

A Report on the 40th Annual Conference of Association of Preventive and Social Medicine of India January 22-24, 2013; Government Medical College, Nagpur, India.

Thakre SB*, Thakre SS**, Ughade SN* Narlawar UW*, Chavan AB*, Parmar A*, Dhok RS*

*Preventive and Social Medicine, Government Medical College, Nagpur

** Preventive and Social Medicine, Indira Gandhi Government Medical College, Nagpur

Abstract- Association of Preventive and Social Medicine/Public Health Experts of India (IAPSM) is one of the most reputed scientific organizations. It provides a scientific forum for young professionals in public health professionals, public health practicing physicians and other allied disciplines. IAPSM holds its annual conferences at some premier established Community Medicine Department, Medical Colleges of the country. For the first time in the history of Annual National Conference of IAPSM online structured abstract submission has been introduced by the organizer of IAPSM Conference 2013 at Nagpur. Each year far more abstracts are submitted and limited slots are available for oral and poster presentation. Hence, we have carried out an appraisal of abstracts published in the souvenir of the National Conference of IAPSM held at Nagpur during January 2013. A separate committee with two reviews reviewed all abstracts as per the standard journal article review guideline. Mean (SD) score of accepted abstract by one reviewer was 13.23 (1.74) with 95% confidence interval (CI) (13.05-13.4). Mean (SD) score of accepted abstract by another reviewer was 13.72 (2.18) with 95% confidence interval (CI) (13.5-13.9). Agreement analysis between two raters substantial agreement (Kappa=0.61) and it was found to be statistically significant $P < 0.001$.

Index Terms- National conference, Appraisal, abstracts, oral poster presentation.

I. INTRODUCTION

Association of Preventive and Social Medicine/Public Health Experts of India (IAPSM) is one of the most reputed scientific organizations. It provides a scientific forum for young professionals in public health professionals, public health practicing physicians and other allied disciplines. IAPSM holds its annual conferences at some premier established Community Medicine Department, Medical Colleges of the country. In this series, the 40th Annual Conference of IAPSM being organized at Government Medical College (GMC), Nagpur, Maharashtra, in association with Indian Public Health association (IPHA) and IAPSM Maharashtra Chapter during 22-24th January, 2013. The conference theme was "**Women's Health : Today's Evidence, Tomorrow's Agenda**" which included plenary session. More than 800 delegates including 38 speakers representing WHO, UNCEF, PATH, other representative of government and non government organizations attended this conference.

During inaugural programme the chief guest, Dr. Bhatkar, His Excellency, Hon'ble well-known Indian scientist and inventor of Param computer, addressed the need for public health research in the country and emphasized the role of such conferences in bringing the researchers from academia, non governmental organizations and government together towards knowledge contribution for country. Guest of honor, Dr. Tarun Viz, Country Programme Leader (PATH), India and Dr. Rani Bang, Social Activist, SEARCH, Gadchiroli, Maharashtra addressed auspicious gathering about need of rural and tribal women health research. They emphasized need of innovative, novel and socially relevant research helps in addressing women and child health of India. Dr. Srinivas S.Vaishya, Hon'ble Special Secretary of Health for Daman, Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, who is one of the life member of our association has been selected this year for Padmashree award in the field of Medicine and Health care. A special felicitation ceremony was held during the inaugural function of conference. During the secretarial address, Prof. Shashikant, Secretary General of IAPSM deliberated on the growth of IAPSM organization. He urged public health expert and academician to take initiatives for fighting new and emerging challenges and working for human society. He appreciated the organizers for their efforts and about the support of various funding agencies and ministry on special session. Prof. A. Humne, Chairman, Organizing Committee Conference, welcomed all invited speakers, guests and participants. They also highlighted the importance of cross-disciplinary research areas of women's health. Further, Prof. U Narlawar, IAPSM CON 2013 General Secretary, presented the overview of conference proceeding and its recent developments and contributions of scientists and academicians in making it a stronger organization. Dr. S.S. Rajderkar, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, MUHS, Nashik was prominently present during the inaugural programme.

Professor Dr. Zile Singh, delivered the Dhanwantari (National) oration. During plenary session Dr. Arvind Mathur (WHO), Dr. Sunita Paliwal (MOHFW) and Dr. D.K. Mangal (UNFPA) discussed about conference Theme "Women's Health : Today's Evidence, Tomorrow's Agenda. Concisely the scientific programme of IAPSM CON 2013 was composed of 14 plenary sessions, 21 oral presentation sessions, 16 poster presentation sessions and an epidemiology –Grant session were held during the conference. Other plenary sessions were Gender main streaming in medical Education, PPTCT and early infant diagnosis, Vaccine Vial monitoring, Myths and realities on hormonal contraceptives, Panel Discussion: Making injection

safer-A way forward, HIV Sentinel surveillance 2010-11 challenges and evidence for National AIDS Control Programme (NACP-4), Meeting the sexual and reproductive needs of women in India, Innovative capacity building initiative in public health, visceral Leishmaniasis- An overview of clinical trial, Public Health response in disaster, Introducing a comprehensive evidence based tobacco cessation curriculum in Indian Medical Colleges: Quit Tobacco India, Experience, Non pneumatic anti shock garments reduces mortality in Indian women with PPH, and Human Papilloma virus vaccine (HPV): An Australian perspective. In panel discussion of this session, many eminent speakers discussed the possibilities of research and its application. For entire conference Dr. Sushama Thakre, Editor of Souvenir, IAPSMCON2013 was a master of Ceremony.

For the first time in the history of Annual National Conference of IAPSM online structured abstract submission has been introduced by the organizer of IAPSM Conference 2013 at Nagpur⁽¹⁾. Many of the researchers and students were generous enough to adopt the online method. It was heartening to receive positive feedback on suitability of the online submission. Extensive and exclusive electronic communication was made with every member of IAPSM. Hence entire process was paperless in the conference. Each year far more abstracts are submitted and limited slots are available for oral and poster presentation. Hence, we have carried out an appraisal of abstracts published in the souvenir of the National Conference of IAPSM held at Nagpur during January 2013. A separate committee with two reviews reviewed all abstracts as per the Indian Journal of Community Medicine Article Review guideline (IJCM). The data were analyzed using the STATA (version 10.2) software packages. Descriptive statistics was used to determine mean, percentages and SD. Categorical data were analyzed using Chi-square test. Intra rater agreement was measured using agreement analysis (kappa test).

These abstracts are reviewed by two independent reviewers as per the guidelines provided by Indian journal of community Medicine⁽²⁾. Out of 556 abstracts; 374 were accepted (67.38% overall acceptance rate) and published in souvenir of IAPSM conference⁽³⁾. Scientific presentation rate was 344(91.97%). Maternal and child health papers formed the greatest proportion of total accepted 82(21.93%), followed by non communicable and miscellaneous group; 53 (14.17%) and 50 (13.73%) respectively. reproductive health 27(7.22%), nutrition 23 (6.15%) and adolescent health 25(6.68%), Other research priorities were immunization, HIV/AIDS, communicable diseases, adolescent health, vector born diseases, mental health illness, geriatric health, Tuberculosis and occupational Health (2.14-4.55%). Mean (SD) score of accepted abstract by one reviewer was 13.23 (1.74) with 95% confidence interval (CI) (13.05-13.4). Mean (SD) score of accepted abstract by another reviewer was 13.72 (2.18) with 95% confidence interval (CI) (13.5-13.9). Agreement analysis between two raters substantial agreement (Kappa=0.61) and it was found to be statistically significant $P < 0.001$. Commonest type of submissions were descriptive and cross sectional 357 (95.45%) followed by retrospective study 12 (3.20%). Overall acceptance rate was (67.38%). Acceptance rate was significantly more in structured abstract, research results, clear objectives, case control and randomized control trials and conclusion supported with results ($P < 0.001$). These

findings are consistent with earlier study 1997 Zodapey⁽⁴⁾ et al. Major reasons for not acceptance like incomplete submission, non compliance for resubmission, study design not provided, no objectives and no results were submitted. This paper provides a broad overview of the data readily available in the public health conference related to essential health information in India. It highlights a number of issues that need to be addressed to improve the scope and characteristics of abstracts submitted in National conference of IAPSM. The analysis of the contents of all these abstracts eventually would help IAPSM to design its future research policy and would give an interesting information to its members.

II. CONCLUSION

To conclude, purpose of this study was not evaluation but was appraisal and introspection of our own research. Today with the increasing standards of research publications, an immediate application of our skills lies in the use of epidemiology, research methodology and biostatistics to improve the quality of our research and publications. We the community medicine professionals are looked as methodologists among medical fraternity, which call upon us to set standards in medical research. Another option open to us is to make sure that our own work and research interests address of practical problems relevance to the nation. Our research must reflect this priority and concern.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are extremely grateful to all members of scientific committee for their recommendable work during the entire conference and study. We are extremely thankful to Dr. Arun Humane, organizing Chairperson, IAPSM for his valuable guidance and support.

REFERENCES

- [1] Official Website of IAPSMCON 2013. available on www.iapsmconnagpur2013.org/abstract.php
- [2] Secretary General, IAPSM. Indian Journal of Community Medicine 2003;28(4): 191. Available on <http://www.indmedica.com/journals.php?journalid=7&issueid=37>
- [3] Souvenir 2013. 40th Annual National conference of Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine, 22-24 January, 2013 at Nagpur; Thakre S S. Editor, and available on www.iapsmconnagpur2013.org
- [4] Zodapey SP and Tiwari RR. Appraisal of Abstracts Published in the Souvenir of National Conference of IAPSM Held During October 1997. Indian journal of Community Health 1999; 5(1):25-31.

AUTHORS

First Author – Thakre SB, Associate Professor, preventive and Social Medicine, Government Medical College, Nagpur
drsubhasht@rediffmail.com

Second Author – Thakre SS, Associate Professor, preventive and Social Medicine, Indira Gandhi Government Medical College, Nagpur., sushamathakre@rediffmail.com

Third Author – Ughade SN, Assistant Professor, preventive and Social Medicine, Government Medical College, Nagpur

Fourth Author – Narlawar UW, Associate professor, Preventive and social Medicine, Government Medical College, Nagpur

Fifth Author – Chavan AB, Assistant Professor, preventive and Social Medicine, Government Medical College, Nagpur

Sixth Author – Parmar D, Assistant Professor, preventive and Social Medicine, Government Medical College, Nagpur

Seventh Author – Dhok SR, Sr. Resident, Assistant Professor, preventive and Social Medicine, Government Medical College, Nagpur

Correspondence Author – Thakre SB, Associate Professor, preventive and Social Medicine, Government Medical College, Nagpur, Email : drsubhasht@rediffmail.com , mobile 9822366532

Address for correspondence: Dr. Subhash B Thakre, Plot No 9, Swami Swarupanand Society, Narendra Nagar, Nagpur, MS, India. PIN 440015