

## INTRODUCTION

**A**n establishment of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare(MoHFW), Govt., of India, 'Population Research Centre' is a multi-disciplinary research Centre in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, researching in demographic issues, socio-economic aspects, population sciences and health. The mission of the Centre is to conduct the high quality research in population sciences including a focus on evaluation of policies and programmes on health and family welfare in India. The vision of the Centre is to conduct high-quality multidisciplinary research on population composition, demographic change and health policies and programmes in India. The Centre's main aim is to be recognized as premier organization for monitoring and evaluation of National Health Mission (NHM) of India to provide insights for program implementation and course-corrections at district, state and national level.

Increasingly, Centre is engaged in technical support to assist policymaking on population health by various ministries and departments of the Central and State governments in the country. The Centre boost its contributions in academic programs of universities and research institutes by teaching and capacity building of students, young researchers and program officials at district, state and national level. Further, the PRC is actively seeking collaborations with national and international organizations to advance research on several cutting edge areas in population sciences including innovative methodologies for surveys and data collection. The overall vision of the Centre is to be recognized as a dynamic organization and a center of excellence on population health policies and programmes in India.

The Centre is presently engaged in research on the most pressing and contemporary issues about the health including communicable and non communicable diseases. The faculty members of the Centre are engaged in individual and joint research projects in the UT of J&K. During the conduct of research, the faculty uses all possible sources in the shape of literature, statistical data, fieldwork and interaction with eminent scholars, subject experts and the area

analysts during their visits, seminars, conferences, and workshops. The Centre provides feedback to the policy planners of the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

Over the last few years, the Centre has successfully organized several national conferences and national seminars. It is highly connected with several foreign institutes for research cooperation. To this effect, the University of Kashmir has inked several Memorandum of Understanding for the Centre, with the most prestigious Universities and institutes including UNICEF, United States Aid for Development (USAID), National Council for Economics and Applied Research (NCEAR), International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), and Planning Commission for the conduct of socioeconomic, demographic and health surveys in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, to carry out joint academic and research activities. These Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) facilitate the exchange of faculty and research scholars for field studies and interactions with the eminent researchers of the country. Besides, eminent scholars and experts of the country and abroad are invited to interact with the faculty of the Centre.

The Centre has enriched departmental library and **Census workstation** with well-equipped computers and Internet facilities has augmented as a learning resource of the Centre. Besides, the Centre has installed a **Digital Population Clock** at the **Rumi Gate** of the University.

The future research programmes of the Centre are as: a) to initiate market-oriented and industry-based research projects; b) to initiate integrated multi-disciplinary collaborative research projects on rational resource management in the UT of J&K with relevant policy implications; c) to introduce a diploma course on Population Sciences as an essential component and to sign a MoUs with prestigious research institutes.

#### **Thrust Area of the Centre:**

The mandate of Centre is to conduct and promote research in population studies, Reproductive and Child Health, NCDs, Sex Ratio, Demographic and Health Surveys, Monitoring and Evaluation of NHM, HMIS and to assist the MoHFW, and the State Government with policy input and feedback on population and health issues. The mission of the Population Research Centre is to conduct and promote research that will advance our understanding of how demographic

processes impact the composition and structure of populations over time. This knowledge can be applied to improve the health and well-being of population, as well as that of social groups within population.

**Policy Interface and Dissemination:**

The Centre has research collaborated with national and international institutions such as International Institution for Population Sciences (IIPS) Mumbai, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), United States Aid for International Development (USAID), National Council for Economic and Research (NCEAR), National AIDS Control Origination (NACO), NITI Ayoug, Sheri-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar for conduct of socio-economic, demographic and health surveys in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The PRC also maintains a close link with the health department at both the national and state level, and contributes to policy-making through participating in government sponsored research programs, as well as through its workshops and seminars. Members of the PRC regularly attend and present their research at National and International Conferences including annual meetings of the Indian Association for the Study of Population (IASP) and other International Population Associations like Population Association of America (PAA) and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) among others. Further, individual faculty members also use different methods to disseminate research findings to the policy makers and other researchers primarily through workshops and seminars publications in local dailies.

**Academic and Research Staff of the Centre:**

**Academic/Teaching Staff of the Centre:**

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