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IS SOCIOECONOMIC SUB-GROUP TARGETING IMPORTANT FOR EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF CHILD UNDER-NUTRITION IN INDIA?

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Abstract

Background: Availability, accessibility, affordability of quality health care are accepted as preconditions for equity in health outcome. While there has been significant improvement in demographic trends, control of infectious diseases and growth of infrastructure, health indicators in India are still far from optimal. Again, India is lagging far behind to combat with the growing health care demand and to assure for universal coverage of health service delivery due to low level of finance. As the private health sector is concerned primarily with curative services in profit making motive and the resources are not sufficient for universal coverage, the optimal utilization of limited resources is thus the main concern. Objective: The main aim is to place priority based target group for an effective policy intervention with limited resources by comparing the different socioeconomic interactive cluster to reduce inequality in childhood under-nutrition among Indian children. Methodology: Firstly, analyses the inequality in resource use and the gap between need inequality and actual use inequality (Gravelle 2003; van Doorslaer et al. 2000; Wagstaff and van Doorslaer 2000) has depicted from NFHS data. And finally, the priority based target group is placed by comparing the probability of being in under-nourished from different socioeconomic interactive cluster for an effective intervention with limited resources to reduce inequality in childhood under-nutrition among Indian children. Findings: This paper suggest that the 'First Tire Target Group' is 'low wealth-no education-higher birth order-low birth interval' interactive cluster and in the similar fashion abundance of resource might be distributed to 2 nd and 3 rd target group towards universal coverage. JEL Classification: D63, I18, J13, O15

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