



SAMVAAD

An International Lecture Series hosted by

Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum

“Relevance of Demography in Public Health Practice”

Lecture by Prof. K Srinivasan

National Fellow (ICSSR) & Emeritus Professor, International Institute for Population Sciences, Deonar, Mumbai, India 400088

Date: August 5 2024

Time: 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm

Venue: Online via youtube /ciscowebex Link

Meeting Link : <https://youtube.com/live/dXmqk8eeeS8?feature=share>

Demography and Public Health Practice are both aggregative sciences, the former dealing with analysis of population as a whole, in terms of the characteristics of its size, growth age, geographic distributions, and composition, and the latter using the knowledge and insights of a population as obtained from demographic analysis and public health principles to have a more focused and effective public health practice aimed at prevention of diseases, promotion of health and prolonging life (the three ‘P’s’).

Historically demography and demographic analysis were part of public health practices to prevent diseases for over two hundred years. They began with John Graunt (1620–1674) who employed Bacon's approach and his own experience with merchant bookkeeping to analyze the London Bills of Mortality (weekly reporting of deaths by zones of London) data compiled from Parish record kept since 1532. They were euphemistically called *diabolical bills*. He established simple mathematical (demographic) techniques of checking and correcting the data and searching for patterns in mortality rates over time, by age and sex, and region. This led to the construction of a prototype of the modern life table. Many of the methods developed by public health practitioners were later refined and used by demographers. Thus, demography was intertwined with public health for over two centuries, until it developed its own identity. It may thus be considered as a descendant of public health., and has come of age in developing its own deeper methods of analysis of the three important components of population change, namely, fertility, mortality, and migration.

Demographic techniques such as direct and indirect standardization, construction of multivariate life tables, more sophisticated techniques of multivariate analysis, and the availability of many software techniques, even in the absence of a detailed statistical knowledge of these techniques by the users, have made the linkages between demography (or population sciences) and public health practices stronger in recent years. The relationship between the two is bound to grow further in coming years. The publications in the recent issues of Lancet and American Journal of Public Health bear ample testimony to the number clinicians and bio-scientists using various demographic methods in the analysis of their data. The concepts of DALY (Disability Adjusted Life Expectancy), disease specific life tables, and multivariate (cause specific) life tables are being applied by medical personnel and public health specialists regularly. The emergence of the worldwide pandemic, COVID-19, recently has stressed the necessity and importance of a close integration of the two disciplines. The daily relay of the number of persons infected with COVID-19 and number of deaths by the Johns Hopkins University and the Indian council of Medical Research bear ample testimony to the increased use of relevant data gathering, quality checking, and interpretations for further action have become a global phenomenon.

There is a great need for closer interactions between demographers and public health specialist in India, and SCTIMST offers such a unique opportunity and platform to facilitate and promote this interaction.



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Program Schedule

Introduction to the Lecture series: Dean, Dr.Roy Joseph

5:30 PM – 5:32 PM

Introduction to the speaker

Dr.Rakhal Gaitonde/Dr.Mala Ramanathan, Professors, AMCHSS

5.32 PM – 5.35 PM

Lecture by Prof.Krishnamurthi Srinivasan

5:35 PM – 6.15 PM

Comments and QA session moderated by

Dr. Roy Joseph, Dean, SCTIMST

6:15 PM – 6:25 PM

Vote of thanks

Prof. HV Easwer/Dr.Mala Ramanathan, Professor, AMCHSS, SCTIMST

6:25 PM – 6:30 PM

Program emceed by Prof.HVEaswer, Dept of Neurosurgery, SCTIMST

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ALL ARE CORDIALLY WELCOME



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Short Biography of Prof. Krishnamoorthy Srinivasan

Professor K. Srinivasan obtained a master's degree in Mathematics from the Madras University and subsequently graduated with distinction from the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata, with a master's degree in Statistics. He went on to obtain a Master of Public Health from Harvard University. In 1968, Prof. Srinivasan graduated with a PhD in demography. His PhD thesis on birth intervals continues to be cited widely even today.

Prof. K. Srinivasan has made valuable contributions in the area of population studies and programs since 1959. He is not only an internationally acclaimed academician in the field of demography, a teacher and a researcher, but also has served the country through various national and international committees and associations. He was a member of the National Statistical Commission set up by the Government of India in January 2000, which submitted its report in August 2001 to the Prime Minister recommending revamping of the statistical system in the country. He also served as a member of the Working Group on Population Policy set by the Planning Commission during 1978-79 for drafting the population policy for the sixth five-year plan, 1980-85. During 1995 to 2002, as the Executive Director of Population Foundation of India (PFI), New Delhi, an organization founded by late Mr. JRD Tata, he has promoted and enhanced the role of non-governmental organizations and the corporate sector in family planning and reproductive and child health programmes. He was awarded the National Fellow in 2013-2015 by the Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi to review the history of family planning programs in India. He has also made his contributions to other developing countries in the field of Population Studies and research under the auspices of the United Nations and other international organizations. He was employed with the Population Division of the United Nations at their ESCAP office in Bangkok, where his work in research and training in many countries such as India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia and Korea was appreciated. He was the Chairman of a group set up by the WHO and the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) to review and recommend on Population Research Centers in China during 1981 and 1983, and was subsequently awarded a scroll of honor by the Government of China in appreciation of his work. He was also a member of the IUSSP sub-committee on Comparative Analysis of Fertility during 1977-1981, and of the sub-committee on Demographic Aspects of Family Planning Program during 1973-1977.

As a senior Professor and Director of the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) in Mumbai from 1978 to 1992, he expanded the academic and geographic scope of the institute by making it a deemed university and training a large number of students from other Asian countries with financial assistance from the UNFPA. He was also instrumental in starting the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-1) in the country during 1991-1992. He has numerous books and chapters and 100 national and international peer-reviewed academic publications to his credit. His seminal work on birth intervals done in the 1960s continues to be cited widely. His most recent book published in 2017, *Population Concerns in India: Shifting trends, policies and programs*, has been released in three languages. He continues to be actively involved in research, writing, and guiding other academicians, researchers and young scholars in demography and contributing to various research institutions and professional associations in the country.

In 2023, in recognition of his contributions to the population field, the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), founded in Paris, conferred upon him the IUSSP Laureate Award.