

# **Nutritional Outcomes of a Conditional Cash Transfer: Evidence from India**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The Undernutrition rates among children are among India's greatest human development challenges. Given its impact on health, education and economic productivity, persistent under-nutrition is a major obstacle to human development, impacting India's much-awaited demographic dividend and the country's prospects for future economic growth. Since much of the undernourishment happens during pregnancy and in the first two years of a child's life, we, in our study, try to find whether a Conditional Cash Transfer Scheme i.e, the Janani Suraksha Yojana, which mandates the institutional delivery of the child (coupled with pre and post-natal care) effect the nutritional outcomes of a child or not. Our estimates are based on the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 4 dataset which is a cross-sectional dataset for the year 2015-16 covering all the states and union territories in India. We use an OLS regression model framework to analyse the same. We find that children born in an institution with the financial assistance from government schemes do have better anthropometric measures than those who were not delivered in a health facility.