

Conference paper

EFFECTS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES IN ACCESS TO BASIC DRINKING WATER ON CHILD MORTALITY: A Multivariate Fixed-effects Panel Approach

Evidence from low-and-middle-income countries (2000-2017)

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Abstract: Human health is one of the major concerns in world development and priority is looking at the most vulnerable groups. It is known that diarrhea is the second leading cause of age under 5 mortality worldwide. Although the child mortality age under 5 has been widely studied, the death caused by diarrhea is understudied in relation to water access inequality, particularly in the scope defined in my study. Therefore, the paper aims to empirically assess the likely effect of socioeconomic inequalities in access to (at least basic) drinking water services on child mortality age under 5 caused by diarrhea among the population in low-middle income countries (LMIC) during the period between 2000 and 2017. To this end, building on the relevant literature, the *multivariate fixed-effects panel regression approach* was employed alongside utilizing nationally representative, cross-country datasets collected and combined from the JMP, GHDx, World Development Indicators datasets covering across 50 countries. To allow analysis, the key explanatory variable of interest, so-called ‘*inequalities in access to basic drinking water indicator (CI-WAT)*’, was estimated by applying the *Concentration Index* method borrowed from health inequality research. Findings revealed that there is a strong positive relationship between child diarrhea death and water access inequality.

Key words: *Water access, socioeconomic inequalities, child mortality, U5MR, diarrhea, panel approach*

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