



## **“When Will they ever Learn?” the Great Indian Experience of Universal Immunisation Programme**

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The study attempts to analyse the effects of some selected demographic and socioeconomic predictor variables on the likelihood of immunisation of a child for six vaccine-preventable diseases covered under Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP). It focuses on immunisation coverage across India with special emphasis on three groups of states, viz. Empowered Action Group, North-Eastern and Other states. The study applies a logistic regression model to the three rounds of National Family Health Survey unit-level data. The results are robust across different models. The likelihood of immunisation increases with urban residence, mother's education level, mother's age, mother's exposure to mass media, mother's awareness about immunisation, antenatal care during pregnancy, SLI or wealth index, household electrification, mother's empowerment index, and caste/ tribe hierarchy. It is also higher for boys than girls but it decreases for higher birth-order children irrespective of the sex of the child. Interestingly, sex of household headship has no effect. Religion and zone of states also have some effects. Emphasis on these demand enhancing factors is necessary to make the immunisation programme universal.

Keywords: Immunisation, UIP, NFHS, Logit, Unadjusted and Adjusted Likelihood.

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