

Introduction

Vital statistics systems is a core of population studies and demography, as they focus on the accurate recording of core vital events associated with an “individual’s entrance into or departure from life together with changes in the civil status” (Van de Walle, 1982). A vital statistics system, by definition, encompasses “the total process of (a) collecting information by civil registration or enumeration on the frequency of occurrence of specified and defined vital events, as well as relevant characteristics of the events themselves and of the person or persons concerned, and (b) compiling, processing, analyzing, evaluating, presenting and disseminating these data in statistical form” (United Nations, 2001).

The Information related to a number of births and deaths occurring annually is very important not only for predicting the future course of population dynamics but also for a planning social and economic development of the country. Without the knowledge of such events, any type of planning has to rely either on guess estimates of these events or on some indirect estimates provided by the demographers (Pathak and Ram, 1993).

In India, the registration of births and deaths Act (1969) was enacted to co-ordinate civil registration throughout the country.

In addition to being a human right, birth registration is crucial for the implementation of national policies and legislation establishing a minimum age for work, military conscription, and marriage, and provides a valuable basis for tracing efforts when children are separated from their parents in emergencies. Birth and death registration can also prove to be a valuable source of data for planning services for children, such as planning and implementing immunization programmes and supporting education planning (UNICEF, 2009).

Methodology

The present use National family health Survey (FNHS) 3 and 4 has been used for the analysis to see an assessment of birth registration system and the factors affecting in India and its states. Multivariate analysis used to see the effect of a socio-demography factor that affects the registration of birth

Result:

Figure 1 presents information on prevalence birth registration under age five years with civil authority in India from NFHS- 3 and NFHS-4; this includes 27 percent (NFHS -3) 62 percent of children with birth certificates and 14 percent (NFHS- 3) 18 percent are children which has registered the birth but don’t have certificate.

Table 1 demonstrates Prevalence of children under age five whose birth is registered with the civil authorities in India and its states from NFHS-3 and NFHS-4. Birth registration among children under age five years double between NFHS-3 and NFHS -4 (from 41% to 81 %). However, there is also an increase in all the states of India from 2005 to 2016. The percentage of births that were registered increase by more than 50 percentage points between 2005-06 and 2015-16 in Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan.

Table 2 present the percentage of children under age five years whose birth was registered with civil authorities accounting to background characteristics. The registration of birth was high in age group less than 2 in NFHS -3 (79 %) but in NFHS -4 high in 2-4 age group (53 %). The registration of male is high in NFHS- and NFHS-4 (52%) as compared to a female child (48%). In the religion, the registration is high in Hindu in both the survey. However, in caste, the low registration are found in Scheduled caste (NFHS- 3 (19.2%) & NFHS- 4 (21.4%)) and scheduled tribal. With the increase in wealth index, there is an increase in the birth registration system.

Discussion

The importance of birth registration should be taken seriously since it bestows a legal identity of children for life. Without a birth certificate, children may be excluded from education as well as health and social services. The study findings highlight that the overall birth registration has been increased in India from 40 percent to 81 percent in the last 10 years. Our finding that maternal education improves the likelihood of children being registered is not surprising as it is consistent with the normative and empirical evidence. A study from Kamlesh et al. and Eastern Uttar Pradesh, India 16 documented the similar findings that the education of parents has a positive impact on the coverage of birth registration. Education especially maternal has long been considered an important influencing factor on diverse development/social issues. The relatively low awareness of the study respondents regarding the multifaceted use of the birth certificate, the legality of the document, and the right issue related to it can be attributed to a significant percentage of subjects belong either illiterate or have received an only primary education.

CONCLUSION:

Birth registration and subsequent issuance of a certificate do not only promote human rights to citizenship but it also facilitates human rights to good health, education, social security, and overall human development. Therefore, timely registration of children should be pursued as a right issue. This study found that high levels of birth registration were related to a high level of awareness among the urban population regarding birth registration. However, findings of this study seem to suggest that it is more of a privilege for children whose parents are educated, wealthy and live in urban areas.

Figures 1 Prevalence of Birth registration under age five years with civil authority in India from NFHS-3 and NFHS-4

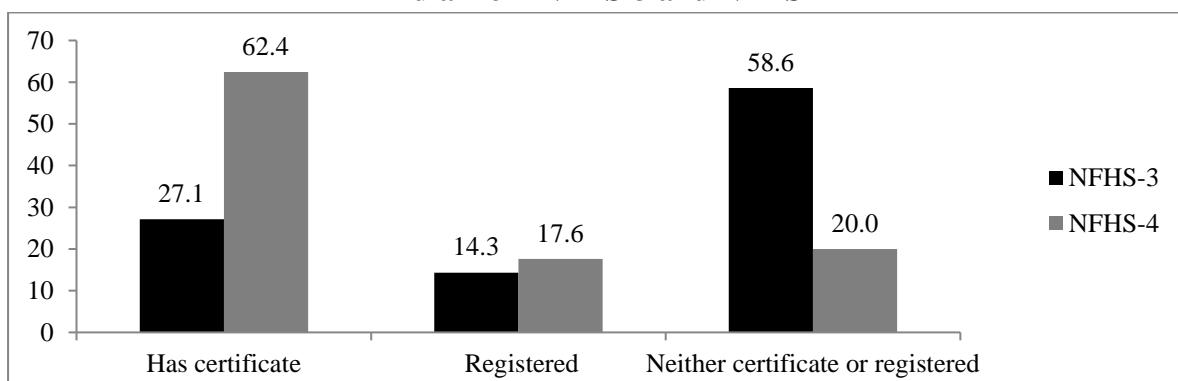


Table 1 Prevalence of children under age five whose birth is registered with the civil authorities in India and its states from NFHS-3 and NFHS-4

States	NFHS-3	NFHS-4
Andhra Pradesh	40.3	84.6
Arunachal Pradesh	33.6	66.0
Assam	44.1	94.8
Bihar	6.2	62.9
Chhattisgarh	73.0	87.6
Goa	89.4	99.2
Gujarat	88.2	97.4
Haryana	72.7	94.8
Himachal Pradesh	90.1	96.8
Jammu and Kashmir	36.6	79.4
Jharkhand	9.5	67.4
Karnataka	59.7	97.5
Kerala	95.9	98.5
Madhya Pradesh	29.8	84.6
Maharashtra	81.5	95.4
Manipur	30.6	67.4
Meghalaya	44.0	81.4
Mizoram	93.2	98.5
Nagaland	37.0	70.6
Delhi	62.0	89.6
Odisha	58.7	84.0
Punjab	77.6	98.7
Rajasthan	16.4	69.2
Sikkim	85.7	98.8
Tamil Nadu	85.7	98.5
Tripura	75.3	91.6
Uttar Pradesh	7.3	62.3
Uttarakhand	40.2	80.5
West Bengal	76.2	96.8
Telangana		85.6
India	41.4	81.4

Table 2. Percentage of children under age five years whose birth was registered with the civil authorities, according to background characteristics, India from NFHS-3 & NFHS-4

	NFHS -3	NFHS-4
Background Characteristic		
Age		
<2	78.8	47.1
2-4'	21.2	52.9
Place of residence		
Urban	37.0	31.4
Rural	63.0	68.6
Sex		
Male	52.0	51.8
Female	48.0	48.2
Mother's schooling		
No schooling	28.1	5.0
<5 years complete	15.6	17.2
5-7 years complete	46.2	28.4
8-9 years complete	10.1	49.4
Religion of household head		
Hindu	76.6	78.6
Muslim	16.7	16.5
Christian	2.7	2.2
Sikh	2.4	1.6
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	1.2	1.0
Other	.4	.2
Caste/tribe of household head		
Scheduled Caste	19.2	21.4
Scheduled tribe	9.2	10.0
Other backward class	35.2	42.3
Other	35.9	26.3
Wealth Index		
Lowest	14.3	19.8
Second	16.7	21.1
Middle	19.2	20.9
Fourth	23.7	20.4
Highest	26.1	17.9
Total	41.4	81.4