

Chapter 11

AN ANALYSIS OF SOCIOECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC DETERMINANTS OF CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION IN INDIA^{*}

Nilanjan Patra^{#†}

1. INTRODUCTION

In India, under Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) vaccines for six vaccine-preventable diseases (tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, poliomyelitis, and measles) are available for free of cost to all. UIP was launched in 1985 with much dynamism to attain the target to immunise all eligible children by 1990. Lot of energy and money has been spent on the UIP but it does not reap the much hyped outcome. Unmistakably, various survey results show the glaring gap between the target and achievement even after several years. Given the tight budgetary allocations, one should take care of effectiveness of the Programme. Here lies the necessity of the present study. The study tries to find out the causes of poor immunisation coverage rate in India.

There are some bottlenecks from both supply- and demand-side. In a developing country like India, any programme like UIP could be affected by supply-side financial constraints when the overall Central and State budgetary allocations on health care are meagre. Also, availability of supply-side data at disaggregated level is rare. Hence, supply-side analysis is beyond the scope of the present study. The study hence concentrates purely in the demand-side assuming the *ceteris paribus* supply-side constraints.

^{*} An earlier version of this paper was presented at the 42nd Annual Conference (5-7 Jan, 2006) of *The Indian Econometric Society* (TIES), at the Forum-10 of *Global Forum for Health Research* (29th Oct- 2nd Nov, 2006 in Cairo, Egypt).

[#] I am grateful to Prof. Jean Drèze, Prof. Indrani Gupta, Prof. Arup Mitra, Dr. Ritu Priya, Dr. Sanghmitra Acharya, Dr. Lekha Chakraborty, Dr. Francis Xavier, Puspita Datta, Samik Chowdhury and Dibyendu Samanta. All remaining errors, if any, will solely be my responsibility.

[†] *Research Scholar*, Dept. of Economics, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, Delhi-7, India. E-mail: nilanjanpatra@gmail.com.