIPS family towards my son was also memorable. For me, IIPS is not only my institute where I studied and got degree, but an extended family and I am proud to be a part of this prestigious institute



**Dr. Daliya Sebastian**

MPS 2005-06; Ph.D. 2010

Technical Specialist, International Center  
for Research on Women, New Delhi



**Dr. Sourabh Chakraborty**

Ph.D. 2010

Terre des hommes (Tdh)

Regional Quality and Accountability

Advisor, Asia, New Delhi

When I joined IIPS, Hotmail was the first choice for internet users and Yahoo was the dominant search engine. Ram Sir was the hostel warden and he made me mess secretary in my second month. I could not figure out why mess boy was buying so much of *kanda* and *batata* every day and I had a feeling that he was not doing something right till I was shown real "*kanda* and *batata*".

I always wanted to do Ph.D. and IIPS was the natural choice for every aspiring demographer like me, I still cherish my stint at IIPS and 'those were the best days of my life'.



## IIPS: A hearty training place

Almost two decades ago, like many other small town young Indians I also did not have a clear pre-determined career path. Like life, my career was moving with the flow. The exploration brought me to the IIPS admission test. I got through the test. I too had a couple of other admission offers including a top-rated rural management institute in India. I chose IIPS, not because I started seeing my career trajectory clearly all of a sudden, but because I had promised to be with a friend and support him. We became friends since the IIPS admission test. So, it was my heart that guided me to IIPS and soon IIPS made its way into my heart!

The seven years of life at IIPS not only gave me a M.Phil. degree, a Ph.D. degree and my first job experience, it gifted me the best memories of my life yet. My teachers taught the course within the class but also inspired my life outside. I still remember my supervisor walking into my rented apartment and checking on me when I was down with fever made me feel no less than home.

My batch mates who made fun of me whenever we didn't agree on something, who waited for me in front of the dining room so that we could eat together, who saved me from teacher's questions if I bunked a class. The batchmates, became my lifetime friends before I even I could realize. The warm smiley faces in the library, administration, finance, men in the blue who made sure the campus is safe, all became the part of my life that seems most colorful and vibrant in the journey so far.

I preferred not to take more space in talking how the academic training at IIPS has been effective in my career journey so far: starting as an Assistant Research Officer at IIPS, then programme management roles at Population Council, Family Health International (FHI360) and now at Cornell University. We all know, most of our carrier achievements owe to the trainings we received at IIPS. Rather I will reflect how my teachers, supervisors, and friends from IIPS prepared me to be a better human being with warmer heart each day. To me, IIPS is all about the heart.



**Dr. Shubh Swain**

M.Phil 2002-03; Ph.D. 2010  
Assistant Director, TARINA  
Tata Cornell Institute  
Cornell University, USA



**Dr. Sudipta Mondal**

M.Phil. 2001-02; Ph.D. 2010  
Senior Director – MLE  
Project Concern  
International, New Delhi

It was day one. I was traveling from Kolkata to appear for the admission test. The train was late. A few other candidates, traveling on the same train, were smart. They got off the train in Kurla. I went straight to VT. When I reached the campus, the exam was over. Prof. Lahiri was the M.Phil. Coordinator. I pleaded with him for allowing me to sit in the exam. He took me to the Director's office and Prof. Roy looked at me, had mercy, and allowed me to take the test. On the way to the academic section from the main building, Prof. Lahiri asked me, "two more girls came on the same train, but they reached more than an hour ago. How come are you so late?". I told him I not only travelled the extra miles to VT but continued to search for IIPS on the other side of the railway lines in vain. Who knew then 'East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet!' It was certainly not a good start, but a memorable one for sure. Not for my stupidity but where else a new and unknown student receives such empathy from the members of the faculty. I knew I reached the right place. I stayed there for about three and a half years as a regular student before moving to Bangalore with a job. Those three and a half years gave me enough to survive and thrive for the rest of my life!

I was celebrating my convocation at Banaras Hindu University at Varanasi. It was during December 2000. I was very happy, and I knew, my parents would be happy too to see their child awarded the master's degree, and more so because I was the most educated in my family. In the evening, I called at my home from a local PCO, line was disturbed but I can hear my Babuji's voice, I said with lot of excitement, 'I got the degree', my father perhaps could not hear my voice and so I repeated twice, thrice and many more times, but he was not able to listen my voice, the telephone line was bad. I was bit disappointed but then I was anyway going to meet them in next two days, so I was not so worried. Next day, in the morning I was getting ready to reach the Mughalsarai railway station to catch my train for Bihar. While I was having my breakfast, my cousin sister, with whom I was staying in Varanasi, came up to me and said that I have a call from my brother. My brother told me that come home immediately, sensing something wrong, I asked about mummy and babuji, he just said to come home soon. He didn't say anything but perhaps my sister already had the news that I have lost my father. My dream of showing my degree to my father remained a dream. I was preparing for Civil Services in Patna, I lost motivation and will to continue that. I came back to my home with no idea what I am going to do in future.

Dr. Praween Agrawal was my classmate in BHU and I met him very recently during our convocation at Banaras Hindu University. He was doing MPS at IIPS during that time. He had asked me to come to IIPS and work in the projects or get admission, but since I was preparing for my Civil Services, it did not excite me much. But after I lost my father, I wrote to him that I would be interested to come to Mumbai and explore my career there. After 15 days of my writing, I got a post card (which is still with me) reply from Sutapa Maiti (now Dr. Sutapa Agrawal, married to Praween) that there is an opening in one of the projects at IIPS and she motivated me to come to Mumbai. Although, I had strong desire to go to Mumbai, but then I had to convince my mother and brother. They were convinced at the end and I landed in Mumbai on March 2001. Praween received me at the Kurla station and brought me to IIPS, he was kind enough to book a room in the hostel. At night, I had dinner at the Hostel Mess and remember meeting Dr. Praween Nangia, who used to have dinner from the Mess, and it was such a different experience.

I came to know that I had to work with Dr. Subrata Lahiri on one of the ageing projects using life table approach. I had no idea about demography and absolutely never heard of terms like life table and many of the demographic terms. Anyhow, I started my work with lot of apprehension and yes, this was my first job, I was happy too. I had a tough time working on such a technical project, I struggled to calculate median age, which could be so easy for many of us now. I took help from Dr. Manoj Alagarajan, Dr. Srinivasan (not our director), Dr. Chandrashekhar and others. Dr. Lahiri sensed my discomfort, obviously he was not happy, and I could sense that. One day he called me and said very politely that if I am working with him, I should know some of the basic terminologies and definition of demography. And then he took out a paper from his printer and sat with me and made me learn various demographic terms and definition. He also asked me to read PRB demography handbook. Later he motivated me to join M.Phil. course. I applied and got admission at IIPS in 2001 along with other 14 students.



**Dr. Ajay K Singh**

M.Phil. 2001-2003; Ph.D. 2011  
Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist  
The Asia Foundation, New Delhi

Life at IIPS was like a dream and it kept on unfolding with each passing days. Before, coming to IIPS, I had never touched a computer, it was new for me and since in Bihar, the computer was not so easily accessible to everyone during that time, the use of email had just started, mobile phone had just started and it was becoming a craze slowly. So Srinivasan (Srini as we use to call) helped me to learn computer, excel, word and SPSS. So there was a complete transformation in my technical skill and my personality. It was quiet fascinating to use computer and I became a pro soon. And I must mention that I opened my first email account at IIPS, Dr. Premchand (now with UNICEF, Jharkhand) helped me to open my first email account sitting at IIPS library and it was on Indiatimes.com (was quite popular during that time before, Yahoo and Rediff mail took over).

My roommate for initial few months while I was working on the project was Dr. Murugesan and I stayed with him at Nerul, he was a great roommate and every morning we used to travel together to IIPS using our famous Mumbai Local train which is a different experience all together. Sometimes he used to cook south Indian fish curries, which was delicious. Dr. Murugesan is a great human being with a very positive outlook towards life. He helped me a lot during my formative years at IIPS.

Library at IIPS was really fascinating, all the staffs. Mr. Randeria, Mr. Mistry, Mr. Vasu, Dr. Praveen, Mr. Ashish and everyone were so helpful particularly in searching books, thesis etc. I also had great memories playing Cricket with Library staffs, led by Vashu and it was fiercely competitive, and I remember hostel team defeating them during one of our sports day events. I still remember Vasu was not happy for one of my shots was given six, we had bit of on field argument, but Vasu has a big heart and a great sport.

I must say, IIPS is a great place to learn, when I finished my course at IIPS, I was a different person all together. Learned about research methodology, qualitative and quantitative methods, ethnographic research and many more which was alien to me 18 months ago. Whatever I am today, it is because of the training and exposure that we got from IIPS. It gave me confidence to present my papers in front other audiences across the globe. At the professional front, the IIPS training helped me to stand out from others.

Our seniors were super supportive particularly during the term paper and dissertation, be it on analyzing data, preparing questionnaire, understanding NFHS and RCH data, they were always on their toes to help us. Dr. Pralip Narzary, Dr. Manoj Alagarajan, Dr. Chandrashekhar and many more.

My Ph.D. guide was Prof. R.K. Sinha, again a great mentor and equally a great human being. He supported me throughout my dissertation and always gave me enough time for discussion. I was really devastated when I came to know about his sudden health problem during one of his official visits to Bihar. That was the toughest time for him as well as for me. I had accompanied him several time to Bombay Hospital. But he is a person with great positivity, and he came out strongly from it. I have a very deep respect for him.

Dr. T.K. Roy was our director during those days. He was so approachable and would always give us patient ear to concerns. He was also a good badminton player and he used to participate during our annual sports event. We never used to miss any of his classes, his teaching approach was so simple that stayed in our mind. He still remembers names of all my batchmates.

We also got immense love and support from other faculty members; Dr. Ravi Verma, Dr. S.K. Singh, Dr. Kamla Gupta, Dr. Sulabha Parasuraman, Dr. Rama Rao, Dr. Arokiasamy, Dr. Usha Ram, Dr. Sayeed Unisa, Dr. Bhagat, Dr. Faujdar Ram, Dr. Sumati Kulkarni, Dr. Radha Devi and many others.

Dr. Sumati Kulkarni taught us on gender issues and it was really an eye opener for how gender norms shapes our socialization processes. It was interesting when she asked me and Sai Thakur (Now Faculty at TISS) to present our views on gender. And it was really a good exercise for me. I have kept that note still with me. Dr. S.K. Singh also helped me a lot in learning new things about project management, proposal and report writing.

I have so many memories of Hostel mess, making que for special menu on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. Daku is a great cook and a very easy-going person, and I am glad that he is still there. I was mess secretary for couple of months and it was a fun. But I must admit, we introduced best varieties of food items during that time. Evening tea outside the hostel bench was something I cherish a lot, it was a great place to socialize not only with fellow classmate but also with seniors, teaches and other support staffs of IIPS.

My roommate was Dr. Benoy Peter, a great guy always on his toes to help anyone. He was quiet adjusting and had a great sense of humor and tolerated my snoring.

TV at fourth floor was the real adda for us after dinner and we all had fun time there, of course there used to be friendly fights to take control of remote. Retna Kumar was the star of such addas, his one liner used to be so hilarious.

After dinner sometimes we used to go for a long walk in the BARC campus, it was a good place to hang around and it was quite accessible during that time before 9/11 happened. I and Ruchi used to have regular walk at the BARC campus, and we used to have ice-cream from a shop opposite to TISS. There is a canteen in the BARC campus where we used to visit quiet often. Later, Ruchi and I married and we are blessed with a beautiful daughter.

Many of my batch mates, Abhishek, Laxmikant (LKD as we used to call), Dhananjay (Dhanu) have now become faculty at IIPS and others, Sudipta, Retna, Amen, Nitin, Sudeshna, Binod, Sai, Ruchi and Shubhakant Cuiz (from China), we all had fun time at IIPS and doing well in their lives. We also had great time with our DPS friends from Maldives; Hudha, Loona, Shazna Hajja and Ikrisha. They often used to invite us to the 2nd floor kitchen for having Maldivian food. They were yummy.

We still remember visiting the PCO at the Banganga Society late at night (after 11 PM) to call to our parents because the calls were cheaper after 11 PM. It was the time when mobile phone was not easily accessible to many, and it was expensive too. I also remember Dr. Katiyar at the Banganga Society, whom we used to visit whenever we had any health issue. We feared him a lot as he used to scold us for not taking proper care of ourselves. But his medicines were quite effective. Talking about Banganga society, there used to be Saroja Aunty (now she is in Bangalore). Many IIPS students after they have passed out used to work in projects stayed in her house as paying guests (Sutapa, Preeti and Reshmi and later Ruchi). Saroja Aunty was very friendly with us, and we often had parties at her house in Banganga Society. She also accompanied with us to Khandala trip once which she enjoyed a lot. Mumbai Darshan, Alibagh, Elephanta cave tour and Khandala trip were super exciting. During our time, there used to be a Bus owned by IIPS. With Mr. Anil at the driving seat, we had great fun. I have so many fond memories of such trips.

I owe a lot to this great institution, and I am so grateful. The memories of IIPS will always remain with me and I will cherish those.





**Dr. Nandita Saikia**

MPS 2006; Ph.D. 2011

Assistant Professor,

Center for the Study of Regional  
Development,  
School of Social Science,  
Jawaharlal Nehru University,  
New Delhi.

During the early days in IIPS, everything was a kind of dream or illusion for a girl who came from a rural and backward part of India, with zero exposure to a multi-culture or multi-linguistic environment. The city with endless people, the local train, people's communication style, the tall towers along with small huts gave an astonishing impression. Within the campus, there was a multi-cultural environment, a hectic MPS schedule with an adaptation of technology, personal and professional happenings to make life jubilant. The best part was, of course, the regular fellowship (however meager) and the safety within the small campus. Perhaps, it was not only my experience in IIPS but each of those who came to this place to chase their dream with little resources.

Personally, IIPS opened a new horizon for me. IIPS taught a lot on applied statistics, data analysis and management. The environment around taught informally oral and written communication in English and Hindi, in which I had the least expertise. IIPS taught "professionalism" and gave an identity! It is the training of IIPS for which students dare to dream beyond their limit.

IIPS is the best place to learn demography or Population Studies in India. IIPS alumni are spread over from important Ministries of the Government of India to the Population Research Centers across the country; from prestigious universities/colleges to NGOs working at the grassroots level; from UNDESA to best-ranked universities/institutes of North America or Europe or South Africa, or anywhere in the globe! I recommend highly this place to youngsters!

Though it's been more than a decade when I walked in through the gates of IIPS first time, everything appears to be a beautiful memory of yesteryear as if it has happened last month. As the saying goes 'Once an IIPSian always an IIPSian'. It's been always a tough decision to make what we relish most about this prestigious organization; scholarly wizards who have shaped our lives professionally, friends who have been rock solid in all the tough times we had or the values and ethics which has helped us in becoming a better human being. The 'Mecca of Demographic Studies' remains with us forever in one way or another. The institute has helped me in exploring vast learning opportunities and in becoming a better professional. THANK YOU IIPS.



**Raghu Maharishi**

MPS 2010-11

Lead- Programme Impact,  
Save the Children, India



**Dr. Mahesh Nath Singh**

MPS 2005-05; Ph.D. 2012

Assistant Professor

State Institute of Health and Family Welfare

Indira Nagar, Lucknow

I feel honoured to share my decade-long journey at IIPS that began after the completion of my Master's from the University of Lucknow. Back in 2004, I appeared for my MPS entrance exam in Mumbai. But with little hopes of selection, I went ahead to explore the city of dreams. Fortunately, my dream came true and I got selected for MPS/MPhil programme at IIPS. Since I could not converse well in English, I was a bit shy. But the faculty and teaching pattern here helped me with my personality development. In 2007, I was selected for Ph.D. programme where I learnt various technical aspects of research. With constant support from my supervisor, I was able to publish several research articles and visit various countries for conferences and workshops. After the completion of my doctoral program, I landed a rewarding job at TISS-Mumbai as faculty. Currently, I am faculty with SIHFW-Lucknow to serve the state of Uttar Pradesh and plan to serve the nation and globe.

IIPS has been life changing for me since I joined the MPS batch in 2004. Not only had it provided a platform to develop my academic and intellectual skills; but also, an environment where I could easily bond with teachers, seniors and juniors. When I look back, I recall several things, specifically, the late night TT and Badminton playing sessions, watching Indian Idol together with seniors and celebration of Holi and Ganesh Puja with all IIPSian. Thank you and cheers to all IIPSians for making the institute such a great place to learn and thrive.



**Dr. Bidhubhushan Mahaparta**

MPS 2004-05; Ph.D. 2013

Project Director, Population Council

New Delhi, India

DECADE  
2010-2019







**Dr. Atul R. Gandhi**

MPS 2003-04; Ph.D. 2014  
Chief Operating Officer,  
EdelGive Foundation.

IIPS has been a first for me on many accounts - first time away from home, first time in hostel, first time in Mumbai, to mention a few. It was through one of my professors, during my bachelor's degree, I got to know about IIPS. Coming from a small town of Amravati, IIPS has been a turning point in my life. The knowledge and training I gained here have been pivotal in shaping my career so far and I am sure it will be in future as well. I am indebted to all the faculty of IIPS for their guidance. IIPS has contributed immensely to the overall development effort of India in various ways and I feel very proud to be associated with IIPS.

Before joining the MPS programme at IIPS in 2007, my life goals were quite uncertain. I am sure, this was true even for thousands of other alumni members of the institute. While, the quality of teaching by world class faculty members, access to huge data lab and library at IIPS provides all resources necessary for career progression, its vast alumni base supplies the confidence for future growth. Besides, academic and professional engagements, life at the campus was most fulfilling. We celebrated every occasions in the campus. Celebration of Saraswati *puja* and *pandal* hopping during Durga *puja* became regular events since our days at IIPS. I still miss those days. I will cherish the bonding, created during my stay at IIPS, forever. My heart fills with joy on each and every success of this great institute and its students. Hope, this Global Alumni Meet will strengthen the ties further.



**Dr. Debashish Barik**

MPS 2007-08; Ph.D. 2014  
Fellow, National Council for Applied  
Economic Research, New Delhi



**Dr. Kunal Keshri**

MPS 2007-08; Ph.D. 2014  
Assistant Professor,  
G.B. Pant Social Science Institute,  
Allahabad.

Until April 2007, I had no idea that I would join MPS course at the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai on August 07, 2007 about which I learned few weeks prior to the application. I left M.Phil. of Delhi University and came to Mumbai to become a Demographer. I still remember the words of Prof. S. Lahiri, the then Director, that the IIPS is a small Institute with a big name. I am fortunate to learn basics of research in the global academic environment provided by IIPS. I proudly acknowledge the role of the IIPS in shaping my career as a successful academician. IIPS has not only shaped my career but also introduced me to the love of my life, Dr. Kirti Gaur. We tied the nuptial knot in 2014 and have a pretty daughter. So, I am carrying the memories of IIPS 24x7 with me. There are so many other memorable moments of IIPS days which I can never forget, to name a few, the foundation day (2007) programme which I hosted, playing badminton until the wee hours and most importantly participating in the Hindi Saptah competitions, where I was bagging most of the prizes.

I am indebted to IIPS for both my personal (my life partner) and professional life. I would like to share a memory, that is close to my heart. At IIPS, besides studies, we were also supposed to execute certain duties like managing the mess. I was selected as the mess secretary during my tenure. During my stint, we innovatively thought up addressing the diverse culinary sensitivities of different regions of the country from where the students and research staff hailed from, and for this, we conducted a survey and canvassed a questionnaire to carve out the breakfast, lunch, and dinner menu. The data was analyzed and shared with all the mess members and those menu options were implemented, which brought a lot of solace to the taste buds of the multi-cultural community of mess members. The best days of my IIPS life were the chats in the mess dining hall.



**Dr Manoj Kumar Raut**

MPS, 2005-06, PhD, 2014  
Asia Regional Technical Advisor,  
Research and Evaluations,  
Nutrition International.



**Dr. Ashish Kumar Gupta**

M.Phil 2009-11 ; Ph.D. 2015  
Lead-Biostatistician  
(Biostatistics & Statistical Programming)  
Emmes Services Pvt Ltd

I would like to take this opportunity to say that being part of IIPS has been such a positive experience and one for which I am always grateful. I also want to thank my mentors/professors and incredible peer group for their guidance and support. I am truly grateful for all the opportunities I have been afforded during my time in the IIPS- personally, intellectually, and professionally; all of which shall be remembered fondly. As a statistics student, I have always been inquisitive about the application of statistics and data science in formulation of evidence-based public health policy. The theoretical and computational skills imparted in IIPS has been instrumental in shaping my career trajectory as Biostatistician in quantitative data science and pharmaceutical sector. I wish IIPS to achieve greater heights in future and keep nurturing excellent researchers.

I am thankful for the wealth of knowledge received during the days of IIPS. One of the unique features of IIPS is that it provides a 24x7 learning environment. The enriching discussion on various topics has helped in shaping and guiding my career path. IIPS offered the opportunity to explore my research interest in the field of nutritional epidemiology and child health. The professors/mentors in IIPS always encourage the students to interact, learn and collaborate with international research community. Apart from the professional life, I will forever cherish the memories of campus life and the friendships created in IIPS. I wish IIPS all the success in the coming years.



**Dr. Kakoli Borkotoky**

M.Phil. 2011; Ph.D. 2017  
Technical Specialist  
International Center for Research on  
Women (ICRW)

### **IIPS, it is a way of life, I bet no one can live that way after getting out**

After finishing my Masters in Anthropology, I was very worried about what should I do further in academics, that's when I heard about IIPS. As everyone knows that apart from academics and development dimensions of IIPS, the fame of the mess and hostel here attracts people first. So I also reached Mumbai to observe this new system from very traditional typecast of educational setting. Fortunately, after the MPS form was rejected due to some reasons, I took admission in the master's course and spent two wonderful years of my academic life here. Apart from the study of demography, the multicultural environment that we get here is incomparable for the holistic personality development of every student. Students from different states, language, culture and even more different academic backgrounds meet and study together here- such an environment is available in very few educational institutes in India. During my time in IIPS, I never felt homesick, the credit goes to the friendly staff members and faculty members here. I still cannot forget the zeal of all the festivals that we all used to celebrate here as a family, mainly the time of Ganpati festival. I thank all the faculty and staff members of IIPS for giving a new direction and dimension to me and my career. Because of this, I got an opportunity to work with some of the big organizations (such as United Nations and BMGF) in the development sector. IIPS will always be close to my heart, because this place was destined that I found my life partner here. Last but not least, I wish the very best for current and all the future students of IIPS to achieve new heights in India and globally. I also want to thank the enthusiastic team of IIPSA alumni, for providing such a platform to connect and feel nostalgic again.



**Mr. Vivek Mishra**

M.A. 2013-15

State Programme Coordinator  
- Monitoring & Evaluation  
Evidence Action, Lucknow



**Dr. Akansha Singh**

M.Phil. 2009-10; Ph.D. 2016

Postdoctoral Research Associate,  
Durham University, United Kingdom

IIPS has played a huge role in what I have acquired in my life today. I got my first exposure to the world of research at IIPS and got benefitted from an exceptional research environment provided by the institute and our faculties. My friends and faculty at IIPS were always very cooperative and supported me in every possible way. At IIPS, I got the opportunity to work on the research projects with international collaborators. This exposure and environment at IIPS has really helped me to explore further possibilities in abroad. My best wishes to all the current students at IIPS for their bright future.



My journey with IIPS started in 2008 when I enrolled for MPS course. The passion for the subject- 'Demography' always pushed me to go forward in my life. I never looked back and started achieving my dreams. I enrolled myself in a Ph.D. programme and got awarded in 2016. My pathways of journey of eight years in IIPS was incredibly enriched with learning and joy. The uniqueness of teaching, practical experience of data handling and interpretation of data are the essence of this journey. The journey with IIPS paved my career graph. It defines me in the development sector. I am proud to be an IIPSian.



**Dr. Arpita Das**

MPS 2008-09; Ph.D. 2016  
IPAS Development Foundation,  
Research & Evaluation Specialist,  
New Delhi



**Bhawana Sharma**

MPS: 2014-15  
UNICEF,  
State COVID Data Manager,  
Lucknow

Missing IIPS is just a tip of the iceberg, but when I roll back my memories from the start, I can feel the adrenaline all over with nostalgic moments. Herbert Spencer said "the great aim of education is not knowledge, but action." As a Ph.D. student, I have been a great consumer of education, and I believe that my education has dramatically shaped my decisions and actions. IIPS has not only been a part of my education but a part of my life too. With my first Masters in MSW, I had a strong background of qualitative skills; however, I wanted to pursue something which would enhance my quantitative skills as well; and there was IIPS with open door to receive me and further boost my knowledge. Sitting here at State level as Data Manager in UNICEF, I am obliged to think that IIPS has not only opened a wider range of opportunities in my career but provided me with wonderful friends, overwhelming professors to work with and culturally diverse environment which has shaped me into what I am today. At this juncture, I would like to thank all the faculty and staff members who has supported me through thick and thin during my IIPS days. I would like to take this opportunity to give my regards to all the current and future IIPS students for great career and life ahead. Not to forget, I also want to thank the entire team of IIPSA alumni, for taking us back to relive the moment again.

It's my pleasure to write memories in IIPS, where I pursued MPS and Ph.D. It has not only trained me as an academic researcher but contributed to all-inclusive development. Geographically, IIPS is a small unit but large in functional impact. It is the place where I have started rebuilding my dreams. It has enriched me to be more competent and prepared to face global competition. The learning at IIPS was never limited to the classroom but augmented with fun, discussions with friends, seniors and teachers, and field exposures. It was an actual interdisciplinary experience where I learned along with my economist, statistician and sociologist friends. The whole campus environment is so vibrant that I still miss it, whether it is the library, dining hall, or playground. I loved the mini-India IIPS family and enjoyed north-south-east-west dishes in the hostel-mess, along with multi-cultural events performed at our time. I am thankful to the government of India for providing the financial support and to my respected teachers, seniors, friends, and all the non-teaching members of IIPS for making the journey beautiful. Not all memories were good; some are painful. I can't forget our friendship memories with Dr. (Late) Swarbhanu Nandi whom I met here.



**Dr. Sanjit Sarkar**

MPS 2009-10; Ph.D. 2017  
Assistant Professor,  
Central University of Karnataka



### **Dr. Jitendra Gouda**

MPS 2011-12; M.Phil. 2012-13; Ph.D. 2018  
Assistant Director,  
Office of the Registrar General of India,  
Ministry of Home Affairs,  
Government of India.

I did my first masters in social work in 2008 and then worked with different NGOs for more than three years. During these days, my unhappiness was not with my low-salary only, but also with the approach used in planning and implementation of different developmental projects. That actually strived me to pursue a professional degree in research, anticipating that it may enhance my ability to understand any dataset better and improve my analytical skills. With this objective, I joined IIPS – the mecca of demography in India – for MPS in 2011. Honestly, my initial plan was to do MPS only and then to go back to my earlier NGO life. However, the charm of IIPS didn't allow me to do that. After MPS, I did my M.Phil. and Ph.D. too. And truly, my life has changed entirely thereafter. From an NGO worker to be Assistant Director in the Office of the Registrar General (ORGI), Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India may seem unrealistic to many, however, IIPS made it possible for me. I can't thank enough to this great institute and to all my teachers of IIPS for their contribution in my life. I always cherish every moment that I spent in this esteem institute.

I am overwhelmed to write this memoir and recollect my memorable moments at IIPS. I have completed my MA, M.Phil. and Ph.D. at IIPS. I would say, IIPS has a substantial contribution to my academic carrier which has completely transformed in these eight years at IIPS. I have learned that the individual guidance and support by esteemed faculty and senior research fellows at IIPS helped me to channelize my research passion and understanding the dynamics of the population thoroughly. The social connectedness is stronger among the IIPS alumni which certainly assure that students who graduated from IIPS resume the professional carrier in which they are trained and interested. As an IIPS alumna, I would extend my support to students of IIPS in all the possible ways.



### **Dr. Pradeep S. Salve**

MA 2010-12; M.Phil. 2012-13; Ph.D. 2013-18  
Assistant Professor, PRC,  
Dharwad, Karnataka

I would like to take this opportunity through the memoir booklet on the occasion of first Global Alumni Meet 2021 to congratulate IIPS and IIPSAA organizing members for giving us a platform where alumni can share their opinion and contribute more and more to the demographic fraternity. It has been a pleasurable 10-year journey as part of IIPS. The experience encompasses all those miniature moments which made our stay here meaningful. The late-night birthday celebrations, the long queues at the mess whenever there was Director's dinner, the extra classes on weekends, playing all sports under one umbrella, and most importantly the friends that we make in the process. It would be presumptuous to be expecting so much joy with such wonderful academic exposure anywhere else. IIPS gave us ample scope to express our interest and helping us to achieve commendable heights professionally. It is extremely nice to see that IIPSAA is moving vibrantly with its tender steps. As a member of the association from its foundation and first volunteered student member of IIPSAA, I am sure we all alumni will keep IIPS banner flying high ever.



### **Dr. Vipul Vaibhav Pandey**

MPS 2007-08; M.Phil. 2008-09; Ph.D. 2018  
SMRO, Nutritional International

My journey with IIPS started when I saw an advertisement in employment news related to MPS course which offered rupees five thousand as fellowship for study to which I was eligible. I was attracted towards this and thus applied here. Before coming here, I was not having any idea about research and it was not a planned thing, it all happened. I still remember the first class in MPS of Dr. Laxmi Kant which influenced me and created interest in such a way that I finally pursued doctorate under his expert supervision which I always think is the best decision of my life. Being in IIPS is memorable, I enjoyed every bit of expert training, research and its campus life. The places which I liked most is Library, Canteen and of course my Ph.D. supervisor Dr. Laxmi Kant's chamber. I am indebted to each and every one including teachers, friends, juniors and seniors and every IIPS staffs who made me learn different things and experiences within the campus.



**Dr. Mukesh Ranjan**  
MPS 2012-2013; Ph.D. 2019  
Assistant Professor  
Mizoram, India



**Mr. Rishabh Tyagi**  
M.Sc. 2017-19; M.Phil. 2019-20  
Ph.D. Student, MPIDR, Germany

I did my M.Sc. and M.Phil. in Biostatistics from IIPS, but It was during my M.Phil. that I got interested in pursuing a career in research. The credit goes to my M.Phil. advisor Prof. K.S. James who supported me and ignited my interest in research. I still share a great bond with my Professors, and they also help me and guide me in all my endeavours. IIPS has helped me grow as a researcher and taught me to live in harmony with people from different states and cultures. I think this experience is helping me in Germany to making friends and getting along well with people here. I miss my carefree hostel days. From participating in the pan Indian festivals to playing sports and watching cricket matches with friends in the TV Room. I did not even realize how three years passed away. I will forever cherish the time I spent here.



# OFFICE BEARERS OF IIPSAA

Any academic institute can be shaped and reshaped through the assistance of its alumni. Alumni can provide precise insights into the professional requirements of the academia, public institutions, market and employers. A professional body of IIPS-trained population graduates, IIPS Alumni Association (IIPSAA), was engendered and registered by the faculty and the alumni of the Institute under the Societies Registration Act 21, 1860 (Regd. No. 2893/2011/GBBSD) and the Bombay Public Trust Act 1950 (Regd. No. F49222-Mumbai). IIPSAA vigorously organises several activities, including lectures, workshops, and debates for students, encouraging them to connect with eminent personalities who are experienced professionals in various fields related to population sciences.

## Office Bearers of IIPSAA, 2011-13

President	-	Prof. P. Arokiasamy
Vice-President	-	Dr. Chander Shekhar
Vice-President	-	Prof. Dharmendra Pratap Singh
General Secretary	-	Dr. K.C. Das
Joint Secretary	-	Dr. D.A. Nagdeve
Treasurer	-	Dr. S.K. Mohanty
Member	-	Dr. H. Lhungdim
Member	-	Dr. T.V. Sekher
Member	-	Dr. Manoj Alagarajan
Member	-	Dr. Aparajita Chattopadhyaya
Member	-	Dr. Pushpita Datta
Secretariat	-	Mr. Prakash Fulpagare
Patron	-	Prof. F. Ram, Director, IIPS

## Office Bearers of IIPSAA, 2015-18

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Vice-President	-	Prof. Chander Shekhar
Vice-President	-	Prof. Dharmendra Pratap Singh
General Secretary	-	Prof. K.C. Das
Joint Secretary	-	Dr. Archana Roy
Treasurer	-	Dr. Abhishek Singh
Joint Treasurer	-	Dr. Manoj Alagarajan
Member	-	Prof. K.S. James
Member	-	Dr. Sanjay Kumar
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Member	-	Dr. Harihar Sahoo
Member	-	Dr. Nandita Saikia
Member	-	Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh
Member & Secretariat	-	Mr. Prakash Fulpagare
Patron	-	Prof. F. Ram, Director, IIPS

## Office Bearers of IIPSAA, 2018-20 & 2021-22

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Vice-President	-	Prof. T.K. Roy
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Member & Secretariat	-	Mr. Prakash Fulpagare
Patron	-	Prof. K.S. James, Director, IIPS

## IIPSAA Global Alumni Meet Committee ,2021

Patron	-	Prof. K.S. James
President	-	Prof. Irudaya Rajan Sebastian
General Secretary	-	Prof. Archana K. Roy
Vice-President	-	Prof. R. Nagarajan
Treasurer	-	Prof. Dhananjay W. Bansod
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Member	-	Dr. Kaushalendra Kumar
Member	-	Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh
Invitee	-	Dr. Ajeet Vishen
Invitee	-	Dr. Kunal Kesari

## IIPS GAM 2021: Volunteers

Abhishek Anand	Deepak Waghmare	Pooja Arora	Somesh Kumar
Akif Mustafa	Devarupa Gupta	Poushaly Talukdar	Sourav Dey
Amiya Saha	Devikrishna N.B.	Pragati Ubale	Sourav Mandal
Ali Abbas Rizvi	Himani Sharma	Priya Maurya	Saurav Pote
Anil Pal	Jitender Prasad	Priyanka Patel	Srei Chanda
Amiya Saha	Kshitiz Gupta	Rahul Mondal	Sreyash Varhadi
Amrit J John	Labhita Das	Rajshree Bhise	Tapasya
Angad Singh	Manisha	Ramkrishna Samanta	Tushar Dakua
Atreyee	Manoj Dakua	Rushikesh Khadse	T. Muhammad
Avnish Kumar Jaiswal	Mohammed Sajid	Sanjay Kumar Pal	
Beauty Maji	Mihir Adhikary	Satyam Raj Singh	
Bijoy Bhattacharjee	Nawaj Sarif	Shreshtha	
Biswajeet Besra	Nelgyn Tennyson	Shinjini Ray	
Chanda Maurya	Paras	Shoummo Sen Gupta	
Chandan Kumar	Parimal		



## **International Institute for Population Sciences**

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An Autonomous Organization of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,  
Government of India



The design of the upcoming new Academic Block of the IIPS. This building is coming up at the same site where the original building (featured in the front cover) of the IIPS stood.

