

## Assignment-2\_Reading Passages

### Sociology

#### Chapter-2\_ The Demographic structure of Indian Society

1. Read the passage and answer the following questions:

##### Health survey reveals the best and the worst

**New Delhi:** A few districts in the eight empowered actions group (EAG) states have excelled by achieving the targets set by the United Nations under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The EAG states are Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and Rajasthan.

Of the 248 districts of the EAG states and Assam categorized as having the worst health indicators—six have reduced the infant mortality rate (IMR) to 28. The MDG target is to bring down the IMR—the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births—to 28 by 2015. The districts are Purbi Singhbhum and Dhanbad (Jharkhand), Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Pithoragarh and Almora (Uttarakhand).

Bokaro and Ranchi (Jharkhand), Bageshwar and Nainital (Uttarakhand) are also close to achieving the goals but sadly enough, female infants in these districts experience a higher mortality than male infants and mortality in rural areas is worse than those in urban centres.

- What does Millennium Development Goal target for 2015?
- What is infant mortality rate? Name the districts which have reduced their IMR to 28.

2. Read the passage and answer the following questions:

##### Hospitals deliveries on the rise, maternal deaths dip.

**New Delhi:** Institutional deliveries, where children are delivered at health centres or hospitals, have picked up in India over the last five-odd years. Around 60 lakh more infants were born in cageage confines of health care centres in 2010-11 as compared to 2005-06.

Experts say one main reason for this spurt is the Janani SurakshaYojana (JSY), which was launched in April 2005, to reduce India's shamefully high maternal and infant mortality rates. The JSY promoted institutional delivery among would-be mothers by providing cash assistance.

Emboldened, the Ministry has launched the Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK) this year. The initiative entitles all would-be mothers free delivery, free drugs and free diagnostics.

- What are the entitlements given under the JSSK?
- What was the main aim of JSY?

## 3. Read the passage and answer the following questions:

India is working with the UN to tackle these issues on a global scale. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon is championing two new initiatives-Every Woman Every Child and the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative-because access to energy and improving women and children's health are fundamental to achieving all our development goals. India is an example of how a commitment to these two goals leads to results.

A bright future for India begins with increased efforts to promote safe motherhood. According to USAID, today, India accounts for more maternal deaths than any other country in the world; avoidable complications during pregnancy and childbirth kill approximately 67,000 Indian women annually. These unfortunate statistics are a reality in part because many Indian women annually. These unfortunate statistics are a reality in part because many Indian mothers are still in their teens; nearly one-third of all women deliver a child before the age of 20. The Indian Government has committed to promoting maternal health and family planning, pledging to spend \$ 3.5 billion per year on improving health services, especially women's and children's health. India's Ministry of Health has announced it is strengthening efforts in the 264 districts that account for nearly 70% of all infant and maternal deaths. The

- a) Define maternal mortality rate.
- b) What reasons are responsible for more maternal deaths in India than any other country in the world?
- c) What efforts are being done by the Indian health ministry to overcome this issue?