



UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI
RAJIV GANDHI CENTRE FOR
CONTEMPORARY STUDIES

REPORT OF THE
PRE CONFERENCE SYMPOSIUM
ON

‘HEALTH AS A HUMAN RIGHT’

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The Indian Academy of Social Sciences in association with the University of Mysore is organizing the 40th session of Indian Social Science Congress on theme of 'Peoples Health and Quality of Life in India' between December 19-23, 2016 at Mysuru. The recently formed Maharashtra Social Science Academy (under the aegis of IASS), jointly organized the pre-conference symposium in collaboration with Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Contemporary Studies on Human Rights Day on 10th December, 2016 on the theme: ' **HEALTH AS A HUMAN RIGHT** '. This symposium was a prelude to the 40th Session of Indian Social Science Congress.



The symposium was inaugurated by Dr. Gautam Gawli (*Professor and Head of Department of Applied Psychology in the University of Mumbai, Ex-Director of Indian Council of Social Sciences Research and Western Regional Centre*) who shared an interesting perspective on the violation of human rights through thoughts and attitudes thus affecting peoples mental health. Dr. Chandrakant Puri, Chair Professor, Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Contemporary Studies, University of Mumbai and the President, Maharashtra Social Science Academy chaired the session. In his presidential remarks, he briefed about the Indian Academy of Social Sciences, its activities and urged members to join the said organisation.

The plenary session was shared by Dr. Mrudul Nile (*Associate Prof. Dept. of Civics and Politics, University of Mumbai*), Dr. Ravikant Singh (*President- Doctors For You*) and Mr. Vilas Patil (*Co-Founder and Trustee-Creative Group, Mumbai*). The experts shared their expert opinions based on their in-depth interactions with people across different demographics on the issue of health. This session was chaired by Professor Chandrakant Puri.



The second panel was shared by renowned paediatrician Dr. Sameer Dalwai (*Founder & Director, New Horizons Child Development Center, Mumbai*), Dr. Prashant Bhosale (*Asst. Prof. College of Social Work, Jalgaon*), Dr. Abhijeet More and Mr. Hemraj Patil (*Universal Health Care, SATHI, Pune*) and Ms. Laxmi Salwe (*Asst. Prof. Dept. of History, University of Mumbai*). The issues raised included basic healthcare gaps in the current system, vanishing traditional healthcare practices, discriminatory practices towards persons with disability and the basic right to accessible public toilets.



The final panel were persons from diverse backgrounds with the theme of health intersecting their work. There was Dr. Sunil Parab (*Medical Practitioner, Sindhudurg*), Mr. Dicky Baruah (*Research Associate, Hamsafar Trust, Mumbai*), Ms. Chaitra Khole (*Research Scholar, TISS Mumbai*), Mr. Lokender Prashad (*Research Scholar, TISS Mumbai*) and Mr. Rahul Sarwade (*Research Scholar, TISS Mumbai*). Health as a point of discrimination was discussed across categories such as rural population, senior citizens, homeless pavement dwellers, nomadic tribes (Pochamma Tribe) and the LGBT community.



Some of the recommendations from the symposium

- Considering health as a human right, make sure that the access to basic health care is given to all irrespective of caste, class, gender and region.
- Plant trees to ensure a cleaner environment for the future to safeguard the right to a clean and healthy environment.
- Be aware of discrimination beginning with one's thoughts and prejudices, ensuring equality to all.
- Ensuring a more inclusive environment for persons with disability by accepting it as their right to a healthy life.
- Accepting persons from the LGBT community thus paving the way for their inclusion.

The symposium closed on a high note with participants curious to know more on the issues brought forth. The common voice that echoed through the symposium was the need for a change in the health system, a change led by each responsible citizen.

Around 60 participants participated at the seminar.

