The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, and the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, organized a one-day Regional Dissemination Workshop on National Family Health Survey (2019-21) at the Hotel Hindustan International, Bhubaneshwar, Odisha. Nearly 120 participants attended the Workshop, who were mainly health officials from the four state governments, and included other invitees and representatives from ICMR, XIM, UNFPA, UNICEF, AIIMS, NGOs, Media, etc.

The Inaugural Session of the Workshop started with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the dignitaries of the occasion, followed by a Welcome Address from Prof. Laxmi Kant Dwivedi, Coordinator, NFHS-5 for the Eastern Region, on behalf of the NFHS-5 team and IIPS. Prof. Laxmi Kant Dwivedi highlighted the main objective of the workshop and the findings of NFHS-5. Prof. K S James, Director, IIPS, welcomed everyone and gave an inspiring Introductory Remark emphasizing the importance of NFHS-5 findings in policy framing and program evaluation at the district, state, and national levels.

S K Singh talked about issues emerging in the area of Maternal Health, Fertility, and Family Planning in the eastern states. Prof. Laxmi Kant Dwivedi presented NFHS-5 findings on Child Health & Nutrition in the region. The last presentation of this session was made by Dr. H. Lhungdim on Adult Health, NCDs, Women empowerment & Domestic Violence showing challenges and situations in all five states.

Two panels were also organized during the post-lunch. The first one was chaired by Prof. K S James, Director, IIPS. This panel consists of, Mr. Sourav Bhattacharjee, UNICEF, Prof. Peppin Soosai, XIM, Dr. Priyamamadhaba Behera, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar and Ms. Nikita Sisaudia, representative of UNICEF and they highlighted upon RMNCH+A programs given NFHS-5 results. They also spoke about contemporary issues in population, health, and development in the state of Odisha in particular and in the region in general, especially in the context of Sustainable Development Goals.

The second panel session was chaired by Mr. Keshvendra Kumar, SHS, Bihar, where two state-level officials from each state were called to the dais and asked to speak about the “Health Interventions to achieve SDGs”. In the Concluding session, each of the state representatives gave brief comments and the challenges they faced in implementing the various health programmes and seek clarifications on certain data collection processes and definitions used for some indicators. Based on the NFHS-5 findings, state-specific policies have been discussed.

The workshop ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Dinabandhu Sahoo, SHSRC, Government of Odisha.