

## ABSTRACT

This study tries to find the causal effect of exposure of domestic violence of married women in India on their child's nutritional status using NFHS-4 data. We employ instrumental variable method to estimate the relationship using height-for-age z-score (HAZ score) and weight-for-age z-scores (WAZ score) of young children aged 0 to 59 months as the outcome variable. We find that a mother's exposure to IPV reduces her child's HAZ score as well as WAZ score compared to children whose mothers do not experience IPV and the effect is the highest in case of the mother suffering from sexual violence. The study identifies maternal autonomy in terms of household decision making and mobility and institutional delivery as significant contributors to improved HAZ scores, while higher fertility levels are associated with worsened nutrition outcomes for young children. The study highlights the fact that women empowerment is the key to prevent the child from suffering due to mother's exposure to intimate partner violence.