

THE DETERMINANTS OF CHILD HEIGHT IN INDIA

A QUANTILE REGRESSION APPROACH

ABSTRACT

Nutritional status of several Indians and in particular of several children is among the lowest in the world. Even though several policies are in place to address this yet the impact has been very weak. Therefore a continuous assessment of what factors influence child malnutrition is needed for effective policy interventions. Child's height and weight plays significant role in child growth pattern. The focus of this paper is to analyze the growth patterns among children aged 8 to 11 years that allows controlling for dietary patterns of the household, mother's physical stature & other socio-cultural variables using Indian Human Development Survey (IHDS) 2005 using quantile regression model. The estimates show that the effects of independent variables vary across in different quantiles. From the result, we can see that child age and mother's education are significant in lower quantiles, whereas wealth index and socio-cultural variables (caste, religion etc...) are significant in upper quantiles. The results from this study could help to better focus on the target group to implement a suitable policy for child growth.