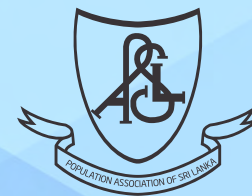


Population Association of Sri Lanka

PASL NEWSLETTER

2019-2020 No.1



Contents

President's Message

The Population Association of Sri Lanka (PASL) has now stepped on to its third decade. The Association was founded on 8th February, 1997 by a group of scholars, academics, policy makers and professionals with the main objectives of promoting research in demography and population studies, developing closer contacts among persons engaged in teaching, research, policy planning and implementation in the field of demography and population studies, dissemination of knowledge with regard to demography and population studies and actively promoting an interest in the subject at institutions of higher learning and other organizations working in relevant fields, and promoting awareness on population and development issues in the community at large, with a view of influencing public policy.

The Association has published Newsletters intermittently to inform the membership of its events. This task was formalized from last year, and a decision was taken to circulate two Newsletters per year. As the President it is my pleasure to write this message to Number 1 of the 2019-2020 Newsletter published by the 22nd Council of the PASL.

This issue informs the membership of the last AGM and the Annual Scientific session held by the Association on 23rd March 2019. Many of the activities planned by the Council for this year had to be postponed due to the disturbances that occurred in the country in April 2019. These are lined up for the coming months.

The most significant event for the PASL this year is the launching of Volume 20 (Issue 2) of the Sri Lanka Journal of Population Studies (SLJPS) in August 2019. The journal has been published since the inception of the Association annually. From this year it will be published bi-annually. I invite the membership to publish in the SLJPS and also introduce the journal to academics and researchers interested in the field of population.

The Life Membership of the PASL currently stands at 277. However, the participation of the membership in PASL events are not satisfactory. I invite the membership to support us by sending contact details so that activities of the PASL can be informed to you. Publishing the achievements of the members is also encouraged - let us know your achievements and we will make the membership aware.

I congratulate the Editor of the Newsletter and thank him for the dedication and hard work.

The PASL will continue its journey and the support of the membership will facilitate our endeavors.

Dr. Kumudika Boyagoda
President

22nd COUNCIL -Population Association of Sri Lanka (PASL)-2019-2020

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Dr. Kumudika Boyagoda

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President's Message	1
22 nd Council of the PASL	1
Sri Lanka Journal of Population of Studies	2
Inauguration of Scintisic Scssions & AGM	2,3
Twenty First Annual Scientific Sessions	2
In memoriam of Dr. Kanthi Ratnayake	4
Council Activities	4
How to join PASL	4

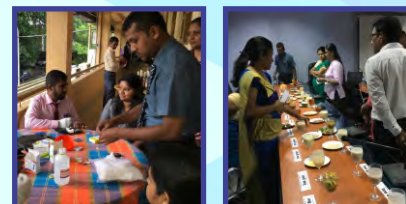
Inaugural Ceremony



Twenty First Annual Scientific Sessions and launching of Sri Lanka Journal of Population Studies



Council Activities 2019 -2020



Editor - Newsletter

Mr. Hansa Jayarathne



The Inaugural Ceremony of the Annual Scientific Sessions and launching of the Sri Lanka Journal of Population Studies (SLJPS) Volume 20 Number 1, together with the AGM of the Association was held on 24th March 2019, at the M. B. Ariyapala Auditorium, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo. The event was graced by the Chief Guest, Professor Devaka Weerakoon - Chairman (Actg.), National Science Foundation, Guest of Honour, Mrs. Madusha Dissanayake- Assistant Representative/UNFPA, Sri Lanka, Keynote Speaker, Professor Saroj Jayasinghe -Chair Professor of Medicine, University of Colombo, Dr. Kumudika Boyagoda, President/PASL and Dr. M.W.S.J. Kumari, Secretary/PASL. Among the distinguished invitees were the Vice Chairman/University Grants Commission Professor P.S. M. Gunarathne, Dean, Faculty of Arts/University of Colombo Senior Professor Premakumara de Silva and Director General Department Census & Statistics Mrs. Indu Bandara. The Inaugural Ceremony and the Scientific Sessions were followed by the AGM of the PASL.



Certificates of Membership

Certificates of Membership were awarded to the new members who obtained Life Membership of the Population Association of Sri Lanka during the tenure of the 21st Council. The Life Membership of the PASL currently stands at 277. Certificates for the new members were awarded at the Annual General Meeting of the PASL, 2019 by the President of the PASL.



Sri Lanka Journal of Population Studies (SLJPS) –Volume 20 Number 1 was launched on 24th March 2019. The SLJPS is a scientific refereed journal, published by the Population Association of Sri Lanka. It seeks to promote and disseminate knowledge on Demography and Population Studies in a multi-disciplinary perspective with major reference to Sri Lanka. Volume 20 Number 1 consisted of six articles, and carried an array of interrelated themes covering fertility, mortality and migration, the core areas of Demography, and non-communicable diseases, population ageing, population and environment, disaster management and contraception.

Forthcoming

SLJPS Volume 20 Number 2 will be launched in August 2019. The Journal carries papers titled Socio-economic differentials and regional variations in cancer and circulatory disease deaths attributed to nonspecific causes in Sri Lanka, Migrate or stay behind? Gendered negotiations regarding children's education, Multidimensional poverty among the estate population of Badulla District in Sri Lanka, Safe sanitation & population health and a book review on the publication "Ageing population" of Sri Lanka.

Twenty First Annual Scientific Sessions of the PASL

Twenty first Annual Scientific Sessions consisted of four sessions and eleven presentations on the following titles.

- Invisible household work done by women not in labour force in Sri Lanka - *Wimal Nanayakkara*
- Ageing population and how the health system respond to geriatric health care facilities in hospitals in Sri Lanka - *Amara Satharasinghe*
- The impact of level of occupation on the relationship between work-life balance and well-being - *I.R. Bandara*
- A study on the influence of chronic stress in precipitating Type 2 Diabetes - *M.H.I. Lakmali & M.W.S.J. Kumari*
- Future of urban density dissemination and its effects on the spatial distribution of wetlands: A Remote Sensing & GIS based Evaluation on Kalu Oya & Mudun Ela Basin, Sri Lanka - *H.M.M.S.D Herath, R.U.K. Piyadasa, T.A.N.T. Perera, R.A.G.C.M.N. Nawarathna & P.M. Opallage*
- Knowledge and awareness on Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) among female youth in urban settlement communities in Colombo - *Ayantha Anandi*
- A study on divorce grounds under General Marriage Ordinance No.19 of 1907 in Sri Lanka - *U.G.W. Atapattu*
- From a vertical to horizontal life: The housing and social impact of the Urban Regeneration Project (2011-2014) in Sri Lanka - *Anuradha C. Senanayake*
- Social and financial issues and challenges faced by elderly living alone - *T.H.A.S. De Silva*
- People exposed to landslides in Maragala mountain range: A case study of Moneragala Divisional Secretariat Division, Sri Lanka - *H.A.C.D. Senavirathna*
- Epidemiology of prostate cancer incidents in Sri Lanka: A case study of Colombo South Teaching hospital - *W. D. D. Madusika, D. L. Egodage, W. R.V. W. Anuradhi & M. A. C. Madushani*

The Scientific Sessions were chaired by

- Professor K.A.P. Siddhisena (Emeritus Professor in Demography)
- Dr. A.T.P.L. Abeykoon (Senior Fellow, IHP)
- Dr. A. Balasuriya (Senior Lecturer of Public Health and Family Medicine)
- Professor L. Manawadu (Professor of Geography)



Gender in Demography: Thoughts for an advanced research approach

Dr. Kumudika Boyagoda



Women's equality and empowerment is integral to sustainable development. Demographers can analyze gender in a way leading towards sustainable solutions to gender issues. In demographic analysis it is common to use categories. However, categories are identified based on common similarities, and assumed invariant and comparable across time, space and context. Emphasis on commonalities relegates other characteristics to secondary - problematic for gender analysis as women are a cross-cutting category. Demography is still dominated by explanations based on quantitative data; its approach to gender is similar. Large scale quantitative data highlight emerging social trends and problems. But for gender research, it is necessary to delve into specificities that can be only unmasked by qualitative data. Demographic research on gender should therefore combine the quantitative and the qualitative. Studies of women still highlight their weaknesses/vulnerabilities. Though women face challenges it is important to give prominence to women's strengths -this is empowering in its own right.

FELICITATION - RECIPIENTS OF GOLD MEDALS

The Population Association of Sri Lanka felicitated two eminent Demographers, Dr. A.T.P.L. Abeykoon and Emeritus Professor K.A.P. Siddhisena at the Inauguration of the 21st Annual Scientific Sessions on 24 March 2019.

DR. A.T.P.L. ABEYKOON



Dr. A.T.P.L. Abeykoon has been an eminent researcher, lecturer, policy planner and an administrator for over forty years. He was the President of the Population Association of Sri Lanka during 1999-2002. His first exposure to population studies was in the early 1970s at the International Institute for Population Studies in Bombay, India. Subsequently, he obtained his Masters Degree in Population Studies from Cornell University U.S.A. Dr. Abeykoon earned his Ph.D. in Population Planning from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. During his distinguished career as a public servant for nearly four decades, he represented the Government of Sri Lanka in many international conferences on population issues including the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994.

EMERITUS PROFESSOR K.A.P. SIDDHISENA



Emeritus Professor K.A.P. Siddhisena, has been a researcher, lecturer, and an administrator, for a period of over 40 years. He started his distinguished university career in 1976, as an Assistant Lecturer in the Demographic Training and Research Unit (DTRU) of the University of Colombo. Since then he has held a number of important positions, reaching the highest level in the academic field as Emeritus Professor of Demography. He played a vital role in establishing the Department of Demography of the University of Colombo and was the first Head of the Department of Demography. He holds a B.A. (Hons.) and B.Phil. (Hons.) in Economics from the University of Colombo, Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Social Statistics from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, M.A. in Demography from the Australian National University (ANU), Canberra, and M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Population Planning from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA. Prof. Siddhisena was the founder Secretary of the PASL and has also served as its President.

Keynote Address

POPULATION STUDIES: MOVING BEYOND DISCIPLINES

Professor Saroj Jayasinghe, Chair Professor of Medicine, University of Colombo



The study of health of populations has evolved over the centuries and illustrate a few lessons for other disciplines. This paper outlines a few key developments and illustrates how advances were often triggered and by persons who studied several disciplines themselves and boldly moved across disciplinary boundaries. Demographers and those studying population health are now facing a totally different world, one in which disciplinary boundaries have to be crossed and new methods of analyses adapted. Mining of massive data sets and their analyses is transforming the way we think about populations, their behaviours and health. Massive amounts of data from multiple sources are now available for analyses through powerful computers that use algorithms and machine learning techniques. Precision of data from a clearly defined sample is being replaced by volumes of relatively imprecise data (e.g. mobility of persons using mobile phone locations) from a very large population. Therefore, developing firm collaborations between practitioners (e.g. Department of Census and Statistics, Ministry of Health) and researchers from a wide range of disciplines from the universities and research institutions becomes essential. It is only then that we will have a platform to accelerate our progress beyond the borders of our respective disciplines.



It is with great sadness that we inform the demise of Dr. Kanthi Ratnayake, member of the founding Council of the Population Association of Sri Lanka (PASL), and first Editor of the Sri Lanka Journal of Population Studies. Dr. Ratnayake also served as President of the PASL (2002-2004) and was a Senior Professor at the Department of Geography, University of Ruhuna. Her valuable service to the PASL will always be remembered with gratitude. The upcoming volume of the Sri Lanka Journal of Population Studies (Volume 20 Number 2) will be dedicated to her with all due respect. The Council of PASL observed one-minute silence at the 205th Council Meeting to pay respect to the late Professor.

Ayurveda Health Awareness and Promotion Programme

The PASL organized a full day Ayurveda health awareness and promotion programme and a Mobile Health Clinic at the Rupavahini Corporation on 22 August 2019, for the staff of the Rupavahini Corporation. The Coordinator of the event from the PASL was Dr. R.H.S.K. De Silva, Council Member, assisted by Dr. M.W.S.J. Kumari, Secretary and Dr. I.G.R.P. Kulanatha, Council Member. Coordination from the Rupavahini was done by Mr. D.P.C.E. Peiris, Director - Administration, and the Technical Officers Union. Commissioner of Ayurveda Mr. K.D.C.S. Perera and Western Province Ayurveda Commissioner Dr. G. M. M. Perera provided the technical support to conduct this programme with free medicine and supportive staff. Mr. Ramesh Joseph, Senior Business Development Manager, Himalaya Division, Mega Parma (Pvt) Ltd., provided sponsorship for Himalaya range of drugs for the Mobile Clinic.

The Director- Administration, Mr. Peiris and President of the PASL, Dr. Kumudika Boyagoda welcomed the participants. The awareness programme commenced with a session by Emeritus Professor K.A.P. Siddhisena on 'Population trends and issues in Sri Lanka' with a special focus on health. Subsequent sessions were as follows:

1. Yoga for a healthy life (with practical session) - Secretary / PASL & Senior Lecturer, Dr. M.W.S.J. Kumari
2. Ethnic heritage and genetics - Council Member / PASL & Senior Lecturer, Dr. I.G.P.R. Kulanatha
3. Traditional way of using salt and importance for prevention of many non-communicable diseases – Council Member / PASL & Senior Lecturer, Dr. R.H.S.K. de Silva
4. Awareness on daily food preparation and best preparation methods for prevention of diseases

- Dr. R. J. Welikala

The awareness programme was followed by a practical demonstration of 'Traditional Beverages' by the Western Province Ayurveda Community Medical Officers Unit. Twenty (20) Traditional beverages were demonstrated.



Mobile Health Clinic

Around 500 employees of the Cooperation participated for the mobile clinic which was held from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm at the same premises. Investigations were done to assess medical conditions, consultations provided and medicines prescribed free of charge. The members from the Western Province Ayurveda Community Medical Officers Unit, Dr. M. A.V.V. Chandrarathna, Dr. M. A. Murashalin, Dr. P.D.J. D. Jayawardhane, Dr. L. I. A. de Silva, Dr. M. J. M. Hassan, Dr. W.A.I. N. Perera, Dr. K.S. Kumarannehe, Dr. R.A. D. N. Samudika, Mr. M.D. SajiwaGunathilaka and Mr. H. P. A. Senarathna contributed to the Mobile Clinic. Dr. M.W.S.J. Kumari and Dr. R.H.S.K. de Silva served as the Ayurveda Consultants, and counseling and referring were done for the needed individuals. The Clinic and Awareness Program was very successful and the programme was telecasted the same day on Rupavahini News at 10.00 p.m.



How to join PASL

The Population Association of Sri Lanka consists of four categories of membership.

Persons who have studied Demography/ Population Studies/ Allied fields for a Special / General/ Postgraduate Degree shall be eligible for Ordinary Membership.

Persons who have made a distinguished contribution to demography and population activities in Sri Lanka can apply for Honorary Life Membership.

Persons and Institutions who are actively involved in the field of Demography and Population but who do not come under ordinary membership may apply for Associate Membership.

Full time students in a recognized educational institutes may apply for Student Membership.

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