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### **TREND AND PATTERN OF HEALTH EXPENDITURE IN SOUTH ASIA**

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#### **ABSTRACT**

The paper seeks to analyse health spending in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka with the help of secondary data from 1995 to 2014 collected from World Bank web site and South Asian Report. The study focuses on trend and public health expenditure as a share of GDP and per capita expenditure in South Asian countries. External resources for health (% of total expenditure on health), the variables like out-of-pocket health expenditure (% of total expenditure on health), private and public health expenditure, (% of GDP) will be used for analysis. Despite diversity in their geographical, linguistic, and political structures, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka face common health challenges. The health expenditure to GDP is 3.70 % in Bangladesh, 3.90 % in India, 5.90 % in Nepal, 2.50 % in Pakistan and 3.70 % in Sri Lanka. South Asia has substantial economic investments taking place across the region. However, health expenditure has not reached the same level. The regional aggregate figure for total health expenditure as a percentage of GDP is considerably lower than the global aggregate of 10.07 per cent. These countries should create adequate fiscal space for health spending and health security through insurance.

**KEY WORDS:** Expenditure, Health, Out of Pocket, Private, Public