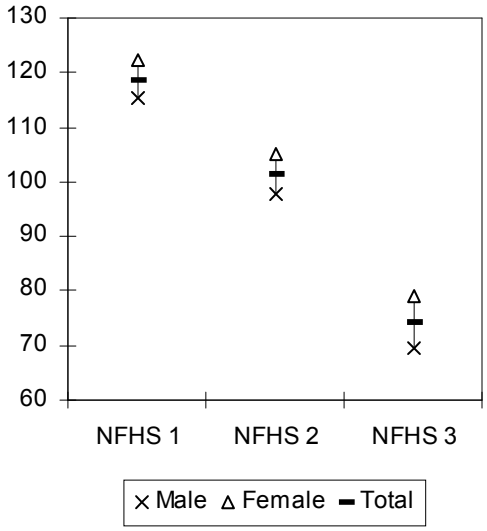
Objectives: The present study examines the gender differential in under-five mortality among various socioeconomic.

Data: Data from the three rounds of National Family Health Survey of India is used.

Methods and preliminary results: Wealth index is generated for NFHS1 and NFHS2 using the proxy indicators of socioeconomic status such as household assets and used along with the wealth quintile of NFHS3. Inequality is assessed using concentration index for under-five mortality rates for both male and female children five years preceding the survey.

The data shows a steep decline in UFMR over a period of fifteen years from NFHS 1992-93 to NFHS 2005-06. But the male-female gap has also increased over the same period.

Trend and gender gap in UFMR in India



Logistic regression shows that the children in poorer strata are more likely to die compared to their counterparts irrespective of sex of the children. But the chance of dying for female children in its poorer strata is higher than the male children of the same strata.

The concentration index shows that the inequality in male children exceeds female children in all the three surveys.

Concentration index of male and female children

	Male	Female
NFHS 1	-0.183	-0.179
NFHS 2	-0.164	-0.154
NFHS 3	-0.157	-0.153

Adjusted under-five mortality rates are calculated by controlling variables such as place of residence, mothers education, religion, ethnicity, age at birth, birth order, birth interval etc. The poor: rich ratio shows a different scenario than the concentration index where a wide gap exists within socioeconomic groups in female children than male children.

Also, the gap between male and female deaths in different quintile groups shows the concentration of gender gap in lower strata compared to higher strata.

Under five deaths ($_5q_0$) and standard deviation in socioeconomic quintiles and Concentration Index

States	Under five mortality (SD)					Average U5MR	Concentration Index
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5		
New Delhi	140 (.35)	129 (.34)	79 (.27)	76 (.27)	29 (.17)	54	-0.3046
Punjab	115 (.32)	118 (.32)	107 (.31)	56 (.23)	44 (.21)	68	-0.2238
Haryana	115 (.32)	103 (.30)	77 (.27)	87 (.28)	40 (.20)	74	-0.1923
Karnataka	113 (.32)	76 (.26)	55 (.23)	53 (.22)	48 (.21)	75	-0.1874
Arunachal Pradesh	88 (.28)	125 (.33)	65 (.25)	53 (.22)	36 (.19)	75	-0.1864
Maharashtra	90 (.29)	74 (.26)	75 (.26)	38 (.19)	32 (.18)	66	-0.1835
Goa	67 (.25)	66 (.25)	59 (.24)	38 (.19)	33 (.18)	47	-0.1641
Andhra Pradesh	110 (.31)	107 (.31)	68 (.25)	60 (.24)	50 (.21)	85	-0.1618
Gujarat	105 (.31)	93 (.29)	102 (.30)	61 (.24)	46 (.21)	80	-0.1560
West Bengal	84 (.28)	67 (.25)	55 (.23)	41 (.20)	29 (.17)	66	-0.1488
Assam	98 (.30)	79 (.27)	47 (.21)	53 (.22)	43 (.20)	77	-0.1483
Madhya Pradesh	163 (.37)	154 (.36)	129 (.33)	101 (.30)	58 (.23)	130	-0.1454
Orissa	132 (.34)	111 (.31)	90 (.29)	58 (.23)	35 (.18)	108	-0.1450
Kerala	57 (.23)	14 (.12)	24 (.15)	13 (.11)	21 (.14)	22	-0.1439
Mizoram	122 (.33)	35 (.18)	57 (.23)	42 (.20)	39 (.19)	53	-0.1431
Rajasthan	152 (.36)	132 (.34)	110 (.31)	108 (.31)	63 (.24)	114	-0.1377
Uttar Pradesh	156 (.36)	143 (.35)	112 (.32)	89 (.29)	71 (.26)	122	-0.1368
Tamil Nadu	74 (.26)	73 (.26)	45 (.21)	51 (.22)	32 (.18)	59	-0.1360
Manipur	83 (.28)	48 (.21)	33 (.18)	54 (.23)	36 (.19)	54	-0.1326
Jammu Kashmir	96 (.29)	79 (.27)	92 (.29)	67 (.25)	47 (.21)	74	-0.1157
Sikkim	73 (.26)	94 (.29)	75 (.26)	46 (.21)	55 (.23)	70	-0.1150
Meghalaya	132 (.34)	116 (.32)	95 (.29)	62 (.24)	64 (.25)	110	-0.1145
Bihar	124 (.33)	91 (.29)	72 (.26)	68 (.25)	56 (.23)	100	-0.0867
Nagaland	52 (.22)	97 (.30)	60 (.24)	53 (.22)	65 (.25)	66	-0.0309
INDIA	**119 (.32)**	**110 (.31)**	**87 (.28)**	**69 (.25)**	**48 (.21)**	**101**	**-0.1573**

The state wise variation is expected to show distinct variation in gender gap in UFMR.