

## AN ECONOMIC STUDY UTILISATION OF HEALTHCARE SERVICES AMONG RURAL HOUSEHOLDS IN VELLORE DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Health is one of the basic capabilities that give value to human life and its importance in its own right cannot be overstated. The strong link between poverty and ill health needs to be recognized. The onset of a long and expensive illness can drive the non-poor into poverty. Ill health creates immense stress even among those who are financially secure. High health care costs can lead to entry into or exacerbation of poverty. The importance of public provisioning of quality health care to enable access to affordable and reliable health services cannot be underestimated (Sen, 1999).<sup>1</sup> This is specially so, in the context of preventing the non-poor from entering into poverty or in terms of reducing the suffering of those who are already below the poverty line. Health brings the capacity for personal development and economic security in the future for individuals and families. In economic terms, health and education are the two cornerstones of human capital and they form the basis of an individual's economic productivity (World Bank, 2006).<sup>2</sup>*

**KEYWORDS:** *HealthCare, Rural Households, Economic Study*