**Original article:**

**Immunisation coverage status and reasons for underimmunisation in urban slums of Hyderabad city, Telangana state**

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**Abstract:**

**Introduction:** Among children aged 12-23 months in urban India, only 60% are fully immunized. Immunization services do not reach over one third of urban poor children; only 43% are fully immunized. Outbreaks of Vaccine Preventable Diseases are more common in urban slums owing to high population density, and continuous influx of a new pool of infective agents with the immigrating population. The current study seeks to determine whether the situation has improved since, and to identify risk groups and reasons for under-immunization.

**Methods :**  A coverage evaluation survey was done from January 2014 to April 2014 among children aged 12-23 months in the urban slums of Hyderabad district, using the WHO 30-cluster survey methodology. To find 510 eligible children, we surveyed a total of 3,840 households. A pre-tested structured questionnaire was used. The vaccination card and the recall method were used. Statistical analysis was done by using the software SPSS 10.0.1 for Windows.

**Results :** It was observed that 47.2% of the total number of children had vaccination cards. Though the immunization program reached to about 76% of the target children, only about 44.1% of the children received all the vaccines. The proportion of children with no immunization at all was about 24%. The most common reason for the partial immunization of the child was the unavailability of both the parents. Sickness of siblings and lack of knowledge regarding the subsequent vaccination were the other reasons found.

**Conclusions :** The goal of achieving universal immunization in vulnerable urban slum population with poor health infrastructure needs, a coordinated effort to deal with both lack of access and dropout.

**Keywords** : Immunisation Coverage Status, Reasons, Failure, Immunisation, Urban Slums, Hyderabad