

## **GENDER DISPARITY TRENDS IN CHILD MORTALITY IN INDIA**

*Evidences from National Family Health Surveys*

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Gender difference in child mortality shows sex biasness in Indian society. There has been a resurgence of interest in recent years in the issue of male-female differences in mortality and in the evidence provided by population age structures for female survival disadvantages. Most detailed research on the reasons for female mortality disadvantages has been carried out in the Indian subcontinent, where the problem has long been recognized and the size of the female disadvantage continues to be large; child mortality has been the primary focus. A number of programmes both directly and indirectly have been taken to reduce gender disparity in child mortality. This study tries to find-out, whether the gender disparity has declined over the period or not. The most important source of data for this study is National Family Health Survey. The bivariate and logistic regression analysis applied for this analysis. The result shows that female children are the disadvantage groups through out the study period (from NFHS-1 to NFHS-3). But the disparity has declined over the study period. In rural area gender disparity more prominent compared to urban area. Gender disparity negatively related with the level of mother's education. With increased mothers level of education gender disparity in child mortality sharply declined. Higher gender disparity in child mortality among children belonging to Hindu religion compared to children belonging to Non-Hindu religion. After controlling all other factors, female children are facing relatively high mortality compared to male children. The disparity declined from NFHS-1 to NFHS-2. But from NFHS-2 to NFHS-3 the disparity has nearly stagnant.

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