DECOMPOSING THE SOCIOECONOMIC INEQUALITIES IN CHILD MORTALITY IN PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

Socioeconomic inequalities in health are not a recent phenomenon; it is discovered in 19th century, however, due to lack of information essential steps were not taken at that time. This study aims to examine the Childhood mortality inequality and to decompose the concentration index of child mortality in Pakistan. The data for this study is drawn from the Pakistan Demographic Health Survey (PDHS) of 2012-13. The sample size for this study (children under five) is 11763 children born to eligible 13557 women aged 15-49 years. The analysis includes all the children born five years preceding the survey. Concentration curve and concentration index are used for the measure of child mortality inequality and decomposed it into its determinants. The major contributions to inequality in child mortality were due to household economic status and mother’s education. Risky birth interval, mothers working status, birth order of child, and hygienic status of toilet also residency in rural area, proved important contributors to the measured inequality. Economic status and parental education level are found to be an important factors in childhood mortality inequality, it should be kept in a priority target for reduction of childhood mortality in future policy action.