

IMPACT OF PROVISION AND UTILIZATION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES ON THE IMMUNIZATION STATUS OF CHILDREN IN INDIA

ASHMY TOM

ABSTRACT

India is one among the ten countries in the world with most number of under vaccinated children. This study tries to explore the potential of provision and utilization of health services, in determining the immunization status of an Indian child. For this, the study identified different components of health services from National Family Health Survey-2015-16 that could impact the child immunization. After identifying relevant components of health services, we constructed provisional index and utilization index using Principal Component Analysis (PCA). The results of the study significantly that a higher level of utilization and provision could result in an improved child immunization status. The study also explored the heterogeneous effect of the health indices constructed by mother's education level, place of residence and region (Empowered Action Group and Non-Empowered Action Group states). The results of this analysis revealed another notable feature of the health indices constructed. I find that provision and utilisation of healthcare services has the highest impact on children from disadvantaged groups in the society like children of uneducated mothers, rural children and children from EAG states, thus helping them to catch up with their privileged counter parts. Thus the study strongly suggest for better provision of health services especially in rural areas and EAG states and introduction of certain nudging programs that could influence the behaviour of the people for an improved utilization of health services.