



IAPPD Standing Committee Meeting

"Role of Parliamentarians on Accelerating Achievements of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Focus on Teenage Pregnancies and Malnutrition among Children in India"

11th December 2024, New Delhi

The IAPPD Standing Committee convened in New Delhi on December 11, 2024, to deliberate on the pivotal role of Parliamentarians in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a focus on teenage pregnancies and child malnutrition. Presided by Prof. P.J. Kurien, former Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Chairman, IAPPD, the meeting featured esteemed participants, including Mr. Harivansh Narain Singh, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, as the Chief Guest, and Mr. Bhubaneswar Kalita, Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, as the Guest of Honour. Mr. Avinash Rai Khanna, former MP and Vice Chairman, IAPPD Standing Committee, delivered a comprehensive presentation on 'Old Age Care'. The event was further honoured by the presence of Mr. D. Raja, former MP, whose participation added significant value to the proceedings.



Nineteen Parliamentarians and subject experts from organizations such as International Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS), and UNFPA contributed to the discussion.

Prof. P.J. Kurien underscored the urgency of addressing teenage pregnancies, which are linked to maternal and child mortality, malnutrition, and interrupted education, and emphasized Parliamentarians' critical role in formulating solutions to eradicate the evil.

Mr. Harivansh Narain Singh highlighted the socio-economic and cultural drivers of these issues and the need for multi-sectoral interventions to break the cycle of poverty and inequality.



Key topics included strengthening child marriage laws, promoting comprehensive sexuality education, improving access to reproductive health services, and scaling up programmes like ICDS and POSHAN Abhiyaan. The meeting also highlighted the importance of educating girls, empowering women, and fostering community-based solutions.



A presentation by Dr. S.K. Singh, based on the findings of from NFHS-5, emphasized the interplay of cultural norms, under-nutrition, and economic disparity, calling for innovative, AI-driven approaches and enhanced support for frontline workers.

The deliberations resulted in actionable suggestions such as improving programme accountability, leveraging technology for data-driven policymaking, and fostering public-private collaborations. Parliamentarians were urged to advocate for gender equality, better funding, and infrastructure, ensuring sustainable progress toward achieving SDGs related to health and well-being.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to collaborative efforts, underscoring Parliamentarians' unique capacity to enact impactful legislative reforms and promote awareness for these critical challenges, and was followed by Dinner.

