

## ABSTRACT

Health is increasingly being accepted as a vital human capital component, which contributes significantly towards the growth of a region. This study aims to stipulate the progress of the health sector in rural areas of Jharkhand and has tried to identify the gender and regional gaps with the help of some crucial health indicators such as infant mortality rate, crude birth rate, crude death rate and natural growth rate. Further, status and availability (or shortages) of health infrastructure, and manpower resources existing in rural public health institutions are found and reported. The study relies on secondary data collected and compiled from two major sources i.e., Rural Health statistics Survey (2005-2020) and Sample Registration Survey (2005-2020) and analysed through descriptive statistics. The trend and standing of health indicators, growth in health infrastructure and availability of public health institutions and manpower resources are shown with the assistance of various graphical representation techniques such as line graph, bar graph, pie charts and conditional tables. After analysing the collected data, consistent improvement and narrowing gender & regional gaps are observed in the case of health indicators. However, under-achievement in the case of health infrastructure and manpower resources are reported. The study also highlights some suggestions to bring further improvement in health indicators and to enhance the health infrastructure and manpower resources in rural Jharkhand.

*Keywords: Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Crude Death Rate (CDR), Crude Birth Rate (CBR), Natural Growth Rate (NGR), Health Infrastructure, Manpower Resources, Rural areas*