

Child Immunization Coverage of Some Rural Belt in Relation to Socio-economic Factors of Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling District of West Bengal

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ABSTRACT The present study aimed to assess the immunization coverage, prevalence of diseases and child mortality of Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling Districts of West Bengal. A cross sectional study was performed on 1748 families that covered 1148 boys and 1116 girls at different blocks of Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling Districts of West Bengal. The study was made by different pre structured questioners to know the education level of parents, immunization knowledge, diseases susceptibility, child mortality etc. The immunization coverage was identified by checking the immunization card and questioners. The result showed that the immunization against Bacillus Calmette Guerin (BCG), Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus (DPT), Polio and Measles coverage in the study area is much lower than the national coverage level. The BCG coverage is 81.36% for boys and 80.65% for girls. The DPT coverage is 61.06% and 61.92% for boys and girls respectively. The polio coverage for boys is 61.32% and for girls is 63.17%. The measles coverage for boys is 53.75% and for girls is 52.24%. We found that 49.25% parents produced immunization card. The rural mothers having low immunization knowledge. Disease susceptibility and mortality rate of the children are also high. Proper steps should be taken from the government side to change the attitude and practices and to improve the knowledge and awareness for better immunization and coverage.