SOCIO-ECONOMIC & GEOGRAPHICAL DIFFERENCES IN ACCESS TO ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION SERVICES IN ANAMBRA STATE

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ABSTRACT

Background: Despite reported improvement in immunization coverage in Nigeria, statistics had reported wide disparity in urban and rural communities. However, the differences in household utilization are not well known in Nigeria. This study therefore explored socio-economic and geographical differences in utilization of routine immunization services in Anambra State, Southeast Nigeria.

Method: The study was conducted in two communities in Anambra State South-east Nigeria. Interviewer-administered questionnaires were used to collect information on immunization utilization, socio demographic characteristics and household assets from households’ primary care givers or representatives in their absent. A socio-economic status index and urban-rural comparison were used to examine the differences.

Result: There is disparity in utilization of routine immunization in urban and rural communities and in different socio-economic status. Households in the urban community demonstrated higher level of utilization of routine immunization than households in the rural community. Health facilities were nearer to households in the urban community than households in the rural community. Waiting time and cost of immunization services were higher in urban community than rural community. Those that belong to high socio-economic group demonstrated higher level of utilization than those that belong to low socio-economic group. There are no significant differences in mean cost of immunization services and transportation cost between different socio-economic groups. Geographic location was highly significant for utilization of routine immunization.

Conclusion: Inequity exists in distribution of health facilities in rural and urban communities and there is high cost of routine immunization services. The low socio-economic group and the