

Fortnightly Media Analysis Report – 01 - 16 Dec 2024

This report analyzes media coverage of health-related themes, including Routine Immunization (RI), vaccine-preventable diseases, measles and rubella elimination, polio, HPV, Td, and adverse events following immunization (AEFI), across English and Hindi online newspapers and news portals during the period December 1-16, 2024. The analysis encompassed a wide range of topics, including RI policies at national and international levels, stakeholder contributions, and broader public health discussions, which cover diverse perspectives.

Key Findings:

- **Positive Portrayal:** 55.1% of the articles presented RI initiatives in a positive light, highlighting their significance in public health.
- **Neutral/Multi-faceted Coverage:** 44.1% of the articles adopted a neutral or multifaceted perspective, acknowledging both the benefits and challenges of RI programs.
- **Negative Coverage:** Only 0.7% of the articles focused on negative aspects, such as adverse events following immunization, including instances of child death post-vaccination and reports of whooping cough outbreaks.

This evolving focus reflects the dynamic nature of vaccination initiatives and the need for continued dialogue and engagement with the public.

Reflection of News stories on Immunization during the fortnight (01 - 16 Dec. 2024)-at a glance

Name of Publication	Positive	Mixed (Multi-perspective)	Negative	Remark	Subject Covered
Times of India - 13	6	7			Polio, Covid, Pragnant women, ANM, compaign, Pneumonia, CHC, BCG vaccine, environmental health,
Hindustan Times - 2	2				UIP, Pneumonia
Financial Express - 1	1				U-WIN
The Hindu - 1		1			HepB
Deccan Herald - 1		1			Polio
New 18 - 4	3	1			Flu, Mumps, Measles, MIC
Economic Times - 2		2			Covid, preventable diseases
Bussiness Standard - 2		2			Polio, Mpox
Medical Dialogue - 2	1	1			Vaccination, HepB,
Dainik Bhaskar - 17	12	4	1	Newborn baby dies after vaccination in surajpur in chhattisgarh	Vaccination, Polio, Immunization, task force, TT, vaccination session, U-WIN, DPT, Pneumonia, TD, MR, pragnant women, Newborn, HWC
Hindustan Hindi - 13	5	8			ANM, vaccination session, community meeting, Polio, UIP, Pvt vaccination, Rota, U-WIN, Urban Immunization, HWC, Diptheria
Prabhat Khabar - 4	4				MIC, UIP, vaccination, Review meeting
Amar Ujala - 6	1	5			HCW, whooping cough, PHC, ANM, polio, vaccination
International News					
Nature - 2		2			HPV, vaccination
The Guardian - 1		1			Measles
Medical Xpress/VAT- 2	2				vaccine development, child vaccination
The Tribune - 1		1			School Immunization
Newyork Times - 1	1				vaccination
Washington Post -1		1			Health
African -1	1				Pneumonia
CNN - 1		1			RSV
BBC - 3	3				Malaria, whooping cough, Flu
CDC - 1	1				Polio
Gavi - 8	5	3			Health workers, MR, summit, vaccination program, Immunization, partnership, malaria, community engagement
WHO - 3	3				Polio, vaccine, MR
UNDP -1	1				Digital immunization
Relief Web - 2	2				Cholera vaccine, TB
UNICEF - 3	3				Immunization, Polio, grant managemt.
Other web portal - 37	18	19			Universal health coverage, Adult BCG, cervical cancer, malaria, vaccination, MR, ICMR, AEFI, Meeting, Diptheria, whooping cough, pragnant women, HPV, polio, MMR, HepB, Immunization, Pertussis, Handbook, zero dose, Malaria, U-WIN, vaccine

Important stories with highlights

Hindustan Times, in an opinion piece, highlighted how U-WIN has revolutionized immunization efforts by connecting healthcare professionals, parents, and program supervisors on a unified digital platform. This integration enables efficient tracking of vaccination drives, ensuring children are safeguarded against 12 preventable diseases. Even in remote villages, parents now recognize vaccines as vital shields protecting their children from illnesses that could otherwise cause emotional and financial hardship. This transformation is not accidental but the result of consistent investment in indigenous digital technologies, empowering healthcare workers and delivering life-saving vaccines to the most underserved regions of the country.

Read more at:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/opinion/making-the-case-for-universal-immunisation-with-digital-tools-101733063121669.html>

UNDP India reports in its online portal, shared India's vaccination coverage a decade ago that stood at 65%, leaving millions of children at risk of diseases like measles and polio. To address this, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the story highlighted the launch of the Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) to streamline vaccine logistics, alongside Mission Indradhanush, boosting the coverage to 93% and protecting 27 million newborns annually, commenting that gaps remained, with many children still unvaccinated due to hesitancy or migration. To bridge this, the story shared that U-WIN, a digital platform was introduced to register and track vaccinations for expectant mothers and children. Developed with UNDP support, U-WIN aims to ensure universal vaccine access nationwide.

Read more at:

<https://www.undp.org/india/blog/giving-digital-boost-universal-immunisation>

Times of India in its city News, reports that community health workers in urban and rural areas have been actively identifying children with pneumonia symptoms and referring them for care as part of the SANS (Social Awareness and Action to Neutralize Pneumonia Successfully) campaign.

Read more at:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/varanasi/pneumonia-causes-175-of-child-deaths-under-5-years-urgent-need-for-awareness-and-action/articleshow/116184307.cms>

Business standard reports that in a reply to a question in the parliament, the Union Health Minister Shri J.P. Nadda informed the Rajya Sabha shared that the ICMR study has confirmed that COVID-19 vaccination did not increase the risk of unexplained sudden death among young adults in India. On the contrary, it reduced their odds.

Read more at:

https://www.business-standard.com/health/icmr-study-concluded-covid-vaccine-didn-t-increase-death-risk-nadda-to-rs-124121001098_1.html

The Hindu, reports from Chennai that the Doctors Association for Social Equality (DASE) has raised concerns over a Hepatitis B vaccine shortage in government hospitals. The association had called on the Union and State governments to urgently address the issue and ensure an adequate vaccine supply. In a statement, DASE General Secretary G.R. Ravindranath emphasized the vaccine's importance in preventing Hepatitis B infections, liver diseases, and liver cancer. He highlighted that the shortage, persisting for six months, has caused significant hardship, particularly for patients on haemodialysis who require the vaccine for protection.

Read more at:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/doctors-body-raises-concern-about-hepatitis-b-vaccine-shortage/article68977948.ece>

BBC reports that Nigeria, the country with the highest global malaria mortality rate, had commenced its first rollout of a malaria vaccine. Nigeria accounts for nearly one-third of worldwide malaria deaths annually. The R21/Matrix-M vaccine, the second malaria vaccine approved by the World Health Organization (WHO), was being administered to children aged 5 to 15 months. With an efficacy rate of 75%, researchers emphasize its use alongside other malaria prevention measures, such as mosquito nets and insecticides. The initial phase of the rollout was targeting Bayelsa and Kebbi, two severely affected states, with plans to extend nationwide by next year.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/crk0mpz47jjo>

WHO in a feature story, highlights the remarkable progress of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) over the past 50 years, which has significantly transformed global health systems, including in Turkmenistan. The 50th anniversary of EPI marks a pivotal moment to celebrate its achievements, emphasize its profound impact, and inspire renewed efforts to enhance routine immunization services. The project aimed at strengthening immunization programs being implemented in Turkmenistan and four other Central Asian republics—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. This initiative co-funded by the European Union and WHO, reflecting a strong commitment to public health advancements in the region.

Read more at:

<https://www.who.int/europe/news-room/feature-stories/item/six-decades-of-evidence-of-the-transformative-power-of-vaccines>

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance in its online portal, announced that its Board has approved measures to help countries sustain their immunisation programmes and address equity gaps in vulnerable communities, amid rising vaccine demand from Gavi-implementing nations. During a two-day meeting hosted by the Indonesian government, Board members reviewed significant progress in Gavi's core priorities. In 2024, the Alliance surpassed its forecast by supporting the introduction of malaria vaccination programmes in over 15 countries. Additionally, 2024 marked a record-breaking scale-up of HPV vaccination campaigns, with more girls vaccinated through Gavi's support than ever before. These achievements underscore Gavi's commitment to advancing global health equity.

Read more at:

<https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/gavi-board-approves-measures-support-sustainability-vaccine-programmes-boost-access-vulnerable-communities>