

A review on women empowerment and child health

Sumana Karan

Jujersa P.N. Manna Institution.

P. O. Jujersa, P. S. Panchla, Howrah. 711302.

Abstract: This paper reviews the study on the impact of female empowerment on children's nutritional status. We found that women's degree of empowerment is assessed through multidimensional approaches, distinguishing between a few fields: decisionmaking, husband-partner violence, women's attitude towards the use of power, etc. Each domain comprises many questions that represent various facets of empowerment. No clear conclusion could be drawn regarding the possible impact of women's empowerment on children's nutritional status. But the household's material wealth, mother's education level and BMI are positively linked to children's nutritional status, which in the child, too, is higher, finally, the nutritional status of children. In most areas, this nutritional status is lower in rural areas.

Introduction: The empowerment of women is considered an essential factor in the use of children's health practises. 'If women are motivated, girls are thriving, and countries have a double dividend for women and children.' The topic of women's right, sovereignty and equality became seriously an issue for both academic and politicians, attracting considerable coverage during planning debates and forums in both the developed and developing countries on national and global platforms. For sustainable growth outcomes and the wellbeing of men, women and girls, the idea of women's empowerment is central. Empowerment of women can be assessed using such direct metrics, such as women's decision-making capacity in their household, as this is a central part of their empowerment.

In addition, the effect on children's health and wellbeing of women's equality and/or sovereignty has arisen as a subject of significant study and concern to developed and developing countries. DHS analytical study (1996) demands that policymakers have a more excellent knowledge of the conditions in their households, where children are most at risk for adverse health effects, to reach higher levels of child welfare and decrease child mortality.

Eight sustainability priorities were set for 2015 by the Millennium Growth Goals. This involves women's empowerment and the promotion of child welfare as part of the importance to be accomplished by 2015 by all Member States. The aims of resolution 55/2 'The United Nations Millennium Declaration' were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in its fifty sessions on 8 September 2000. The leaders recognised "the responsibility to all the people of the world, in particular, the neediest people and particularly the world's children, to whom the future belongs."

Chronological developments on the studies of women empowerment and child health:

In order to analyse the allocation of assets and profits within a household Thomas (1990) used data on family health and diet in Brazil, for example. He believes that the mother's unearned income has a larger impact on indices of family welfare than the father's income. Thomas (1990) has explored the scope of the services dedicated to sons and daughters between mothers and husbands. He concluded that mothers need more resources to raise their daughters' height and weight, while fathers do. However, mothers' revenues have a greater effect on the anthropometric results of both sons and daughters than those of fathers' revenues.

The division of revenue and spending into brasilian households was investigated by Thomas (1993). He argued that "the tax in females' hands is correlated with a greater increase to the share of the household expenditure devoted to human resources (household support, health and education) and leisure (local and ceremonial) commodities, whether we refer to non-labor income (assumed to be exogenous) or overall income."

The emphasis of Thomas et al . (1999) is on the importance of the capital married by husbands and spouses. They believe that "relative asset roles at marriage time are a symbol of economic freedom within marriage and are thus a significant source of control."

And the wife's children's health properties. The authors used data from the Indonesian Family Life Survey, which

includes data on husband's and wife's wealth and on household power indicators. As a regulation of household income, the authors investigate the effect of mother and paternal property on marriage "if in a month prior to interview, the children suffer from cough, fever, diarrhoea or other symptoms." They conclude: "Moms more powerful allocate capital to goods and services which vary their importance from their husbands and which is reflected in the interview."

Smith and Haddad (2000) emphasised four main determinants of child malnutrition in a cross-country study of 1970-1995 periods: health care, the schooling of women, the relative status of women (measured by the ratio of female to male life expectancy at birth) and per capita availability of food.

The mortality rate for people on the lower side is two to three times higher than at the top of social hierarchy, according to Wilkinson (2000). Wilkinson added that in some countries such variations can be greater than in others, but are seen everywhere data is available and where individuals are categorised by schooling, salary, work or livelihood.

For eg, Duflo (2003) analysed the effects of the extension of South African social pension systems in favour of the black popularity. She concluded that girls' pensions had a greater effect on anthropometric factors (weight for height and height for age), but had a small impact on the girls. She noticed that the effect on the pensions earned by men has not been observed.

The fact that major former building of schools in Indonesia in the 70s was used by Breierova and Duflo (2004) to examine school disparities only based on their area and dates of birth between husbands and women. These authors then suggested that, provided the overall household education level, where women are better educated, children are decreased, but not generally a lower infant mortality.

Malnutrition continues to be one of the key determinants of disease. In over 50 percent of child mortality, malnutrition, either serious or otherwise, is estimated to lead to the death risk (Prudhon et al., 2006). Malnutrition "is the world's most significant risk factor in disease and death with hundreds of millions of women in the embryos and young children being especially affected." Müller's and Krawinkel's (2005) also argued that "malnutrition is the most important risk factor in disease and death, with hundreds of millions of women pregnant and young children being particularly affected."

One of the strongest attributes of global growth is that lifespans are long, child mortality is decreased, and diseases decrease during life in higher-income countries (Deaton 2013).

Protein-energy malnutrition is present in children where an infant suffers from the poor weight (weight drop below two standard age variables) stunting (height dropped below 2 standard differences below the average age height) and/or waste (weight drop below two standard height differences). in children is the malnutrition of the protein and energy. While waste is a sign of recently lost weight, stunts are a result of a persistent lack of value. Therefore, these anthropometric moves suggest malnutrition.

While education is a part of equality for women, it requires other facets. The size of a woman's decision making within the family, absence of aggression by a woman and her attitude to this sort of violence and the amount of material wealth that her home receives and the size of knowledge for women are other characteristics of women's empowerment.

In Taiwan, a nation in which compulsory junior high school education is being increasingly adopted in various areas, Chou et al. (2010) used the same methodology to analyse the unique compact of father and mother's health education. They concluded that father and mother schooling had a positive influence on the survival of infants, but that there was no distinctive effect among the sexes.

However, the influence of exogenous changes on the health of children is not easy to discern from the effect of individual decisions, particularly because it is not so common to perform such a distinction in natural experiments. In the absence of such experiments, the role of education for women and empowerment in children's health has to be examined carefully, and if the linkage of this sort is found, only a correlation and not a causal connexion can be talked about.

Duflo (2012) explored very closely the relationship between female empowerment and family effects, including child welfare. With respect to children's welfare, Duflo (2012) points to the fact that this disparity has more to do with schooling for mothers than with that for the father. First, the educational position of females is likely to be attributed to "unobserved facets of their talents, their families or the context of the culture," in such a way that the association

between women's and children's health does not constitute a causal connexion if the causes have a clear effect on their health. Moreover, as Duflo (2012) pointed out, one can never ignore that a link is likely to occur between the education of the women and the overlooked features of their husbands when measuring the coefficient of husbands' and wives' education. Initially trained women will "wed men who care about their children more" (Duflo, 2012). Secondly, if a husband has "gone so far that his wife is able to find jobs, the husband might be best off with this same radical approach" (Duflo, 2012).

Therefore researchers need to leverage the conditions "where the allocation of power, education or benefits of women and men has shifted for reasons that have little to do with their particular decisions" in order to explore the connexion between women's education, and more broadly their power and children's health" (Duflo 2012).

The effects of women's bargaining power on child nutritional status have been investigated by Lépine and Strobl (2013) using rural Senegal evidence. They concluded that while typical lowest square (OLS) indicates that if a mother has more negotiated ability, her children would have a better nutritional position, their Instrumental Variables imply that if endogenous negotiation force is not taken into consideration, the true effect is undervalued.

Scantlan and Previdelli (2013) did not find that the correlation between the empowerment of women and childhood malnutrition is causal through their study of women's empowerment and childhood malnutrition in Timor-Leste. The two empowerment steps, attitudes to violence and perceptions of violence showed a positive connexion, although the strength of the correlation was very weak. Alderman and Headey (2014) find that mother education produces higher income than parental education in a survey of 19 countries, while favourable returns for both genders typically occur only with secondary education. Malapit and Quisumbing (2014) explored the aspects and consequences of women's empowerment in agriculture in Ghana. With the Women's Empowerment in the Index for Agriculture, it was concluded that the empowerment of women is more closely linked and only weakly correlated with child feeding activities in infants and young children. Ziaei et al. (2014) explored, using the 2007 Bangladesh Population and Health Survey, the association between women's vulnerability to intimate partner abuse and child nutrition status. They concluded that if women undergo physical close relationship abuse for life, women were more likely to have a stunted child. Cunningham et al. (2015) made a comparison between the three fields of empowerment: resource and autonomy management, workload and time, and social support using South Asian women's empowerment surveys and child nutrition status. These scholars argued that the advancement of women is typically related to anthropometry in girls. Yimer and Tadesse (2015) assume that the dietary diversity of mothers and children will depend on both the condition of the family and the status of women. Their point is that women's access to and ownership of wealth defines primarily the form of care they have for their children and the rest of the family. They concluded that a strong link existed between women's empowerment indices and greater dietary diversity for both women and children using Ethiopian household survey data from 2013. The Bangladesh Integrated Household Survey 2012 analyses Malapit et al. 2015 and offers objective data on the link between men's empowerment differences Women and children's wellbeing in the same household. The relative empowerment was measured with the Agricultural Index (see Alkire et al. 2013) for women's empowerment. They concluded that an increase in the decision-making of women on credit and assets was linked to changes in nutrition for girls while an increase in the happiness of women in life and in community involvement was related to improving child nutrition.

Zereyesus et al. (2017) analysed the relationship between the Agriculture Index of Women's Empowerment (see, Alkire et al., 2012) and child welfare in northern Ghana measurements by z ratings of height for age and weight for height. With the MIMIC methodology, they concluded that the composite empowerment score that tests the empowerment of women in agriculture, and its decomposed components were not statistically significant in connexion with the wellbeing of latent girls. However, there was a statistically significant correlation between the welfare of children and factors like mother's training, infant age and place of residence.

Influenced by household experiences is the survival of children regardless of exceeding their right dietary status. In certain facets of the lives of the people, empowerment plays a significant role[1,2]. Chipili et al. [3] suggest in this respect that women's liberation is closely related to positive child nutrition. In early adulthood, the effects of starvation are constant. The outcomes would be a lifelong behavioural and physical growth issue, whether malnutrition happens before a child turns 2 years old or during the pregnancy. Woman Empowerment (WE), in particular for children under age, is an important predictor for deciding the status of a child in the field of nutrition (CN). Women's liberation is also instrumentally crucial to the wellbeing of men, women, children and growth. The two significant MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) which are expected to be reached by 2015 under the development strategies of the United Nations (UNDP), but the outcomes have not been satisfactory[2], have been the empowerment of women. The empowerment of women is intangible and latent and is articulated in many ways, including by mobility, the power to take a decision, control and command of households.

The malnutrition issue has become a multidimensional problem causing disadvantage to children for many reasons. A study in Bangladesh and India finds that mother has a significant effect on the reduction of child stunts while well-enhanced and educated. A survey of the survey indicates that WE have a good relationship with income generation behaviour and child nutrition status[6]

The goal of this study, however, was to assess the relationship between the empowerment of women and the nutritional status of children in Pakistan for children younger than 5 years. The key carers of children in the family are mothers, their internal complexities influence the psychological wellbeing of the child, and women's empowerment is a way to boost children's nutrition status, resulting in significant developmental outcomes. To evaluate the effect of women's empowerment on child malnutrition, data from the Pakistan Demographic Health Survey (PDHS 2012–13) [8] have been utilised to estimate the value of the analysis by calculating the composite index of anthropometric fault (CIAF).

Researchers explored several factors that influence the link between child malnutrition and the empowerment of women. The welfare of children has been in favour of mother's education, the age of the mother, wages, family size, access to clean drinking water, place of residence; as well as a negative relation between father education, property possession, child age and children's sex in Ghana[9].

Malapit et al.[10] analysed essential ties in Nepal's rural semi-subsistence households between CN and Internet, manufacturing diversity, individual characteristics and household characteristics. "WE" has minimised the detrimental effect on children's and maternal diets of low productivity variation. Similarly, there was a close correlation between child feeding findings and empowerment by women, childcare, home sales, household buys, family visits and husband benefits in two developed countries[4]. The 2011 study of the data from Ethiopian demographic and health surveys have estimated significant correlations of the socio-economic status and WE with children's nutrition in Ethiopia [11]. There has been a positive association between women's empowerment and schooling, excess economic wealth and women in the family, and a negative correlation in a selected rural community in Nigeria between contingent heterogeneity and decisionmaking autonomy[4]. The relationship between WE and child stunting in East Bangladesh and India is examined in Siddhanta and Chattopadhyay[7]. The schooling of mothers and their decisionmaking power — indicators of the advancement of women — has demonstrated a significant, detrimental link to child stunting.

A related analysis showed that the findings of WE and CN in Nigeria and India are significant[12]. A PDHS analysis[8] found that schooling for mothers played a positive role in reducing malnutrition among children in Malawi, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe[13].

The analyses in the previous study nevertheless find that the empowerment of women has a significant impact on child malnutrition. There are very few studies of CIAF's malnutrition research that underline the relevance of the present report.

In the 2013 Pakistan Population and Health Report, this analysis researched et quantified the relationship between females' empowerment and infant nutrition. In the background of Pakistan, it is a first attempt to model the composite moments as a determinant of child malnutrition. The findings demonstrated a strong and important effect on children's dietary condition (e.g., lower malnutrition) on the indices of female empowerment such as mothers' schooling, job status and decision making on family visits by women. Besides, the higher status of household income had a significant negative impact on CIAF. Household size was linked favourably to CIAF, and this suggests an improvement in household size in children's malnutrition[18]. Future health impact, company productive capability, and socio-economic growth in Peshawar have been affected by malnutrition[18,19].

Economic restrictions in Pakistan affect the nutritional status of the infant by reducing the cost of fuel for children by following insufficient food preparation methods that affect their child's nutritional status[20]. The significant predictor for determining infant nutritional status is maternal schooling. Inversely, hunger is connected to the education of the mother [18]. Further research in Pakistan has shown that maternal analphabetism is closely linked to malnutrition in infants[20,21]. To minimise malnutrition, maternal education above primary level is needed[13].

Another significant maternal aspect to determine malnutrition is the mother's job status. When the mother is still an income owner, she helps boost household sales, thereby increasing the chances to get sufficiently high-quality food[22]. The mother is also the income owner. In the short term, the mother's dedication to an unqualified role has a favourable impact on child health[23]. Increases in job prospects for adult women improve girls' relative chances of survival[24]. The education and the income of women are closely linked to child hunger in relation to household decisions of women[25]. Consequently, decision-makers in this sample, which is consistent with the Bhagowalia et al. Sample, had little to no connexion with infant malnutrition[26].

The findings for children showed that older children are more likely than younger children to suffer from malnutrition. Most research in the sense of Pakistan has shown that age is positively related to children's malnutrition, according to Raju and D'Souza [28]. As regards the impact of gender on a diet, the negative sign of girls shows a lower risk of malnutrition among women. However, in the other developed countries where boys are inherently poorer than girls, this pattern is consistent with definitive conclusions[28]. The positive coefficient correlated with vector education of the mother and the strong marginal impact of this vector on children's malnutrition was a significant policy result in that study. These results confirm previous research by Alderman and Garcia[29] as well as Headey et al.[30] of the effect of the empowerment of women on health facilities on nutritional status.

Findings

This study reviewed the assessing of the health and nutritional impact of WE in infants. Since women are considered the principal caregivers of children in the household and their internal dynamics affect the wellbeing of individuals, empowering females is a means of improving the nutritional status of children which influences significant developmental outcomes. Results found that female empowerment metrics such as mother and mother's education had a detrimental effect on infant malnutrition (i.e., reduced malnutrition outcomes). In the other hand, women did not have a significant effect on child feeding in their decisionmaking on family visits, an indication of women's empowerment. Similarly, a decline in infant hunger was also triggered by the socio-economic situation (wealth index). Housing development has had a profound effect on the promotion of infant malnutrition.

While the findings based on regression analyses are widely consistent with what other hunger studies have historically recorded, there is one crucial finding: equality for women had an advantage over the nutritional status of children and households. Its marginal impact was higher than estimated for other determinants on the reduction of infant malnutrition.

Participation of women in income-generating practises leads to the development of households' economic and social status and also to improved children's nutrition and reducing sex discrimination. Government and NGOs should therefore create a formal and informal income generation sector for rural and urban slum women.

For a healthy child, mother education is essential. To increase awareness of women's education, unique strategies and services should be organised in rural and urban areas. In the fields of hygiene, nutrition action, schooling and job-generating initiatives, policymakers can also vigorously promote projects both at the state and national level in both rural and urban sectors.

REFERENCES

1. Qing, M.; Asif, M.; Hussain, A.; Jameel, A. Exploring the impact of ethical leadership on job satisfaction and organisational commitment in public sector organisations: The mediating role of psychological empowerment. *Rev. Manag. Sci.* 2019, 1–28.
2. Asif, M.; Jameel, A.; Hussain, A.; Hwang, J.; Sahito, N. Linking Transformational Leadership with Nurse-Assessed Adverse Patient Outcomes and the Quality of Care: Assessing the Role of Job Satisfaction and Structural Empowerment. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health*, 2019, 16, 2381.
3. Chipili, G.; Msuya, J.; Pacific, R.; Majili, S. Women Empowerment and the Nutrition Status of Children Aged Between 6-59 Months. *J. Nutr. Health Sci.* 2018, 5, 208.
4. Mohieldin, A. The impact of feeding practices on the prevalence of undernutrition among 6-59 months aged children in Khartoum. Sudan. *J. Public Health*, 2010, 5, 151–157.
5. Folaranmi, O.O. Women empowerment as a determinant of investments in children in selected rural communities in Nigeria. *Afr. Res. Rev.* 2013, 7, 138–161.
6. Irena, A.H.; Mwambazi, M.; Mulenga, V. Diarrhea is a major killer of children with severe acute malnutrition admitted to inpatient set-up in Lusaka, Zambia. *Nutr. J.* 2011, 10, 110.
7. Siddhanta, A.; Chattopadhyay, A. Role of Women's Empowerment in Determining Child Stunting in Eastern India and Bangladesh. *Soc. Sci. Spectr.* 2017, 3, 38–51.
8. Demographic, P. Health Survey, 2012–13. Islamabad and Calverton; National Institute of Population Studies: Islamabad, Pakistan; ICF International: Cambridge, MA, USA, 2013.
9. Zereyesus, Y.A.; Amanor-Boadu, V.; Ross, K.L.; Shanoyan, A. Does Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Matter for Children's Health Status? Insights from Northern Ghana. *Soc. Indic. Res.* 2017, 132, 1265–1280.

10. Malapit, H.J.; Kadiyala, S.; Quisumbing, A.; Cunningham, K.; Tyagi, P. Women's Empowerment in Agriculture, Production Diversity, and Nutrition: Evidence from Nepal. 2013.
11. Ebot, J.O. "Girl Power!": The Relationship between Women's Autonomy and Children's Immunisation Coverage in Ethiopia. *J. Health Popul. Nutr.* 2015, 33, 18.
12. Ibrahim, A.; Tripathi, S.; Kumar, A. The effect of women's empowerment on child health status: Study on two developing nations. *Int. J. Sci. Res. Publ.* 2015, 5, 1–8.
13. Makoka, D. The Impact of Maternal Education on Child Nutrition: Evidence from Malawi, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe; ICF International: Calverton, MD, USA, 2013.
14. Bose, K.; Mandal, G.C. Proposed new anthropometric indices of childhood undernutrition. *Malays. J. Nutr.* 2010, 16, 131–136.
15. Fazili, A.; Mir, A.A.; Pandit, B.; Bhat, I.A.; Rohul, J.; Shamila, H. Nutritional status of school age children (5-14 years) in a rural health block of North India (Kashmir) using WHO Z-score system. *Online J. Health Allied Sci.* 2012, 11, 1–3.
16. Gujarati, D.N. Basic Econometrics; Tata McGraw-Hill Education: New York, NY, USA, 2009.
17. Babatunde, R.O.; Olagunju, F.I.; Fakayode, S.B.; Sola-Ojo, F.E. Prevalence and determinants of malnutrition among under-five children of farming households in Kwara State, Nigeria. *J. Agric. Sci.* 2011, 3, 173.
18. Gul, R.; Kibria, Z. Prevalence and predeterminants of malnutrition in children under 3 years of age in the two rural communities of Peshawar. *Khyber Med. Univ. J.* 2013, 5, 190–194.
19. Babar, N.F.; Muza ar, R.; Khan, M.A.; Imdad, S. Impact of socioeconomic factors on nutritional status in primary school children. *J. Ayub, Med. Coll. Abbottabad* 2010, 22, 15–18.
20. Hirani, S.A.A. Malnutrition in young Pakistani children. *J. Ayub Med. Coll.* 2012, 24, 150–153.
21. Ali, S.S.; Karim, N.; Billoo, A.G.; Haider, S.S. Association of literacy of mothers with malnutrition among children under three years of age in a rural area of district Malir, Karachi. *Children* 2005, 9, 10.
22. Nair, M.; Ohuma, E.; Ariana, P.; Webster, P.; Gray, R. Effect of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act on malnutrition of children aged between 1 and 12 months in Rajasthan, India: A mixed methods study. *Lancet* 2012, 380, 59. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* 2019, 16, 4499 9 of 9
23. Mohammed, S.B. Explaining Child Malnutrition in Ethiopia: The Role of Socioeconomic Status and Maternal Health on Nutritional Condition of Children: A Research Paper; International Institute of Social Studies: Kortenaerkade, The Netherlands, 2013.
24. Rosenzweig, M.R.; Schultz, T.P. Market opportunities, genetic endowments, and intrafamily resource distribution: Child survival in rural India. *Am. Econ. Rev.* 1982, 72, 803–815.
25. Jamal, H. Mother's Empowerment and Child Malnutrition: Evidence from Pakistan; Munich Personal RePEc Archive: Munich, Germany, 2018;
26. Bhagowalia, P.; Menon, P.; Quisumbing, A.R.; Soundararajan, V. What Dimensions of Women's empowerment Matter Most for Child Nutrition? Evidence Using Nationally Representative Data from Bangladesh. 2015.
27. Raju, D.; D'Souza, R. Child Undernutrition in Pakistan: What do We Know? The World Bank: Washington, DC, USA, 2017.
28. Achadi, E.; Ahuja, A.; Bendech, M.A.; Bhutta, Z.A.; De-Regil, L.M.; Fanzo, J.; Fracassi, P.; Grummer-Strawn, L.M.; Haddad, L.J.; Hawkes, C. Global Nutrition Report 2016: From Promise to Impact: Ending malnutrition by 2030; International Food Policy Research Institute: Washington DC, USA, 2016.
29. Alderman, H.; Garcia, M. Food security and health security: Explaining the levels of nutritional status in Pakistan. *Econ. Dev. Cult. Chang.* 1994, 42, 485–507.
30. Headey, D.; Hoddinott, J.; Park, S. Drivers of nutritional change in four South Asian countries: A dynamic observational analysis. *Matern. Child Nutr.* 2016, 12, 210–218.