

## Immense Impact of Inadequate Immunization

Prabhakar Deshpande

**Abstract:** Immunization can prevent many diseases and curtail many deaths. It is estimated that almost 1.5 million deaths can be avoided through adequate immunization. At any rate even presently almost 5 million deaths per year are avoided due to immunization. This paper tracks the level of inadequate immunization and gently prods governments around the world to achieve 100% immunization.

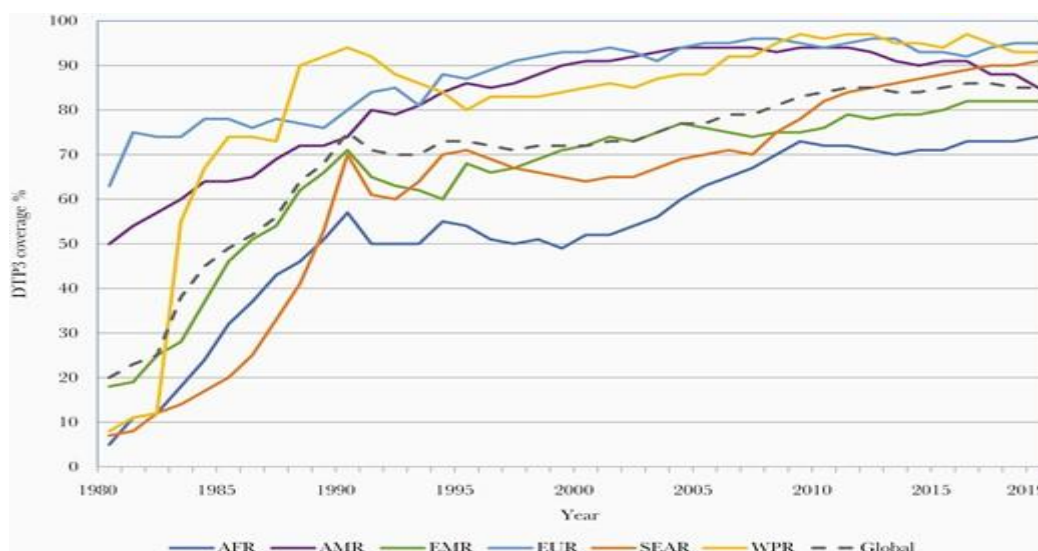
Received 08 Mar., 2023; Revised 19 Mar., 2023; Accepted 21 Mar., 2023 © The author(s) 2023.  
Published with open access at [www.questjournals.org](http://www.questjournals.org)

### I. Introduction

Immunization is one of the most successful health interventions and can save millions of lives. However immunization coverage is less than 100% and that is cause of concern. Inadequate Immunization can mean almost 1.5 million additional deaths. Roughly Immunization coverage is around 80%. Almost 25 million children did not receive basic immunization and that means almost 15% of children were not inoculated. Immunization saves almost 4 million lives every year. And immunization can save almost another 1.5 million lives if 100% immunization were to be achieved. Nearly 1 in 5 children did not receive all immunization. 18 million children were zero dose as far as immunization were concerned and almost 70% of them lived in just 10 countries. Clearly Immunization has achieved a lot. But immunization can achieve a lot more.

### Immunization Coverage is not Improving

Global Immunization Coverage is stagnant for past 20 years. Almost 25 million children are not immunized and 60% live in 10 countries of world. As a result, 25 million children were un or under-vaccinated in 2021 where more than 60 per cent live in just 10 countries (India, Nigeria, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Philippines, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Brazil, Pakistan, Angola, and Myanmar). The following figure shows immunization coverage in various regions of the world



Clearly as can be observed from the above figure there is stagnation in immunization coverage from 2000 to 2010. And hence immunization coverage needs to break out of hold and improve drastically from present stagnated levels.

#### **Ten Nations including India are culprits**

There are almost 200 nations of the world. Out of this almost 100 nations are highly developed or have middle level of development. And 100 nations have low levels of development. However 10 nations are culprits as far as inadequate Immunization are concerned. This proves that with political will 100% immunization can be achieved. The 10 nations that account for almost 2/3 burden of inadequate immunization coverage are:

1. India
2. Nigeria,
3. Indonesia
4. Ethiopia
5. Philippines
6. Democratic Republic of the Congo
7. Brazil
8. Pakistan
9. Angola
10. Myanmar

#### **Understanding Immunization Coverage in India**

The fact that India has inadequate immunization coverage is shocking and reveals pathetic governance. During the Crisis India was supplier of almost 250 million vaccines to nearly 100 nations of the world.

However the fact is that when it comes to basic immunization of its own children, India is still far from achieving 100% coverage! This is shocking. Hence Government of India must pull up its socks and get its act together.

## **II. Conclusion**

The fact that immunization coverage has stagnated for past 10 to 20 years reveals a lack of political will to extend and achieve 100% immunization coverage. Immunization already saves around 4.5 million lives per year. And achieving 100% immunization coverage will help save another 1.5 million lives.

#### **References:**

- [1]. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/immunization-coverage>
- [2]. <https://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/immunization/data/fast-facts.html>
- [3]. [https://academic.oup.com/jid/article/224/Supplement\\_4/S452/6378083](https://academic.oup.com/jid/article/224/Supplement_4/S452/6378083)