



UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE: SERVICE COVERAGE INDEX: A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

KEYWORDS:
*UHC, Service coverage
index.*

Health is not only important for individual but it is also important for economic growth and development of an economy. To evaluate how a health system is performing it becomes necessary to measure the level of universal health coverage. Universal Health Coverage refers to access to essential health services to all without any financial hardship (World Health Organisation). This paper tries to measure the level of UHC service coverage in a Kanhai village of Haryana. The present study is based upon primary data collected from Kanhai village of Gurgaon district of Haryana. The study found that the value of Universal Health Service Coverage index is 0.75, it in simple terms means that availability and accessibility of health services is 75% for people of Kanhai village of Gurgaon district, irrespective of health service provider and cost incurred on health.

DISCUSSION

Health is an concerning issue in India as infant mortality rate is 42 per 1000 live birth and maternal mortality rate is 212 per 100000 women (according to 2011 census). Despite having high per capita income in many states the health indicators of some of these states are more poor or at similar level to India's average. This throws light over serious drawbacks in health care system in India. Various attempts have been made at state and central level to improve health status and overall well being of people but these efforts could not bring any substantial changes in health status of people because either they were wrongly framed or implemented in a wrong way. To provide access to health service and to overcome shortage of public health infrastructure government of India had launched Rashtriya Swasthaya Bima Yojana in 2008 which was demand side intervention and launched National Rural Health Mission in 2006 which was supply side intervention.

Health is positively related to economic growth and economic development of an economy. World Health Organization defines health "as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being". Broader health coverage usually leads to better access of necessary healthcare and improved population health, with largest gain going towards poor people (Rodrigo Moreno- Serrea et.al,2012).

In India public expenditure on health is less than 1% of GDP which is far below of many developing countries. Such low level of public expenditure on health shows serious lacuna in health system which is suffering chronically from financial constraint. For evaluating performance of health system in order to highlight its drawbacks and in order to improve the performance of health system there is a need to measure universal health service coverage. Universal health coverage means access to essential health services to all without financial hardship(WHO,2013). The present paper tries to measure health services coverage of rural population of a village of Haryana.

	Indicators	Geometric Mean
I	Reproductive, Maternal New Born and Child health (RMCH)	0.788
A	Maternal Health Care: (i) Three Antenatal Check up (ii) 2 T.T injection (iii) Iron and Folic Acid (iv) Institutional delivery	0.817
B	Full Child Immunisation	
C	Family Planning	
II	Infectious Disease: (i) Improved water sources (ii) Adequate Sanitation (iii) T.B effective treatment	1
III	Non - Communicable Disease: (i) Raised Blood Pressure (ii) Raised glucose	0.55
	Universal Health Service Coverage	0.75

(Source: Field Survey)

The value of above indicators is obtained from field survey conducted in Kanhai village of Haryana. A detailed questionnaire was prepaid and questions regarding to maternal health, child immunisation and non- communicable disease were asked to different respondent. Total 35 households out of total 800 households from different income quintile and different caste were surveyed from which 12 women who had given birth to a baby in last one year were surveyed for collecting data on maternal health care, 20 women who were surveyed had child aged between 0-6 years to collect information on full child immunisation. In kanhai village there is one dispensary, 6 anganwadi and a civil hospital is available 5 Km far from kanhai.

Apart from public health infrastructure there are large no of private clinics, hospitals and multi- speciality hospitals are available near to kanhai village. Out of 12 women, 11 women who had given birth to a child in last one year had institutional delivery, but out of 12 women only 8 women had taken iron and folic acid for at least 100 days. Out of 20 children aged between 0 to 6 years all have taken full Vaccination according to their age group. Those children who had received immunisation from anganwadi or dispensary had not incurred any cost but those children who had received vaccination from private health facilities had incurred cost ranging between Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000. This cost difference is also seen in case of institutional delivery, those women who had institutional delivery in public health centres incurred very less cost as expenditure was only for some medicines which were not available in government facility but those women who had institutional delivery in private hospitals and clinics incurred cost between Rs 30,000 to Rs 1 lakh.

This shows that people are incurring huge cost over health in private healthcare facilities. Out of thirteen male and female respondents who had their blood pressure measured 9 respondents had reported to the problem of raised blood pressure, similarly 4 out of 13 respondents had the problem of raised glucose level. The overall health service coverage index was prepared according to the guidelines given in WHO 2016 report. The health service coverage index is a geometric mean of all sub indicators i.e. maternal, new born, reproductive and child health, infectious disease and non - communicable disease. The value of health service coverage index in kanhai village of Gurgaon district is 0.75 i.e health service accessibility in Kanhai village of Gurgaon district is 75% irrespective of service provider and cost incurred on health.

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