

Executive Summary

An executive summary of the final report of work done on the minor research project of **Ms.Priya S Shetty** entitled, “**AWARENESS OF HEALTH PROGRAMMES OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR WOMEN: A CASE STUDY OF MANGALORE**” ., vide UGC letter number MRP(H)-0814/13-14/KAMA002/UGC-SWRO dated 28March 2014

Women’s health and her access to health services play an important role in a developing country like India. Healthy mothers have more time and are more available for the social interaction and the creation of the bonds that are the prerequisite of social capital. They also play an important social role in caring for those who are ill. The economic costs of poor maternal and child health are high. Consequent gains in human and social capital translate into long-term economic benefits. The awareness of health programmes among the women would definitely help to reduce infant mortality and maternal mortality rates. The knowledge would also help people to concentrate on their health status. The study deals with twin objectives to find out the awareness of health programmes for women in Mangalore and to examine the nature of availing health care. A cross section study is conducted considering only women population between the age group of 20 -60 years in the study area. A random sample of 100 is considered to understand the awareness of government health schemes for women. The data collected relates to the awareness, accessibility and availability of health care for women. It also includes the nature of availing health care by women in Mangalore. A structured questionnaire which covers the socio-economic background is monitored. The educational level, income level, occupation, place of residence and other details relating to age and awareness of the respondents were collected. The major findings of the study are: Many households do not have access to government health care facilities within the distance of five kms from their residence. This shows a sad state of affairs. Most of the people used their own finance to meet health needs. The awareness and utilisation of

health insurance gives a dismal picture. Even the utilisation of government health insurance scheme is gloomy. There are still large sections of the population who are not aware of government health schemes. With regard to the preference of treatment, only a small section prefer government provided health care citing the reason of proximity and cheap.

The study enables to know the awareness of government health schemes for women. It also helps to understand the problems of schemes reaching to the masses. The way of availing health care by the masses is understood. The research has helped to identify the areas through which publicity can be given to the schemes and the goal of health for all can be achieved.

Maternal and child health programmes are also prime candidates for public funding because they produce public goods. In addition, where women and children represent a large proportion of the poor, subsidising health services for them can be an effective strategy for income redistribution and poverty alleviation. The awareness of health programmes among the women definitely help to reduce infant mortality and maternal mortality rates. The knowledge also helps people to concentrate on their health status. The outcome of the study helps the policy makers to find out the loop holes in reaching the masses in respect of providing health information and also the hindrance to access health care.

Key words: health, women, awareness, schemes

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