

Health Status of Under-5 Children in Rural and Urban India: A Comparative Analysis using the Latest NFHS Data

Utpal Kumar De¹, Manoranjan Pal² and Premananda Bharati³

*¹Department of Economics, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong 793 022,
Meghalaya, India*

E-mail: utpalkde@gmail.com

²Economic Research Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata 700 108, West Bengal, India

E-mail: manoranjan.pal@gmail.com

*³Biological Anthropological Unit, Indian Statistical Institute,
Kolkata 700 108, West Bengal, India*

E-mail: pbharati@gmail.com

KEYWORDS Anaemia. Height-for-age. Weight-for-age. Weight-for-height. NFHS 4. Rural-Urban. Under-5 Children. Risk Factor

ABSTRACT This paper tries to investigate the health status of under-5 children in rural and urban India and also tries to find its relationship with different socio-economic-demographic variables. The latest all India NFHS-4 data have been used from this study. The sample size is 192599 in rural areas and 60488 in urban areas. The paper investigates how status of children's health with respect to Height-for-age, Weight-for-age, Weight-for-height, Hemoglobin level, BMI are related with socio-economic-demographic variables like birth order, family size, mother's education, wealth index etc. About two-fifth of under-5 children are found to be underweight, whereas 57.4 percent children are anemic in India. The logistic regression reveals that wealth and mother's education has positive impact on child's growth in height and weight though it varies in urban and rural areas. Birth order has adverse effect on child's growth.