

Socioeconomic Determinants of Health Inequalities Among the Older Population in India: A Decomposition Analysis

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In effort to identify the challenges posed by rapid ageing in India, this paper worked on twofold objective: first, to assess the health inequalities in older population of India. Second, is to examine whether these inequalities are varying among younger old and oldest of old. In the first stage, bivariate and multivariate analyses are used to assess the association between socioeconomic predictors and health status of older population. Second, concentration index is used as measure of health inequality. Finally, the concentration indices are decomposed into their determining factors to find out the pure contribution of different socioeconomic predictors to total health inequality in older population. Bivariate and multivariate model estimates indicate that older population health significantly varies and predicted by socioeconomic determinants. Decomposition analyses suggest that poor economic status stand to be the dominant contributor to health inequalities in older population followed by illiteracy status and rural place of residence. While other indicators like caste, gender and marital status contributes positively, being Muslim contributes negatively to total health inequality in poor health status of older population in India. Comparative assessment suggests that socioeconomic determinants greatly matter for health inequality in younger old population aged 70 years or below and oldest of old population aged above 70 years.