

**DOES ILLITERACY INCREASES REPRODUCTIVE TRACT INFECTION
AMONG WOMEN IN SLUMS IN GREATER MUMBAI**

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Abstract

This paper examines reproductive tract infection among the study women and utilization of health services available to them in the slums in Mumbai on the basis of standard of living index constructed from household amenities, housing quality and sources of drinking water, electricity and toilet facilities. This study uses primary data, collected using cluster sampling of sample size of 433 reproductive women who have given at least one live birth prior to the survey, on symptoms of RTI, delay in reporting RTI problems, availing the treatment, whether satisfied with the treatment and the reasons for developing these problems from the Rafi Nagar slum. The findings reveals unimaginable low level of health services availed by these illiterate women in this slum including least awareness about RTI they had. Besides to these there were delay in reporting of RTI to the health providers and were not satisfied with the treatment under taken and majority had opinion that RTI was due to unclean delivery. This paper suggest that improving awareness regarding RTI may help them in reducing such wide spread disease amongst the poorest of economic stratum of such illiterate and low SLI category women in slums.