

**HEALTH STATUS AND GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON HEALTH CARE
PROVISION IN INDIA**

Dr. K.GOVINDARAJALU
Professor of Economics ,
Bharathiar University,
Coimbatore-641046.
Email: krishg2@yahoo.co.in
Cell : 09443563382

ABSTRACT

Health care is an important determinant of the quality of life and thereby the welfare of the population in a society. In developing countries where a large segment of the population lives below the poverty line defined in the absolute terms of per capita calorie intake. The provision of health care becomes almost an obligatory function of the government. Health care in these countries is, therefore, provided by both the public and the private sectors. Provision of this critical social infrastructure by the government has to be based on numerous considerations. A healthy population is an essential pre-requisite for economic development of a country. In India, at the time of independence the country had a population of 300 million. Famine, starvation and epidemics took a massive toll of human life, infant and maternal mortality rates were among the highest in the world and life expectancy was about 33 years. The country then embarked on a large scale expansion of medical and pre-medical facilities so that the health requirements of the population could be met. Six decades later a vast health care infrastructure in the government, voluntary and private sector has been created and now we have overcome major epidemics, life expectancy has increased and the general health of the people is much better. The present paper has aimed to study about the health status and level of government expenditure on healthcare provision in India. The health status is generally measured in terms of life expectancy at birth, infant mortality rate, fertility rate, crude birth rate and crude death rate. A simple analysis on the status of these indicators will reveal the real picture of health status in India. However, it is also necessary that the spending on health is properly utilized such that it benefits the entire population, especially the under privileged. It is also evident from the expenditure data and health status figures, that the trend on both side are positive and considerable. But the pressure from demand side is enormous and ever growing at a faster rate. Hence, the provision of health care has become tough challenge to the government. It is the right time to adopt a holistic approach in health care provision by making the private sector to come forward for subsidised health care services to the downtrodden on the one side and to improve the quality of services provided by the government institutions on the other side.
