

RESEARCH BRIEF

Understanding the use of India's National Health Insurance Scheme for family planning and reproductive health services in Uttar Pradesh

The Government of India launched its National Health Insurance Scheme, the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) with the aim of improving access to health services in the private sector, especially among families living below the poverty line. This study explored RSBY enrolled families' use of RSBY for voluntary family planning/reproductive health (FP/RH) services at private health facilities, knowledge of service availability, and factors influencing knowledge among RSBY enrolled families.



RECOMMENDATIONS



Increasing awareness of RSBY can be done by promoting it through ration shops, health workers and facilities, birthing wards, mass media and health programs for poorer families.



Among those that have RSBY, there is a need to increase awareness of where to get services and which FP/RH services are covered.



Health workers who visit eligible households can explain RSBY and for enrolled households, health workers can explain the FP/RH services covered.



Other outreach activities to promote RSBY including mobile phone messaging, creating enrollment desks in RSBY-eligible facilities, and creating materials for low literacy audiences.



Photo Credit :population Council

Although RSBY has been in place since 2008, enrollment and utilization rates across India have remained low. Enrolled clients can get FP services including tubal ligation and vasectomy, intrauterine device (IUD) insertion, and RH services include delivery and post-abortion care.

FINDINGS

- Utilization of RSBY services for FP/RH is low (less than 2% for any service). Most women (82%) and men (76%) men did not know FP services were offered through RSBY.
- A majority of women (70%) and more than half of men (57%) did not know of any health facilities that accepted RSBY.
- Compared to less educated men and women, educated men and women were significantly more likely to know about RSBY services and at which health facilities RSBY was available.
- Primary sources of RSBY related information were neighbors, followed by ration shop owners. 26% of men learned about RSBY from enrolment camps. Less than 5% men and women learned through frontline workers, NGOs or mass media.

METHOD

A cross-sectional household survey was conducted among poorer families enrolled in RSBY in Allahabad, Kanpur and Lucknow, in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Multivariate models were used to examine associations with knowledge of FP/RH services under RSBY, awareness of which facilities provide RSBY, and access to RSBY facilities.

RASTA

RASTA (Research and Analyses for Scientific Transformation and Advancement) is a multi-institutional research utilization initiative led by Population Council.

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EVIDENCE

The Evidence Project uses implementation science—the strategic generation, translation, and use of evidence—to strengthen and scale up family planning and reproductive health programs to reduce unintended pregnancies worldwide. The Evidence Project is led by the Population Council

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