

Appendix A

Individual Questionnaire

<i>Section 1: Availability of Services</i>			
Serial No	Questions	Code	Skip
1	When members of your household get sick, where do they generally go for treatment?	Public Health Sector [1] Govt./Municipal Hospital [2] Govt. Dispensary [3] UHC/UHP/UFWC [4] CHC / Rural Hospital / Block PHC [5] PHC / Additional PHC [6] Sub-Centre [7] AYUSH [8] Anganwadi Centre / ICDS Centre [9] ASHA [10] Govt. Mobile Clinic [11] Other Public Health Facility [12] Private	
2	Why don't members of your household generally go to a government facility when they are sick?	[1] No Nearby Facility [2] Facility timing not convenient [3] Health personnel often absent [4] Waiting time too long [5] Poor quality of care	
3	In your last pregnancy, where did you give birth?	Home [1] Your Home [2] Parent's Home [3] Other Home Public Health Sector [4] Govt. Municipal Hospital [5] Govt. Dispensary [6] UHC/UHP/UFWC [7] CHC [8] PHC [9] SC [10] NGO / Trust Hospital / Clinic [11] Private	
4	Who assisted with the delivery of the last pregnancy?	[1] Doctor [2] ANM / Nurse / Mid Wife/ LHV [3] Other Health personnel [4] DAI	

5	Within the last six months, was the last child given a Vitamin A dose?	[1] Yes [2] No [3] Don't know	
6	In the last seven days, was the child given iron pills or iron syrup?	[1] Yes [2] No [3] Don't know	
7	Was the child given any drug for intestinal worms in the last six months?	[1] Yes [2] No [3] Don't know	
8	Do you have a card where names of vaccinations are written down?	[1] Yes [2] No [3] Don't know	
9	Did the child ever receive any vaccinations to prevent him/her from getting diseases including vaccination received in a Pulse Polio Campaign?	[1] Yes [2] No [3] Don't know	
10	Did the child receive BCG vaccination against TB?	[1] Yes [2] No [3] Don't know	
11	Did the child receive any Polio Vaccine?	[1] Yes [2] No [3] Don't know	
12	Did the child receive DPT injection?	[1] Yes [2] No [3] Don't know	
13	Did the child receive injection to prevent Hepatitis B?	[1] Yes [2] No [3] Don't know	
14	Did the child receive a measles injection?	[1] Yes [2] No [3] Don't know	
Section 1 Ends			
<i>Section 2: Accessibility of Services</i>			
15	During pregnancy, were you given an injection in the aim to prevent the baby from getting tetanus, that is, convulsions after birth?	[1] Yes [2] No [3] Don't Know	
16	During this pregnancy, were you given or did you buy any iron folic acid tablets or syrup?	[1] Yes [2] No [3] Don't Know	
17	During this pregnancy, did you take any drug for intestinal worms?	[1] Yes [2] No [3] Don't Know	
18	Have you ever had a pregnancy that miscarried, was aborted or ended in a still birth?	[1] Yes [2] No	
19	Where was the abortion performed?	Public Health Sector [1] Govt./Municipal Hospital [2] Govt. Dispensary [3] UHC/UHP/UFWC [4] CHC / Rural Hospital / Block PHC [5] PHC / Additional PHC [6] Sub-Centre [7] AYUSH	

		[8] Anganwadi Centre / ICDS Centre [9] ASHA [10] Govt. Mobile Clinic [11] Other Public Health Facility [12] Private	
20	Who performed the abortion?	[1] Doctor [2] Nurse / ANM / LHV [3] DAI [4] Family Member / Relative / Friend [5] Self [6] Other	
21	Did you receive any supplementary nutrition from the anganwadi centre during the pregnancy?	[1] Yes [2] No	
22	During the pregnancy, were you always able to get the supplementary nutrition from the anganwadi centre?	[1] Yes, always [2] No	
23	What was the main mode of transportation used by you to reach the health facility for delivery?	[1] Government Ambulance [2] Other Ambulance [3] Car [4] Bike/Scooter [5] Tempo / Auto / Tractor [6] Cart [7] On Foot	
24	Who arranged the transportation to take you to the health facility for delivery?	[1] Doctor [2] ANM [3] Health Worker [4] Anganwadi Worker [5] ASHA [6] PRI Member [7] NGO [8] Mother-in-Law [9] Mother [10] Relatives / Friends [11] Self	
25	Where did the child receive most of the vaccination?	Public Health Sector [1] Govt./Municipal Hospital [2] Govt. Dispensary [3] UHC/UHP/UFWC [4] CHC / Rural Hospital / Block PHC [5] PHC / Additional PHC [6] Sub-Centre [7] AYUSH [8] Anganwadi Centre / ICDS Centre [9] ASHA [10] Govt. Mobile Clinic [11] Other Public Health Facility [12] Camp [13] Pulse Polio [14] Private	
26	Did the child has had diarrhea in the last 2 weeks?	[1] Yes [2] No	

		[3] Don't know	
27	Did you seek advice or treatment for the diarrhea from any source?	[1] Yes [2] No [3] Don't know	
28	Where did you seek advice or treatment?	Public Health Sector [1] Govt./Municipal Hospital [2] Govt. Dispensary [3] UHC/UHP/UFWC [4] CHC / Rural Hospital / Block PHC [5] PHC / Additional PHC [6] Sub-Centre [7] AYUSH [8] Anganwadi Centre / ICDS Centre [9] ASHA [10] Govt. Mobile Clinic [11] Other Public Health Facility [12] Private	
29	Was the child given any of the zinc since having diarrhea?	[1] Yes [2] No [3] Don't know	
30	What else was given to treat the diarrhea?	[1] Pill or Syrup [2] Injection	
31	Has the child been ill with a fever in the last 2 weeks?	[1] Yes [2] No [3] Don't know	
32	Did you seek advice or treatment for the fever from any source?	[1] Yes [2] No [3] Don't know	
33	Where did you seek advice or treatment?	Public Health Sector [1] Govt./Municipal Hospital [2] Govt. Dispensary [3] UHC/UHP/UFWC [4] CHC / Rural Hospital / Block PHC [5] PHC / Additional PHC [6] Sub-Centre [7] Anganwadi Centre / ICDS Centre [8] AYUSH [9] ASHA [10] Govt. Mobile Clinic [11] Other Public Health Facility [12] Private	
34	In the last three months have you met an ANM or LHV, AWW, ASHA or other community health Worker?	[1] Yes [2] No	
35	In the last three months, what were different services provided and matters talked about?	1) Family Planning 2) Immunization 3) Antenatal care 4) Delivery care 5) Birth Preparedness 6) Complication Readiness 7) Postnatal care 8) Disease prevention 9) Medical treatment for self 10) Treatment for sick child	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11) Treatment for other person 12) Malaria control 13) Supplementary Food 14) Growth Monitoring of Child 15) Early Childhood care 16) Pre-school education 17) Nutritional / Health Education 18) Menstrual Hygiene 19) Family Life Education 	
36	In the last three months, have you visited a health facility or camp for any reason for yourself (or for your children)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [1] Yes [2] No 	
37	What type of health facility did you visit most recently for yourself or for your children?	<p>Public Health Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [1] Govt./Municipal Hospital [2] Govt. Dispensary [3] UHC/UHP/UFWC [4] CHC / Rural Hospital / Block PHC [5] PHC / Additional PHC [6] Sub-Centre [7] AYUSH [8] Anganwadi Centre / ICDS Centre [9] ASHA [10] Govt. Mobile Clinic [11] Other Public Health Facility <p>[12] Private</p>	
38	What service did you go for?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Family Planning 2) Immunization 3) Antenatal Care 4) Delivery Care 5) Postnatal care 6) Disease Prevention 7) Medical Treatment for self 8) Treatment for child 9) Treatment for other person 10) Growth monitoring of child 11) Health checp-up 12) Medical termination of pregnancy 	
39	Did you receive any financial assistance for delivery care?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [1] Yes [2] No 	
40	From where did you get assistance?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [1] Jananai Suraksha Yojana (JSY) [2] Other Govt Scheme 	
Section 2: Ends			

Appendix B

Household Questionnaire

Serial No.	Questions	Coding Categories
1	Number of members in the family	<input style="width: 80px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
2	Has ever attended school?	[1] Yes [2] No
3	What is the highest standard completed?	[1] Primary [2] Secondary [3] Higher
4	What is the reason for not attending School?	[1] School too far away [2] Transport not available [3] Further Education not necessary [4] Required for Household work [5] Required for work on farm / Family business [6] Required for outside work for payment in cash or kind [7] Cost too much [8] No proper school facilities for girls [9] Not safe to send girls [10] Not interested in studies
5	What is the religion of the head of the household?	[1] Hindu [2] Muslim [3] Christian [4] Sikh [5] No Religion [6] Other
6	Age of Individual	
7	Does any member of this household own this house or any other house?	[1] Yes [2] No
8	Who owns the house?	[1] Male Member [2] Female Member [3] Both [4] Don't Know
9	What is the main source of drinking water for members of your household?	[1] Piped Water [2] Dug Well [3] Water from Spring [4] Rain water [5] Tanker Truck [6] Cart with Small tank [7] Surface Water

		[8] Bottled Water [9] Community RO plant
10	What kind of toilet facility do members of your household usually use?	[1] Flush to Flush Sewer system [2] Flush to septic tank [3] flush to pit Latrine [4] Flush to somewhere else [5] Twin Pit/Composite Toilet [6] Dry toilet [7] No Facility / Uses open space or field
11	Record Observation: Main Material of the Floor	[1] Mud / Clay [2] Sand [3] Dung [4] Raw Wood Planks [5] Bamboo [6] Brick [7] Stone [8] Polished or parquet wood [9] Vinyl or Asphalt [10] Ceramic Tiles [11] Cement [12] Carpet [13] Polish Stone / Marble /Granite
12	Record Observation: Main Material of the Roof	[1] No Roof [2] Thatch/Palm Leaf/ Reed/ Grass [3] Mud [4] Mud and Grass Mix [5] Plastic Polythin [6] Wood [7] Bamboo [8] Metal/GI
13	How many rooms are used for sleeping in this households?	<input type="text"/>
14	Do you have a separate room used as a kitchen?	[1] Yes [2] No
15	What type of fuel does your household mainly use for cooking?	[1] Electricity [2] LPG/Natural Gas [3] Biogas [4] Coal/ Lignite [5] Kerosene [6] Charcoal [7] Wood [8] Straw/ Shrubs/ Grass [9] Agricultural Crop Waste [10] Dung Cakes [11] No food cooked in Household
16	Does any member of this household own any agricultural land?	[1] Yes [2] No
17	Who owns the agricultural land?	[1] Male Member [2] Female Member [3] Both [4] Don't Know
18	Does your Household have:	1) Electricity 2) A Mattress 3) A pressure Cooker

		4) A cot or Bed 5) A Chair 6) A table 7) An electric Fan 8) A Radio / Transistor 9) A black and White TV 10) A Colour TV 11) A sewing machine 12) A mobile phone 13) A landline phone 14) Internet 15) A Computer 16) A refrigerator 17) An AC or Cooler 18) A washing machine 19) A watch or clock? 20) Bicycle 21) Motorcycle or scooter 22) An animal drawn cart 23) A car 24) A water pump 25) A tractor
19	Does your household own any of the following animals?	[1] Cows/Bulls/Buffaloes [2] Camels [3] Horses/Donkey [4] Goats/Sheeps [5] Chickens/Ducks
20	Does any usual member of this household have a bank account?	[1] Yes [2] No [3] Don't Know
21	Is any usual member of this household covered by a health scheme or health insurance?	[1] Yes [2] No [3] Don't Know
22	What type of health scheme or health insurance? Any other	[1] Employees State Insurance Scheme (ESIS) [2] Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) [3] State Health Insurance Scheme [4] Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana [5] Community Health Insurance [6] Other Health Insurance through Employer [7] Medical Reimbursement From employer [8] Privately Purchased [9] Commercial Health Insurance
23	Does this household have a BPL card?	[1] Yes [2] No

Appendix C

Healthcare Professional Effectiveness Scale

Sl. No.	General Ethical Attitude	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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1	Every practitioners dedicate equal amount of time with every needy patients					
2	It is necessary to record the social issues that are related to diseases in the medical record (Eg. Water and sanitation, hygiene etc.)					
3	It is possible to avoid prejudices in professional practice, such as religion, ethnicity, caste etc.					
4	It is necessary for the patient to understand every health information given by the practitioners					
5	Practitioner should listen and pay attention to the patient's emotional expressions					
6	Practitioners' be held responsible for providing conducive environment for the patient to express themselves					
7	It is necessary for the practitioners to explain clinical information to the patients about the treatment					
8	Ensure that the patient understands the given health information					
9	It is necessary to provide clinical information in such a way that it lets the patient choose the care as freely as possible					
Health Professionals for Health Equity: Incorporating in Education Curriculum						
	In Health Professional Education-	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
10	Professional students are disproportionately admitted from the higher social class and dominant ethnic groups					
11	Lacks in training or competencies to tackle gender issues of Health					
12	Increasing employment opportunities in healthcare sector for the people from lower socioeconomic groups has the potential to improve health					
13	Health Professionals engaging with the underlying problems of communities will find					

	solutions to the health problems.					
14	Training Medical students about the social situations affect the health of people living with them					
15	Educating about Social Determinants of Health will develop a sense of social responsibility					
16	The medical education curriculum should mandatorily have strong ethical standards and centred on the interest of patients and population					
17	Health professionals should educate themselves and colleagues on that social determinants of health are, and the necessary skills to tackle them					
Evaluating and Monitoring to understand health Inequalities through		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
18	Taking Social History					
19	Asking patient if they have had trouble making ends meet in the last month					
20	Building a shared value of health that incorporates the role of social cohesion so that individuals feel a sense of community and the role of collective action.					
21	Taking social Histories of patients will reduce health inequities					
Working with Individuals and communities		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
22	It is important to dedicate equal amount of time to each and every patient					
23	It is important for the health professionals to know about the local community assets to act as a health facilitator					
24	It is important for the health professional to educate the patients in rural areas					
25	It is important for the health professionals to visit the community and advocating health wellbeing?					

26	Cultural aspects play an important role in doctor patient relationship					
27	It is possible for the health professionals to avoid their prejudices which might impact patients health					
28	It is not always possible for the health professionals to make social prescribing?					
29	Health Professionals should focus on improving the social conditions of local areas through which deprived communities can be looked after					
30	Working with non-health workers can create based on empowering patients and communities					
31	Health professionals should use available evidence to demonstrate why the Social Determinants of Health matter					
32	Health professionals should promote the inclusion of social determinants of health in their role of advocate for policymaking					
33	Health professionals should act as advocate for health policy to promote policies that aim improve population health and reduce health inequalities					

Appendix D

Interview Schedule

- 1) Do you think news coverage of health topics influence public agendas and encourage actions at policy levels? If yes, how and to what extent?

- 2) While reporting on the public health disparities, what are the dimensions you consider advancing the public health messages more effectively? What are the factors that affect the formation of messages?

- 3) What are the major challenges and barriers for the journalists in local news media, while reporting healthcare disparities? What can be potential solutions to overcome those barriers?
- 4) How do journalists employed by local media outlets report on and view health and medical sciences news in general and health disparities in particular?
- 5) Do you think that media reporting is right all the time for health-related cases? How do you see this as a challenge in Assam?

Publications

1. Nath, N.J., Sharma, S. & Shukla, Tanu. (2020). *Exploring the Liaising Role of Community Health Workers in the Bordering Region of India Bangladesh: A Mixed Method Approach*. Online Journal of Health & Allied Sciences, 19 (1), 1-4 (Scopus, EBSCO, DOAJ, Index Copernicus, Google Scholar)
2. Nath, N.J., Shukla, T. & Sharma, S. (Forthcoming). *Childcare and Immunization: Analyzing factors driving the utilization and access to childcare services in India's borderland*. Sociological Bulletin (Indian Sociological Association), Sage. (SCOPUS, ProQuest, UGC-CARE)

Conferences

- International Conference on Media, Culture, and Ethics: Nationalism and Media Discourse in India, February 09-10, 2018, Birla Institute of Technology and Sciences, Pilani, India
- Rethinking Development: Development Research Conference: 'Media's Credibility on Indian Election' August 22-23, 2018, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

- International Conference on Interdisciplinarity of Knowledge, Education and Research: Mediated democracy and media intrusion in the political domain, Feb 07-09, 2019, Birla Institute of Technology and Sciences, Pilani, India
- 17th Annual Conference of the Indian Association for Social Sciences and Health: Community Health Workers in India's Borderland, Dec 08-10, 2019, Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi, India

Workshops

- Global Initiative for Academic Network (GIAN) Workshop on Analysing Public Policy Issues in India at NIT Durgapur, May 19th-25th 2019. Knowledge Facilitator: Prof. Mukul Asher, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore.
- Research Methodology Course on Large Scale Survey: Data Analysis and Tools: 12 Days Workshop organized by National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi, 26th August – 6th September 2019.
- Large Scale Sample Surveys Data Users Training Workshop: Six Days Intensive Training Programme organized by International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, 17th Feb-22nd Feb 2020.

Brief Biography of the Candidate

Nayan Jyoti Nath is a Research Scholar in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Birla Institute of Technology and Sciences, Pilani. He works in Journalism and Health Communication.

Brief Biography of Supervisor

Sangeeta Sharma is a Professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani. She is currently heading Publication and Media Relations Unit. She was the Coordinator for UGC Centre for Women's Studies and the Group Leader of the department from May 2008-July 2010.

She did her Ph.D on 'The use of English in Advertising: A study in Lexical and Syntactical Patterns' from BITS, Pilani in 1996. Apart from Advertising, her areas of interest include Technical Communication, Creative Thinking, and Linguistics. At BITS she has handled various responsibilities like nucleus member of Distance Learning Programme Division, Academic and Counseling Board member, Doctoral Advisory Committee member, Senate member, coordinating faculty for Intensive Teaching Workshops, member of the library committee etc. and was warden for Malaviya girls' hostel for four years. She has guided a good number of first-degree thesis students and around hundred study-oriented project students. She has guided three PhD Students and two are pursuing their PhD currently.

She was the Coordinator of Centre for Women Studies (CWS), which had diverse range of activities to help women benefit from technology. She is a licensed trainer for Springboard Development Program (U.K.), which is internationally recognized women's development program. She is currently Professor-in-charge for FitBits (Running Club), Marudhara (Regional Association), and Toastmaster BITS Chapter.

Brief Biography of Co-Supervisor

Tanu Shukla is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus. She holds a Ph.D. from the National University of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi. She has authored books and written numerous papers in international journals of repute. She works in the areas of Educational Psychology, Higher

Education, Applied Social Psychology, Organizational Behaviour, Technology in Education
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