



Drop in Institutional Deliveries

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Why in News

Recently, the data from the states of **Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand** has reported a **drop in the institutional deliveries**.

Key Points

- **Current Scenario in Two States:**
 - **Chhattisgarh:** It has recorded a **drop by 15.39 % in April** compared to the numbers recorded in March.
 - In February 2020, before the lockdown was imposed, the State had recorded 37,984 institutional deliveries . But following the lockdown, the number of institutional deliveries fell to 32,529.
 - The State has recorded an increase in the percentage of institutional deliveries from 44.9 to 70.2 between NFHS 3 (2005-06) and NFHS 4 (2015-16).
 - **Jharkhand:** The state had listed 52,000 women for scheduled deliveries in May, out of these only 5.9 % of these were conducted in medical institutions by May 21.
 - The State has recorded an increase in the percentage of institutional deliveries from 40.1 % to 61.9 % between NFHS 3 (2005-06) and NFHS 4 (2015-16).

- **Reasons for Drop in Institutional Deliveries:**
 - The **public transport** has been majorly affected due to **nationwide lockdown imposed** to contain the spread of the **Covid-19 pandemic**. Thus reaching hospitals from villages became difficult.
 - The declared Covid-19 hospitals have created a **fear of infection** and thus people are **avoiding physical contacts** with the hospitals.
 - Many deliveries are **being carried out at small private nursing homes** to avoid movement and related Covid-19 spread.
 - The entire health machinery is battling Covid-19, so **non-Covid health services experience a lack of medical staff**.

Institutional Deliveries in India

- **Description:**
 - Institutional delivery means **giving birth to a child in a medical institution** under the overall **supervision of trained and competent health personnel**.
 - It also signifies an availability of amenities to handle the situation and save the life of the mother and child.
- **National Scenario:**

Over the past two decades, India has made **progress in increasing the number of institutional deliveries**.

 - According to the **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4)**, institutional deliveries have **increased from 39% in 2005-06 to 79% in 2015-16**.
 - Further, the institutional births in public institutions have **increased from 18% to 52%** in the same time period.
- **Step Taken to Increase Institutional Deliveries:**
 - **Janani Suraksha Yojana : Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)** is a **100% centrally sponsored scheme** which is being implemented with the objective of **reducing maternal and infant mortality** by promoting institutional delivery among pregnant women.
 - **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA):** It has been launched to focus on conducting special AnteNatal Check-ups (ANC) check up on 9th of every month with the help of Medical officers to detect and **treat cases of anaemia**.
 - **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) :** It is a **maternity benefit programme** being implemented in all districts of the country with effect from 1st January, 2017.
 - **LaQshya Programme : LaQshya (Labour room Quality Improvement Initiative)** intended to improve the quality of care in the labour room and maternity operation theatres in public health facilities.

Way Forward

- The entire health machinery is battling Covid-19 but non-Covid health services **should not compromise** which are the **base of the health infrastructure** of the country.
- The government should ensure adequate **availability of medical staff, emergency medical services** such as ambulance, vaccinations, maternity care, etc. to the **urban as well as rural areas**.
- The **balance of the Covid and non-Covid medical services** is need of the hour and the government needs to ensure the implementation of the same in the future.

Source:IE