

Urbanisation, Gender and Health

A quantitative investigation on its interrelationship in India

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Abstract

Urbanisation in the developing countries are viewed from two varied angles often; one from a development angle promoting non-agricultural employment and the other from a poverty angle as the new sources of poverty and vulnerability due to the creation of slums. The urbanization process in these settings is not necessarily development oriented but is considered to be clusters of poverty and deprivation. At the same time the position of women within the urban context and its relationship with health status of the children in particular are not explored adequately. The attempt of this study is to investigate the relationship between urbanization and women's position in India at one level and the health of the mother and child at another level. The study considers women and children both in slum and non-slum settings in urban context separately to conclude on the effects of urbanization on gender relationship and health.

However, the position of women is not easy to measure. Different measures of status of women have different conceptual meaning and interpretations. We have also looked into these issues while examining the interrelationship between status of women and health in urban and rural context. We have broadly classified two types of indicators of the women's position ex-ante and ex-post. The data for the study will be drawn from eight-city survey conducted as part of the National Family Health Survey-third round (NHF-3) conducted in 2005-06. We have also chosen for analysis women belonging to the rural areas of the state where the eight cities are located to compare between urban and rural areas. Different measures like discriminant analysis, logistic regression etc are used to understand the relationship.

The study found that urbanization even when it is creating slums, has a positive benefits as far as the position of the women and consequent positive impact on health of the children.