Feeding Patterns and Diarrhea Incidence Among Children in Bangladesh: A Study Using Data from Demographic and Health Survey, 2014

Authors: Iqbal Ahmed Chowdhury

Abstract: Diarrhea is considered to be one of the influential factors of child death in Bangladesh. While it is known that diarrhea is a water-driven disease, due to the lack of studies, little is known about the extent to which various feeding patterns contribute to such an incidence. Our paper intends to fill this gap by looking into different feeding patterns and their influence on diarrhea incidence among children in Bangladesh. Using data collected for the Demographic and Health Survey, 2014, this paper reveals that feeding patterns can influence the diarrhea incidence among this group of children to a great extent. This paper finds that the incidence of diarrhea is likely to elevate if diarrhea-affected children are fed plain water from any source and any kind of juice. However, breastfeeding, feeding soup or clear broth, prescribed baby food, and clean water from a tube well tend to help fight diarrhea incidence among children in Bangladesh. The results are found to be consistent even after controlling for sociodemographic variables, including age and sex of children, age and education qualification of the parent, and the number of children in the family. The results of this study could contribute to treating diarrhea among children in Bangladesh as well as similar other countries in the world.

Keywords: feeding patterns, diarrhea, Bangladesh, children

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