

Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Rupa Sarkar (Reg. No. 1630071), PhD scholar at CHRIST (Deemed to be University), will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva voce examination on Friday, 28 August 2020 at 3.00 pm on the Webex Meeting platform.

- Title of the Thesis** : **A Study towards Constructing a Reproductive Health Account as Sub-Account of Health at Sub-District Level of India**
- Discipline** : **Economics**
- External Examiner**
(Outside Karnataka) : **Dr R Prabhakar Rao**
Professor & Dean
Faculty of Economics & Humanities
Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning
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Andhra Pradesh
- External Examiner**
(Within Karnataka) : **Dr K Gayithri**
Professor
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Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC)
Dr. V K R V Rao Road, Nagarabhavi PO
Bengaluru - 560072
- Supervisor** : **Dr Mahesh E**
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Bengaluru – 560029

Since it is an open viva, faculty members and research scholars of all branches of research are cordially invited to attend.

Place: Bengaluru

Date: 24 August 2020



Registrar

CHRIST (Deemed to be University)
Bengaluru - 560 029

Registrar

ABSTRACT

Reproductive health is a state where everyone of the reproductive age cohort can make informed choices based on their reproductive health needs and reach a state of bliss and well-being. Informed choices are a possibility only if there is awareness regarding options of healthcare available. Awareness further indicates capacity to measure the worth of the options available in hand. One major aspect of measuring this worth is dominated by the financial aspect of awareness. In other words, expenditures incurred on reproductive health should be an information for all stakeholders to understand, analyse and arrive at informed choices. It has been unanimously felt that this domain of health needs more sustained efforts in terms of research into the specific components of expenditures. One such instrument which has been suggested is to construct a system of reproductive health accounts which can track the fund movements among the different actors operating in the sector of reproductive health. Reproductive health accounts at local and contextual levels, has to conform to the existing national framework of health accounting so as to lend itself to inter and intra-regional comparisons. It consists of a group of matrices which capture origin of funds from financial sources to the destination where funds will ultimately be used on health functions, based on accounting boundaries of space, activity and time.

This study attempted to construct a reproductive health account at sub-district levels in the district of Ramanagara in the state of Karnataka, India. Two sub-districts, Ramanagara and Channapatna were chosen for this purpose based on their health and reproductive health indicators. Primary data was collected from a household survey based on probability proportional to size sampling method. Questionnaires for data collection were borrowed from World Health Organization Guide to producing Reproductive Health Account. This data included reproductive health and general health related information, expenditures incurred, and type of finance used for coverage. Data was systematically organized into 'origin to use' health and reproductive health matrices. Findings indicate very high percentage of contribution coming from households through out-of-pocket expenditures and heavy expenditures being incurred at tertiary, radiology and pharmacy level providers. Contribution of public funds were found to be lesser than national averages. To triangulate the data collected, follow-up studies were undertaken to verify the information and understand the concepts further. Primary Data was collected using standardized instruments from individuals, public facilities, private enterprises, private providers and NGOs through multiple surveys. Data was also gathered for measuring the patient satisfaction levels gained, while utilising the public health facilities. All these studies reinforced the findings that were collected from the households in the first stage which was used in the main study design in an effort towards constructing the reproductive health account at sub-district level.

Keywords: Reproductive Health, Health Expenditures, Out-of-Pocket Expenditures, Health Accounting Matrices, Primary Health Centres, Public Health Expenditures, Patient Satisfaction