Socio-cultural Determinants of Child Health and Malnutrition in District Rajanpur: A Case Study of Flood Affected Villages: Nexus among Poverty, Gender Inequities and Cultural Practices by Farooq Ahmad

Under five children malnutrition is a socio-biological problem which apparently results from medical causes: infections or low intake of food. But there are socio-cultural causes (underlying or basic causes) behind the very medical cause (immediate cause) which construct health inequities for the people of lower socio-economic status and vulnerable groups. The objective of this study was to evaluate malnutrition relationship with poverty, gender inequity and cultural practices and beliefs. Least developed and remote flood affected areas adjacent with Suleiman Mountains was sampled through two stages Cluster sampling. Households were selected by simple random sampling for socio-economic and anthropometric Survey. Also qualitative analysis was done by discussions and observation. Results found variance in child malnutrition with income, education, prevention and cultural practices. Therefore female illiteracy, poor feeding and hygiene practices, gender division of labour, maternal malnutrition, less psychosocial care were integrated underlying socio-cultural determinants along poor human development situation caused by “Rodkohi” (flash flood) from Western range of Suleiman Mountains.

Keywords: Child Malnutrition, Gender Inequities, Human Development, Health Equity, Immediate and Underlying Causes, Social Determinants of Health, Socio-cultural Practices