ABSTRACT

The present study has been carried out to provide a database for management of health and explaining the diversity of people’s health status and the magnitude of influence of each Social Determinants of Health (SDH) in the Rural Andhra Pradesh (AP) for the attainment of higher levels of health status.

The objectives of the study are, (i) to identify and to categorise the various indicators that are related to social health levels; (ii) to demonstrate the extent of the influence on the rural people’s health of these categorised health determinants; (iii) to study the interrelationships between the social health status and its determinants; (iv) to make a comparative analysis of rural health levels between three different regions of the state of Andhra Pradesh; and (v) to facilitate formulation of appropriate policy framework for the attainment of higher level of rural health. In order to fulfill these objectives the study has been considered only 22 districts (Units of Study) out of a total of 23 districts of the AP state, as the district Hyderabad has not been considered for the purpose of statistical analysis of the study since it is a fully urbanised district. The data on a total of 93 indicators has been collected from authentic sources, published by the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and other National, International agencies, to measure the Health Status and the 10 identified Social Determinants of Health. By using these statistics, the health index and its determinants indices have been formulated.
The SAS System 9.1.3 for Windows has been used for the purpose of computations made to study the extent of determinants influence on health status and The SPSS 9.0 for Windows for obtaining the interrelationships between health and its determinants. The Graphical Techniques are used with the help of Chart Wizard of the Microsoft Office Excel 2003 to make the Regional Comparison, which is felt as an effective tool for comparison of the three Region’s Health Status and its Determinants. By making use of these tools and techniques the interrelations between the health status and its determinants viz, Education, Employment, Housing Conditions, Income, Health Resources, Preventive Care, Connectivity, Demographic Scenario, Standard of Living & Environment, and Local Economy have been quantified and presented which reveal that there is highly significant interrelation between Health Status and its determinants, Income, Housing Conditions and Standard of Living & Environment. While in the measurement of extent of influence it has been found that the determinants, both Income, Housing conditions and the Local Economy, collectively has shown 68 per cent of the influence that the anticipated quantifiable influence on the health status in rural Andhra Pradesh.

The present study meets that challenge and the basic requirement by analysing the real situation. The attainment of health status has been mostly a function of the government policy and an analytical study of the present type would help formulation of appropriate policy format for the management and evaluation of health schemes for the implementation of structured policies in order to attain the higher levels of health status.

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