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ROLE OF HEALTH FINANCING ON HUMAN HEALTH DEVELOPMENT- AN ANALYSIS

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Abstract

Health is a complex and multi-dimensional concept. It is not only function on medical core but also the overall integrated development of society. Health is influenced by income of the households, educational level of the family members, as well as food, housing, basic sanitation, social practices, environmental hazards, communicable diseases and government spending on clinical and public health. India's socioeconomic characters are large and extremely heterogeneous characters. India today remains a country of stark contrasts and striking disparities. Commencing with independence in 1947, India has indeed make some gains in health. Development must be holistic that encompasses not only advancement of economic parameters but also achievements in health, education, environmental sustainability, etc. Amongst all, social sector development assumes the centre stage and is an integral part of the development process. It primarily includes education, health, and food and nutrition security. It is found that India is shouldering least responsibility regarding the health of its people. So, in India, there is a need to increase the share of public finances for health sector.

An analysis has been made in this communication on the above mentioned issues with reference to the secondary data sources. These secondary data are collected from Government reports and other different reports, publications.

Keywords: Human Health Development, Health tax, Economic development, Public private health expenditure. Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Introduction

Health is a form of human capital. It facilitates economic development of nation in very many ways. As the poverty level has declined in post-liberalization period, the income level of the people has gone up. This has resulted in the expansion of health seeking behavior of the people. Even after the allocation of huge amount of funds through different programmes, public expenditure as a percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has reached 1.37 percent in 2010- 2011. As the public sector has failed to cope up with rise in health care demand, the private sector dominates the health care market which is evident from the fact that the private sector provides 76 percent of the healthcare in India. Rising cost of diagnosis, medicines and hospitalizations push millions of Indians below the poverty line. India has one of the highest proportions of out-of-pocket spending on healthcare in the world. The enhanced rate of economic growth has failed to address certain issues of vital importance which includes dynamic of labor market, progress of the agricultural sector, gender equality, caste representations, cultural developments, environmental protections and health (Aghion and Bolton, 1992, Gopalan, 1994, Greese, 1997, Senhonor, 1987).