

FATHERHOOD, INFANT DEATHS, MDG GOALS, POPULATION POLICY

ACHIEVEMENTS IN INDIA: AN ANALYSIS OF NFHS-3

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Reducing infant deaths is the prime objective of Government of India to meet the commitment of MDG goal (4). This paper aims at analyzing levels of fatherhood and infant deaths in states with and without replacement levels of fertility. It also identifies the factors expediting the realization of MDG goal (4) and National Health Policy (2002) achievements through realization of fatherhood across North and South regions in India. Socio-economic and demographic differentials at various levels of fatherhood and its' relationship to infant deaths have been analyzed using NFHS-3(2005-06) data. Using Logistic regression, the socio-economic and demographic factors explaining various components of fatherhood in two different regions have been analyzed. The findings suggest that there is a differential level of realization of fatherhood across the states without and with replacement levels of fertility. The states which have already achieved replacement level of fertility are showing higher levels of realization of fatherhood and lower percentage of infant deaths. However, fathers in both North and South regions have shown different degrees of being responsible partner. On one hand, caste, work status and exposure to mass media are affecting the realization of fatherhood in North where education and urban residence have been effective in realizing the fatherhood in South. It is inferred that states which have already reached replacement levels of fertility would be able to realize MDG goals for infant deaths sooner than rest of the states. This difference is brought out due to different levels of realization of fatherhood.

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