

## Socio-Economic Status of Household and Health Insurance in India : An Analysis

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### Abstract

The paper examines level and spatial dimension of health insurance coverage in India and to unearth the linkage between socio-economic status of the household and health insurance coverage. For assessing these objectives we have collected information from the third round of District Level Household and Facility Survey (DLHS-3). The empirical evidence shows that at the all India level only 5.2 per cent families are covered by health insurance. Insurance coverage is higher in urban area as compared to rural area. At the state level National Capital Delhi tops the list whereas all the undivided BIMARU States including Odisha depict a very dismal picture. People belong to General Category invariably dominates the list. Social group wise data reveals that Muslim households are lagging behind their Hindu and Christian counterparts. Coverage of health insurance is concentrated in the richest quintile. The probability of health insurance coverage among household members belong to southern and central region states is better as compared to northern region states of India.

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### I. Introduction

IN POST INDEPENDENT India the government sector has been the backbone of the health-care ecosystem, including healthcare delivery and insurance. For the last century, healthcare delivery and financing in India has improved a lot. Despite the progress, the current state of India's healthcare has glaring challenges around high out-of-pocket spending, inequality of services, and fragmented social and regulatory standards.

According to the National Health account 2004-05 expenditure towards health care constitutes 4.25 per cent of Gross Domestic Product. In the total expenditure towards health care private source is a dominant one. The share of private sector is 78.05 per cent whereas the share of public sector is only 19.67 per cent and the rest is financed from external sources. So far as

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*Submitted April 2016; Accepted August 2017*

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