

Child health in India

Why in news?

\n\n

\n

- The recent National Family Health Survey (NFHS) report has highlighted that economic growth has not transformed positively in regards with health of poor children.

\n

- The survey has evaluated the growth among states in the period from 2006-2016.

\n

\n\n

What are the highlights of the report?

\n\n

\n

- Almost all States have made progress with regard to **stunting** of children under five.

\n

- For the country as a whole there is a decline in stunting rate.

\n

- The childhood illness of **diarrhoea** has increased.

\n

- This is indicative of the endemic insanitary conditions and unsafe drinking water prevailing in the country.

\n

- The survey numbers on **Wasting** has raised huge concerns.

\n

- Even Kerala, known for its outstanding health attainments, has slipped down in this regard is of serious concern.

\n

- Wasting is indicative of poor nutritional status and may be the result of inadequate food intake.

\n

- A decline in the percentage coverage of BCG, measles, polio and DPT.

\n

- Notable increase in the social sector expenditure in Bihar and Madhya

Pradesh compared to other States has yielded returns.

\n

- These states have performed better than high growth states like Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

\n

\n\n

What do the findings imply?

\n\n

\n

- The report has brought out that appropriate policy choices and social intermediation are more important than mere economic growth.

\n

- An increased need for stepping up social sector expenditure.

\n

\n\n

Quick Facts

\n\n

\n

- Bacillus Calmette–Guérin (**BCG**) vaccine is a vaccine primarily used against tuberculosis.

\n

- **DPT** refers to a class of combination vaccines against three infectious diseases diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough) and tetanus.

\n

- **Stunting** (height-for-age ratio), **Wasting** ((weight-for-height).

\n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: The Hindu, BusinessLine

\n