

MILK CONSUMPTION PATTERN AND CHILD'S HEIGHT-FOR-AGE Z-SCORE IN INDIA

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Abstract

The primary objective of this study is to analyze the factors affecting child's Height-for-Age Z score (HAZ) using data from the fourth wave of National Family Health Survey (International Institute for Population Sciences, 2017) carried out between 2015-16 and 68th round of National Sample Survey - Schedule 1.0 (Type 1) Consumer Expenditure carried out between 2011-2012. The study attempts to contribute to the existing literature on the topic by analyzing the significance of presence of Animal Source Foods (ASFs) particularly milk in child's diet and mother's diet in affecting the HAZ score of the child along with the importance of district level indicators related to protein and milk. The study finds that in child's diet, amongst the ASFs milk and milk products are found to be most significant in affecting the HAZ score of the child. The district level indicators are also found to be collectively significant in explaining the HAZ score of the child. Price of protein from milk, milk powder and egg are individually significant in explaining the HAZ score of the child. However, district milk production and district milk consumption estimated from NSS dataset are found to be individually insignificant in impacting the HAZ score of a child in the district. This could be because of data limitations as merging of districts in NFHS to NSS completely was not possible due to formation of new districts.