

An Indian-Australian research partnership

Project Title:	EVALUATION OF OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS OF NRHM	
Project Number	HSS0641	
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Research Academy Themes:

Highlight which of the Academy's Theme(s) this project will address?

(Feel free to nominate more than one. For more information, see www.iitbmonash.org)

1. Advanced computational engineering, simulation and manufacture
2. Infrastructure Engineering
3. Clean Energy
4. Water
5. Nanotechnology
6. Biotechnology and Stem Cell Research
7. Humanities and Social Sciences

The research problem

Define the problem

The public health system in India has chronically suffered from issues of access, provision of quality healthcare, and rampant inequities. Conditions of reproductive and child health care have been a particular problem area. Although, there has been considerable reduction in incidence of maternal, neonatal, infant, and child mortality rates, they continue to be high. For instance, even in 2013, about one in five pregnant women died during child birth, and in terms of absolute number of maternal mortality,

India was the highest in the world. Moreover, the problems are particularly severe in a few states such as Odisha, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Assam, Jharkhand and Chattisgarh. In an attempt to attain universal health coverage and improve provision of affordable, equitable and quality health care to the rural population, in 2005, the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) programme was implemented. The programme emphasises on functional and decentralised health delivery system by taking into cognisance the association between family planning, adolescent health, and maternal and child health. In doing so, the scope of the programme includes related aspect of health such as water, sanitation, education, nutrition, and gender equality. With the intention of holistic integration with the public health infrastructure, NRHM focuses on reproductive, maternal, newborn, child health and adolescent services (RMNCH+A). An important aspect of the programme is the attempt to improve maternal and child health through linking of community ownership and creating continuity in care by bridging different referrals level. In this regard “Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)” and “Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram” were introduced under NRHM to especially focus on maternal and child health. That said, the proposed study aims to investigate the outcomes and impacts of NRHM with a special focus on JSSK.

Project aims

Define the aims of the project

The aim of the project is investigate the outcomes and impacts of NRHM with a special focus on JSSK. While evaluation of outcomes will shed light on the changes that have taken place in maternal and child health due to the programme, evaluation of impacts will provide evidence on long term/deeper changes in the lives of the households. While the study will use available secondary data for estimating effect of NRHM on maternal and child health outcomes, for evaluation of specific components of NRHM such as that for vulnerable pregnant women: Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK) launched in 2011, we will also undertake fieldwork and rigorous evaluation in the state of Odisha. In doing so, the project will also throw light on the mechanisms or channels at work. In other words, the project will evaluate the processes in detail, apart from outcomes and impacts. An innovation in our project is to go beyond measuring the effects on health outcomes. Our analysis will extend to non-health outcomes; particularly financial effects and life-cycle attainments due to the programme interventions.

Expected outcomes

Highlight the expected outcomes of the project

The project is expected to improve the understanding of outcomes and impacts of NRHM. It will not only provide timely empirical evidence but also add to the process understanding of mechanisms and channels at work. The evidence on non-health outcomes will offer novel insights on hardship financing and non-communicable diseases in the context of maternal and child health that is central to NRHM's success. One of the most important outcomes would be the knowledge on what works and what does not in the context of conditional cash transfer programmes in poor communities such as in rural Odisha.

How will the project address the Goals of the above Themes?

Describe how the project will address the goals of one or more of the 6 Themes listed above.

The project will contribute to an improved understanding of public programmes in the space of health. It will also employ mixed-methods research strategy and may work closely with the administrative machinery at the state level.

Capabilities and Degrees Required

List the ideal set of capabilities that a student should have for this project. Feel free to be as specific or as general as you like. These capabilities will be input into the online application form and students who opt for this project will be required to show that they can demonstrate these capabilities.

- Analytical ability: Basic econometrics and econometric methods
- Basics of impact evaluation
- Ability to collect data: primary and secondary

- Knowledge of statistical packages such as STATA
- Willingness to learn and test new theory
- Language proficiency: Working knowledge of Hindi, Odia, English
- Good writing skills in English

Degree Required:

(i) Masters in Economics/Demography/Population Studies/Statistics/Mathematics/Public Health or other sciences;

Or (ii) ME/MTech;

Or (iii) BE/BTech

Potential Collaborators

Please visit the IITB website www.iitb.ac.in OR Monash Website www.monash.edu to highlight some potential collaborators that would be best suited for the area of research you are intending to float.

Prof. Arti Kalro, SJMSOM

Please provide a few key words relating to this project to make it easier for the students to apply.

NRHM, Impact Evaluation, Public Health, Maternal and Child Health