

A STUDY ON THE CHILD HEALTH IN KURNOOL DISTRICT

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Introduction:

Child health has been an important area of concern in independent India starting with 1952 a number of health programmes have been launched in India, most of them have devoted considerable attention to child health. In spite of all these programmes, the status of child health continues to be precarious in India. An attempt has been made to study the child health status among the under five age group.

Objectives of the Study:

The overall objective of the study is to measure the health status of the children. The specific objectives include:

1. Understand the changing scenario of the child health in India with reference to malnutrition, morbidity, mortality and over-all health status of children.
2. Analyse the health status of the under five children with reference to the anthropomorphic measurements of height, weight, mid-arm circumference and morbidity parameters.
3. Assessment of the impact of maternal, such as socioeconomic background and fertility record of that promote the child health.

Methodology:

The study has been conducted in a village Vanekinadinna from Sirivel mandal of Nandyal division of Kurnool District 67 children from the village, below the age of five years constituted the sample for the study.

The data has been collected through the primary and secondary sources. The Primary data includes anthropomorphic measurements such as height, weight and mid-arm circumference and responses have been gathered from

mothers regarding the child by administering a tool. The secondary source include records of ANM, Sub-Centre and primary health centres have been consulted.

Analysis has been carried out on the basis of scores allotted to each child, demanding upon the height, weight, mid-arm circumference and morbidity deviations. The Children have been classified into various categories. Consisting of very good health, average health, poor health and very poor health.

On the basis of scores procured but them. In analyzing the data, statistical techniques such as aggregated, percentages and Chi-Square values have been applied as per the necessity.

Findings and Discussion.

It has been observed that better health is maintained by only 16 percent of the children having normal health, more than 46 percent of the children are suffering with various problems of health. While 60% of the male children are found to be healthy only 40% of the female children are having normal health. The children below one year of age are mostly (91%) affected with health problems. On the other hand only 10.5% of the children above 3 years of age are in a state of ill health. Birth order is observed to be a strong indicator of child health. The first and second child in the families are found to be healthier, than the subsequent children who confront problems of ill health.

The influence of various social factors on child health show that about 76 per cent of the children from small families with less than four members, are found to be healthy. Only 37.5% of the children from the scheduled castes and scheduled Tribes are observed to be healthy. Healthy children are reported mostly from the families of employees

and businesswomen. While children of wage earners are having problems of health, the children of landed gentry and higher income groups are healthier than the others.

The Child health is also influenced by the fertility factors; it has been observed that only half of the children born to mothers, who got married before attaining the eighteenth year, are healthy. Children born to mothers with a long marital record are found to be affected with health problems. All the children who were conceived when their mothers were between 21 to 25 years of age are found to be very healthy. Mothers with less conceptions are able to give healthy children. Adoption of family planning resulted in protecting the health of the mothers as well as the children to a greater extent. Mothers who experienced abortions and infant death are found to be responsible for children with problems of health. It has also been observed that only 44% of the children of the illiterate mothers are healthy, while 8% of the children of high school educated mothers are in state of good health.

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