

Chapter 9

HOW TO STIMULATE CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

This chapter analyses the effects of some selected demographic and socioeconomic predictor variables on the likelihood of immunisation of a child for six vaccine-preventable diseases covered under the universal immunisation program. It focuses on immunisation coverage a) in all India, b) in rural and urban areas, c) for three states, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh, and d) for three groups of states, namely, EAG, North-Eastern and Other states. The study applies a logistic regression model to National Family Health Survey-III (2005-06) data. Excepting only one variable, the results are robust across different models. The likelihood of immunisation increases with urban residence, mother's education level, mother's age, mother's exposure to mass media, mother's awareness about immunisation, antenatal care during pregnancy, wealth index, household electrification, mother's empowerment index, and caste/ tribe hierarchy. It is also higher for boys than girls but it decreases for higher birth-order irrespective of the sex of the child.

INTRODUCTION

Immunisation programme is one of the essential interventions for protection of children from life threatening circumstances, which are avertable. Immunisation programme in India was kicked up in 1978 as Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI). It gained impetus in 1985

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