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INDIAN ECONOMY TOWARDS INCLUSIVE GROWTH
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT-EMERGING TRENDS,
ISSUES AND CHALLENGES"



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HEALTH STATUS OF CHILDREN IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

According to 2011 census, the total number of children aged 0-6 years is 158.79, comprising almost 16% of child population in this age group. Today's children are the future citizens of the country. Healthy children's of today will ensure healthy citizens of tomorrow both physically as well as mentally. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to concentrate on the health of the children especially during their initial years of their birth i.e. 0 to 6 years of age. In India the major concerns with the health of children are inadequate immunization, malnutrition, lack of basic vitamins, and childhood diseases such as anaemia. In view of this, an attempt is made in this paper to study the health status of children in 29 states of India by using the data from NFHS-4 (2015-16). To draw the analysis of the health status of children all the states are classified into three groups as highly populated, moderately populated and less populated. The data is analysed for Infant Mortality Rate, Immunization, Socio-economic status and anaemia. Also, an attempt is made to compare the performance of the above indicators in NFHS-4 (2015-16) with the NFHS-3 (2005-06).

Keywords - Children, Health, Infant Mortality, Immunization, Malnutrition and Anaemia.

INTRODUCTION

As well as SDGs focuses on role of health in sustainable development. MDGs to be achieved in 2015 were focused on reduced Infant Mortality Rate and combating diseases. Likewise, the third goal of SDGs is focused on good health and wellbeing and stressed on the fact that ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being for all at all ages is essential to sustainable development. According to UN, since 2000, impressive progress has been made on many health fronts such as the mortality rate for children under 5 years of age globally was 43 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2015, representing a reduction of 44 per cent since 2000. India also has witnessed some improvement in the quality of child health care. But our position on health parameters compared to some neighbouring as well as other underdeveloped countries is unsatisfactory. India's IMR of 41 per 1000 live births is higher than some of other under developed countries such as Bangladesh (31), Nepal (29) and African countries of Rwanda (31) and Botswana (35). India's Under Five Mortality is also not very encouraging with 50 as compared to our neighbouring countries like Nepal (36), Bangladesh (38) and India (33) (Hindustan Times) In this background this paper makes an attempt to draw a state wise analysis of the progress made in various indicators of child health using the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) of 2015-16. The NFHS-4 is a cross sectional, nationally representative survey of household conducted across 29 states of India with the objective of providing essential data on health and family welfare and emerging issues in this area. This survey reveals impressive progress made by India on health counts over a period of a decade.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Sharma M., Radyakin S.; their study used data from the three waves of India National Family Health Survey to explore the relationship between the month of birth and the health outcomes of young