**Proposal**

1. **Research Question**

Exploring causal relationships between domestic violence, and infant and child mortality rates in India.

1. **Research Design**
   1. **Research Background:** Developing economies do not have access to the best health care facilities. Income disparities, socio-economic limitations and high cost of private medical care further limit access to quality health care, crucial for newly born babies and children under the age of 5. As a result of limited access to health care, infant mortality rates (IMR)[[1]](#footnote-1) and child mortality rates (CMR)[[2]](#footnote-2) are often high. As healthcare is beyond just access to facilities, this paper seeks to examine social and familial causes impacting IMR and CMR in India.
   2. **Research Problem:** Do marriages or households with increased instances of domestic violence display increased infant and child mortality rates? If yes, what are the causal factors and why? If no, what does?

Domestic violence is a pertinent issue in south-east Asian countries, with several factors exacerbating its impact and existence. The causal relationship between domestic violence and IMR and CMR has been studied, though not with updated NFHS 2015-16 data and certainly not at a pan-Indian level.

* 1. **Methodology:** The paper will consist of a literature review and an independent analysis using NFHS 2015-16. Previous studies in the field have used dated data, much smaller sample sets and geographically specific studies, which prevents larger generalization and trend analysis.
  2. **Dependent Variable:** Infant and child mortality rates
  3. **Independent Variables:** Domestic violence in the form of physical, emotional and sexual abuse

1. **Data Source**

The data for this research problem and question will primarily be DHS data which is funded by USAID and administered locally. In India, it is administered as the National Family Health Survey, administered via the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. “*The NFHS is a collaborative project of the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, India; ORC Macro, Calverton, Maryland, USA and the East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Government of India, designated IIPS as the nodal agency, responsible for providing coordination and technical guidance for the NFHS”.[[3]](#footnote-3)*

1. **Validation methods**

Results of the study can be validated using Census of India 2012 data and older versions of NFHS 2005-06 data. While questions pertaining to IMR, CMR and domestic violence might differ, data on fertility and perceptions of domestic violence will help validate findings.

1. Infant mortality rate compares the number of deaths of infants under one year old in a given year by 1,000 live births in the same year. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Child mortality is the probability per 1,000 live births that a newborn baby will die before reaching age five under current age-specific mortality patterns. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <http://rchiips.org/nfhs/about.shtml> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)