

REPORT

THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AGEING AND LABOUR

Hosted by
The School of Social Sciences and Languages, Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore
In Collaboration with the
International Institute of Migration and Development (IIMAD), Trivandrum, Kerala

November 28th- 30th 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The School of Social Sciences and Languages (SSL), Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore, in collaboration with the International Institute of Migration and Development (IIMAD) organized the Third International Conference on Population Ageing and Labour, an International Pre-Conference and Conference, from 28th to 30th November 2024. The event, held from 10:00 AM to 6:30 PM at the Kamaraj Auditorium and TT725 (Technology Tower), witnessed active participation, with 173 attendees registered over both days. A total of 68 presenters from 25 institutes and universities across India contributed to the conference, along with international participants, including three authors from the US, Malaysia, and Brunei, adding a global perspective to the discussions.



The conference commenced with an inauguration ceremony led by Dr. Ramnath Raghunandan, who welcomed delegates and dignitaries, setting a respectful tone with the Tamil Nadu State Anthem. Dr. Bangalore Morarji, Associate Professor & HoD, Department of Social Sciences, delivered the Welcome Address, emphasizing VIT's commitment to fostering a supportive educational environment. The dignitaries participated in a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony, symbolizing the beginning of the conference.

Among the distinguished speakers was Prof. S. Irudaya Rajan, who provided context and relevance to the conference by discussing the silver economy and productive ageing, highlighting the contributions of the ageing population and collaborating with Scopus-indexed journals for publishing conference papers. Dr. V. S. Kanchana Bhaaskaran, the Vice Chancellor, Vellore Institute of



Technology, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, emphasized the role of technology in enhancing the quality of life for the ageing demographic and praised the concept of the silver economy. Dr. Halimah Awang, Principal Research Fellow at the Social Wellbeing Research Centre, University of Malaya, highlighted current research trends concerning the ageing population, referencing the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI) and its international collaborations. Dr. Udaya Shankar Mishra, Professor at the International Institute of Population Sciences, posed critical questions regarding whether the ageing population is a liability or an asset, advocating for a multidimensional

assessment approach to understanding ageing and the role of technology in improving the lives of older adults.

The conference sessions revolved around several key themes, including ageing and employment, migration and ageing, technology and ageing, and policy interventions and sustainable strategies. Presentations highlighted the challenges and opportunities presented by an ageing workforce in India, addressing issues such as ageism in the workplace, barriers to re-employment for elderly workers, and strategies for inclusion in the labor market. The discussions emphasized the need for policy interventions and a supportive societal framework to enhance the economic participation of the ageing population.

Parallel Sessions focused on the intricate patterns and challenges associated with migration and ageing, with presenters discussing the socio-economic impacts of international migration on the elderly population, particularly in regions like Goa and Kerala. The interplay between migration, informal employment, and the ageing workforce was explored, along with the effects of adult children's migration on the well-being of elderly parents. The role of



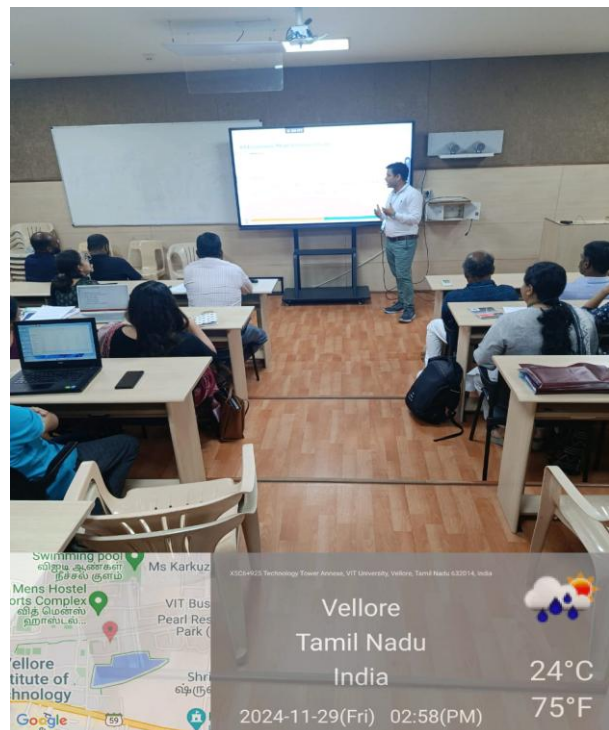
technology in improving the quality of life for the elderly was a recurrent theme, with presenters discussing the importance of digital connectivity and the need for technological solutions to address the challenges faced by the ageing population. The integration of technology into elderly



care and the potential of Active Ageing Centres were also highlighted. The conference underscored the critical need for effective financial

and policy interventions to support the ageing population, emphasizing the importance of inclusive policies and sustainable strategies to address the multifaceted challenges posed by an ageing society, including economic security and demographic transitions.

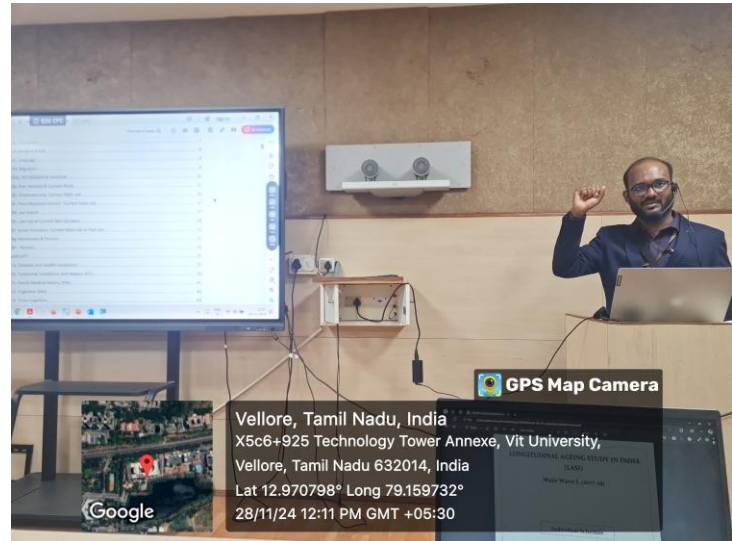
Multiple plenary sessions were held, including one chaired by Mr. Biju Mathew from HELPAGE



INDIA, which focused on the elderly labor force and the impact of migration on their employment. Presenters shared insights on how the migration status of adult children affects the work participation of elderly parents. Another plenary session addressed various aspects of ageing, including the establishment of Active Ageing Centres aimed at empowering older adults, emphasizing the importance of training local governments to create day centres "run by elderly for the elderly."

A pre-conference workshop on "Engaging in Big Data: Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI) - Fourth Batch" was held on November 28, 2024, led by Dr. Irshad, providing participants with hands-on experience in using STATA software and working with LASI datasets. Total 18

participants across states took part in the workshop. The session covered data harmonization, analysis techniques, and the importance of quality data in research.



The conference concluded with a valedictory address at 1:45 PM, where Prof. Rajkumar P from Madurai Kamaraj University expressed gratitude to the organizers and participants, sharing a moral story that emphasized the importance of ethics and values in all aspects of life. Dr. Sumeetha, the Organising Secretary, appreciated the audience's engagement throughout the conference, while Dr. Irudaya Rajan announced plans to publish selected papers in special issues of reputed journals. Overall, the Third International Conference on Population Ageing and Labour successfully facilitated meaningful discussions on the challenges and opportunities associated with an ageing population, highlighting the importance of collaboration among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to develop effective strategies for addressing the needs of the ageing demographic. The insights gained from the conference will contribute to ongoing research and policy development in the field of ageing and labour.