

## 22. Spatial Analysis of Maternal Health in Maharashtra, 2014-2016

**-Prof. (Dr.) Moushumi Datta**

Professor & Vice - Principal, Nagindas Khandwala College.

---

### **Abstract**

Maternal healthcare is an essential component of a women's life. It affects the life of a woman drastically. In absence of appropriate care, both mother and child may suffer and be affected by fatal diseases. In ancient times, the birth rate of India was very low due to high mortality rate. However, with advent of healthcare and realization of importance of maternal health, situations have improved. The area of study chosen is Maharashtra and the unit of analysis is District. The objectives include spatial analysis of maternal health, understanding the reasons for the prevailing differences and to recommend solutions for the gaps identified. The present study is based on secondary data extracted from Census of India. The study concludes that the maternal health is average in the developed districts like Mumbai, Thane, Raigarh, Nashik, Nagpur and Pune and very low in the underdeveloped districts like Osmanabad, Nandurbar, Latur, etc. It basically is driven by availability of employment opportunities and income and resultant food intake. Spreading awareness and motivating women to register for the government schemes is the key to improvement especially in the rural areas.

**Keywords:** maternal health, healthcare, employment, good food, awareness

### **Introduction**

Maternal healthcare is an essential component of a women's life. The entire period of maternity is highly vulnerable for the mother and child as it requires intense care and attention so that the life of both is not put in danger. Earlier, the maternity health of women in India was very poor due to the absence of appropriate healthcare and awareness. The birth rate in India was also very low. However, with the advent of healthcare and realization of importance of maternal health, situations have improved. Literature review reveals that not all women are taking the advantage of the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) by the government. Under the JSY all the registered pregnant women are entitled to receive antenatal care to the best of the efforts of the government for the rural women. It ensures the balanced health of pregnant women and grants Rs. 6000/- at the time of delivery to every pregnant woman. The present paper tries to analyze