



NEWSLETTER

POPULATION ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA



President's Message

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Population Association of Sri Lanka (PASL), a professional association founded in 1997 with the primary objectives of promoting research and disseminating knowledge in the fields of Demography and Population Studies, as well as advocating awareness on

population and development issues with a view to influencing public policy. Since its inception, PASL has continued to uphold these goals by creating a strong platform for learning, research dissemination through scientific sessions/conference, collaboration, professional engagement and community outreach activities.

Our work is further strengthened through partnerships with both public and private sector institutions, as well as national and international collaborators. The Association is strengthened by a diverse and professionally qualified membership representing social sciences, medicine, engineering, management, government service, the private sector, and students. PASL warmly invites you to join the Association and contribute to advancing demographic knowledge and sustainable development in Sri Lanka.

Prof. Manori Weeratunga
President

Population Association of Sri Lanka (PASL)



Inauguration and Annual Scientific Sessions - 27th Council

The Population Association of Sri Lanka held the Inauguration Ceremony at the Annual Scientific Sessions, launch of Sri Lanka Journal of Population Studies, and Annual General Meeting on 22 Feb 2025 at the University of Colombo. The event was graced by Dr. Dayanath Ranatunga (Assistant Representative, UNFPA, Sri Lanka) as Chief Guest and Prof. Aindralal Balasuriya as Guest of Honour. The Presidential Address was delivered by Prof. Sunethra Perera. Highlights included the formal journal launch and a panel discussion on "Population Dynamics and Development Challenges in Sri Lanka" with representatives from civil society and government institutions, scientific presentations and the Annual General Meeting.

28TH COUNCIL - PASL 2025 - 2026

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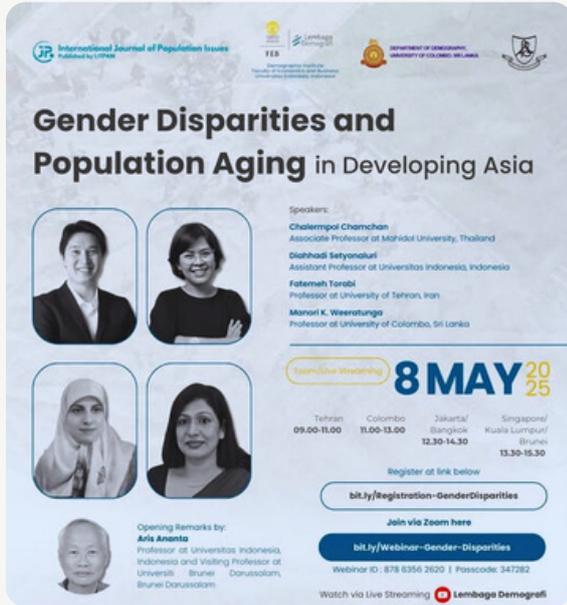
Mr. Chaminda De Silva

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Editor

Prof. Manori Weeratunga



Webinar - Gender Disparities and Population Ageing in Developing Asia

The webinar, "Gender Disparities and Population Ageing in Developing Asia", held on 8 May 2025, was jointly organized by the Population Association of Sri Lanka (PASL), the Demographic Institute, Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Indonesia, the International Journal of Population Issues, and the Department of Demography, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo. The webinar examined how ageing intersects with gender in developing Asia, shaping health outcomes, economic security, caregiving roles, and social inclusion. It highlighted how older women often face higher risks of poverty, limited access to healthcare, and social isolation, while older men encounter challenges linked to changing family roles and loss of traditional status. These gendered experiences were discussed as central to the development of equitable and inclusive ageing policies in the region.

The speakers included Professor Manori Weeratunga (President, Population Association of Sri Lanka), Associate Professor Fatemeh Torabi (University of Tehran, Iran), Assistant Professor Diahadi Setyonaluri (Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia), and Chalermpol Chamchan (Mahidol University, Thailand). The session was moderated by Lai Siao Li (University of Malaya, Malaysia), with opening remarks by Aris Ananta (Universitas Indonesia; Universiti Brunei Darussalam; Editor-in-Chief, International Journal of Population Issues) and closing remarks by Professor Manori Weeratunga, President of the Population Association of Sri Lanka.



Commemorating World Population Day 2025: Empowering Youth for a Fair and Hopeful Future

1st July 2025

In celebration of World Population Day 2025, the Population Association of Sri Lanka (PASL), in collaboration with the Department of Demography, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo, organized two impactful events under the global theme "Empowering young people to create the families they want in a fair and hopeful world." The 2025 theme emphasizes the critical role of education, healthcare, and economic opportunity in enabling young people to make informed and sustainable life and family choices.





Guest Lecture: Census 2024 – A Snapshot of Demographics in Sri Lanka

1st July 2025

This event was designed to actively engage undergraduate students and schoolchildren, recognizing young people as key agents of demographic and social change. A central highlight was the Population Data Awareness Programme for undergraduates and school students, aimed at building early understanding of population trends, data literacy, and evidence-based decision-making.

A special guest lecture titled “Census 2024: A Snapshot of Demographics in Sri Lanka” was delivered by Dr. Chandani Wijebandara, Director of the Department of Census and Statistics. Her presentation provided valuable insights into Sri Lanka’s latest demographic patterns and underscored the importance of reliable population data for national planning and development.

The event commenced with a welcome address by Professor Manori Weeratunga, President of PASL, followed by remarks from Dr. Harischandra Yakandawala, Vice President of PASL, who emphasized the vital role of accurate data in shaping sound public policy and social interventions. The programme concluded with closing remarks by Ms. Prasadi, Secretary of PASL.

This initiative proved highly beneficial for both undergraduates and schoolchildren, strengthening their awareness of population issues and empowering them with knowledge to participate meaningfully in shaping Sri Lanka’s demographic future. By placing young people at the center of the discussion, PASL reaffirmed its commitment to nurturing informed, responsible, and engaged future citizens.



Awareness on Preventing Gender – Based Domestic Violence – MOH Clinic Modara

In line with the World Population Day 2025 theme and its focus on empowering young people for a fair and hopeful future, the Population Association of Sri Lanka (PASL), in collaboration with the Department of Demography, conducted a community outreach programme on the prevention of gender-based domestic violence at the Modara MOH Office. The event aimed to raise awareness and strengthen the decision-making capacity of pregnant women, empowering young mothers to build safer families and a more hopeful future. Approximately 80 pregnant mothers participated in the session, which was facilitated by Professor Manori Weeratunga, President of PASL, and Dr. Harischandra Yakandawala, Vice President of PASL. The programme provided a supportive platform for women to learn about their rights, recognize forms of domestic violence, and access available support services.

The event was organized by Dr. Dhammika Gunaratne, with the participation of Ms. Nipunika Dahanayake and Ms. Madusha Leelarathne. The interactive discussions enabled mothers to openly share their experiences and concerns, strengthening their confidence, awareness, and resilience.



Policy Dialogue - Ageing Gracefully: Challenges and Opportunities of an Ageing Population

The Population Association of Sri Lanka (PASL), in collaboration with HelpAge Sri Lanka and the Department of Demography, University of Colombo, successfully organized a Policy Dialogue on "Ageing Gracefully: Challenges and Opportunities of an Ageing Population" on 03 September 2025 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Senate Hall, College House, University of Colombo. The event brought together key experts and stakeholders to discuss Sri Lanka's rapidly ageing population and explore ways to ensure dignity, well-being, and quality of life for older persons. Dr. Kumudika Boyagoda, Head of the Department of Demography, University of Colombo, warmly welcomed the gathering, while Dr. Chaminda De Silva, Head of Programmes at HelpAge Sri Lanka and a member of the PASL Council, highlighted the importance of the event in addressing the policy concerns related to population ageing in Sri Lanka.

The panel featured Professor Lakshman Dissanayake, Emeritus Professor in Demography, who spoke on the demographic and socio-economic aspects of ageing; Dr. Sithira Seneviratne, Board-Certified Consultant Geriatrician, who addressed geriatric health and quality of life; and Dr. Kaushalya Ariyaratne, Member of Parliament, who focused on policy approaches to improving the lives of older people. The session was moderated by Professor Manori Weeratunga, President of PASL, and coordinated by Ms. Mihirani Dissanayake, Assistant Secretary of PASL. Through interactive dialogue, the event generated practical insights and policy-oriented recommendations for building a more inclusive and age-friendly society in Sri Lanka.

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Sri Lanka Journal of Population Studies Volume 26, Number 2 (August 2025)

The Sri Lanka Journal of Population Studies (SLJPS), published biannually by the Population Association of Sri Lanka (PASL), continues its commitment to advancing scholarly discourse on population-related issues from a multidisciplinary perspective, with particular reference to Sri Lanka. The Journal serves as a peer-reviewed platform for original research that informs policy, planning, and academic debate in the fields of demography, social sciences, and development studies.

Webinar: Climate Change, Population, and Development in Sri Lanka

The Population Association of Sri Lanka hosted a webinar on 31st January 2026, examining the intersections of climate change, population dynamics, and development. The session explored how climate impacts are reshaping livelihoods, migration, and health in Sri Lanka. Moderated by Dr. Kumudika Boyagoda, the event featured guest speaker Dr. H. M. M. B. Seneviratne, who shared global expertise on disaster risk reduction and policy pathways toward a resilient future.

