AN OVERVIEW OF HEALTH INEQUALITIES IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT:
This article utilizes the National Family Health Survey-3 data to present an empirical relationship between social inequalities and health status in the Indian context. There is a direct relationship between health indices and Socio-economic status. There is also a direct relationship between health indices and educational status of population in general and women in particular. An inverse relationship exists between fertility, death, life expectancy at birth infant mortality, under five child morality rates and economic prosperity. Social stratifies like caste; religion and gender play a major role in determining health status of the people. In terms of regional inequalities, the western and southern States enjoy better health indices due to high economic and low population growth, the northern and eastern States lag behind with high population and slow economic growth. In other words, when the gravity of ‘social gradient of health’ spurs towards south-westerly direction it plunged into opposite direction. Differences in health status also observed among the same social groups across the reasons. The purpose of this paper is to evaluate the relative strengths of economic and social status in determining the health status of people in India.

KEYWORDS: Health, India, social, economic.

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