

Poverty and Health Sector inequalities in India

A. JEGAN

Research Scholar, (Ph.D.)

National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA)

New Delhi- 110016. Contact: 9868093348, E-mail: jegannuepa@gmail.com

Abstract

Poverty reduction or eradication is an ultimate goal of the global world. Poverty is an evil of the every society; it would be eradicated as the first goal of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Poverty is a social construct and multidimensional concept, varies from society to society and from time to time. In all south-Asian countries, poverty is measured by household income and buying capacity of essential commodities which enable the members for survival. While there are many reasons for poverty, two crucial factors are health and education. Health is the pre-requisites for the well-beings, as it plays an important role in acquiring knowledge and skills, to work and earn livelihood.

Poverty manifests in the form of lack of food security, hazardous housing, poor sanitation and insecure life style. Consequently, affecting the health of people. As a result, the poor households have to incur on cost of medical expenditure besides foregoing work and earnings. This perpetuates the cycle of poverty.

The present paper is focusing on poverty and health sector inequalities in Indian context. It examines: 1) the causal relationship between poverty and ill-health, 2) the relative importance of social determinants of health service and health service utilization. The analysis in the paper is based on secondary data drawn from different sources such as Human Development Index (HDI), National and International Health Reports. The study concluded by identifying the inequalities in health; reduce the disfavor poor health, and need of co-ordination of different sector to create combat policy measure on eradication of poverty and poor ill-health.