

Spatial Joint Modelling of Children Under-Five Malnutrition in Ethiopia

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ABSTRACT Malnutrition robs children of their futures and leaves young lives being uncertain. The nutritional reputation of children in Ethiopia is still in an alarming scenario as in most developing countries. The central objective of this research was to identify the determinants of childhood undernourishment and hotspot areas for suitable and timely intervention. The multivariate mixed model was employed to pinpoint the geographical dispersion of risk factors of undernourished children under-five years of age. The paper showed that children from malnourished mothers, not breastfed, from low-income families, from families that have no lavatory services, from uneducated mothers, from a rural area, who are male, short birth spacing and who are older are associated with malnutrition problems. The regions such as Afar, Amhara, Benishangul and Somali were identified as high hotspot areas of child under-nutrition in the country. It is recommended that the government should reach the malnutrition hotspot areas with appropriate intervention like family planning programs and mother education to boost child nutritional status.