Abstract:

A Critical Analysis Of Millennium Development Goals With Respect To Women's Right To Health In India- Case Study In Kolkata

The thesis presents an analysis on how far the Millennium Development Goals are protecting or advocating women's right to health. The objective of the study is to see whether the Millennium Development Goals alone can ensure the right to health to women or there are instances which show that even if the Millennium Development Goals are realized the right to health is not ensured and protected. The literature review gives a profound picture of the debatable issues of women's sexual and reproductive health and how they are reflected in policies. The historical evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals from Cairo and Beijing Conference is also a part of the secondary literature. The study is both qualitative and quantitative i.e. based on mixed methods using feminist methodology. Data regarding women’s health have been collected from national Medical College of Kolkata in two phases. Three categories of respondents have been studied; women who are pregnant (non-adolescent), women who are adolescents and women who are admitted for gynaecological issues other than pregnancy. The findings show that the primary health rights of most of the women are not ensured even if the Millennium Development Goals are realised. Their health is often neglected in the family, their decision making ability is very limited, they also have low awareness and perception regarding their health status. Which are the most important factors which reflects their health status have been analysed and the individual case studies provide unique examples of their varies health issues. Women's role as subjects in the development policies and a human rights approach in the Millennium Development Goals relating women’s health can give answers to the above questions