HEALTH EXPENDITURE, HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE AND HEALTH INDICATORS IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Health infrastructure in the public domain is quite important in meeting the healthcare needs of the people and also in attaining the health indicators like infant mortality rate, maternal mortality rate and others. The Governments at the All-India level and also at the various State levels have taken sustained efforts in improving the stock of the public health infrastructure by increasing the number of sub-centres, PHCs, CHCs, doctors, nurses apart from other workers. This paper analyses the expenditure on the healthcare sector, availability and the extent of deficit in health infrastructure and also some health indicators at the national level and among the major states of the country. There exists not only inter-state variation, but also intra-state variation in terms of availability of hospitals, which is reflected in the worse health indicators in the rural areas than in the urban areas, though the latter itself is high. Moreover, analysis also brings out the fact that in most of the states that have worse health indicators compared to the national average, health infrastructure is also worse, which calls for comprehensive well coordinated measures to improve the condition of healthcare in the country.

KEY WORDS: Health expenditure, Health infrastructure and Health indicators.

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