

Spatial, demographic and socioeconomic correlates of treatment-seeking behaviour during common childhood illness: a case of India

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Abstrak

The focus of the social science research on child health in developing countries is mainly confined in identifying the underlying determinants of morbidity and mortality. The underlying determinants of treatment seeking behavior during common childhood illnesses largely remain unexplored though it is an outcome of interactions among a number of spatial, demographic and socioeconomic factors. Treatment seeking in either the public or the private medical sector is also important as motivation to seek quality treatment by incurring cost associated with it. Using data from National Family and Health Survey (NFHS-2), 1998-99, this paper tries to identify various factors, which might have direct or indirect linkages with treatment seeking behavior during common childhood illnesses. The result of multinomial logistic regressions show that spatial factors like region and place of residence demographic factors like child's age, birth order and sex of the child and socioeconomic factors such as maternal education, standard of living of the household, religion anti caste, work status of the mother and exposure to mass media are significantly associated with treatment seeking behavior, especially in seeking treatment front private medical sector.