

CHILD HEALTH PROTECTION IN SUDAN: AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS (1990-2013)

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ABSTRACT

Child protection is considered the most important concern of any community. In spite of the fact that some improvements have been made towards child protection in Sudan, there are still many challenges need to be addressed. This study aimed at examining from an empirical point of view, the trends in child health protection indicators and life expectancy at birth in Sudan over the period (1990-2013), besides examining the impact of child health protection on longevity. Based on the Household Health Survey (2010), the degrees of inequality among the 15 States of Northern Sudan are computed with regard to child health protection indicators. Data are collected from the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) and the World Bank. The results revealed that all mortality indicators exhibited downward trends, while immunization indicators and life expectancy at birth exhibited upward trends. The results also asserted that immunization significantly enhances longevity, while child mortality rates impact negatively. The results further showed that there are some inequalities among the States with regard to child health protection. The most important recommendations of the study include: increasing public and private expenditure on child healthcare and wellbeing, covering all the orphan and street children under the umbrella of the national health insurance, providing medical treatment for the children for free, intensifying enlightenment campaigns with regard to child health, fair distribution of pediatrics health manpower among the States, establishing specialized hospitals for children in all States, and realization of everlasting peace in all parts of the country.

KEYWORDS: Child protection, health, Immunization, education, vaccination