

Factors associated with different form of malnutrition and their co-existence among 6-59 months old children in Bangladesh

Findings from a Nationwide Cross-Sectional Survey

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RATIONALE & OBJECTIVE

Despite progress, child malnutrition in Bangladesh persists, posing both short- and long-term health risks. The situation worsens when multiple forms of malnutrition coexist.

Objective: To explore the prevalence and factors associated with both single and multiple concurrent forms of malnutrition among children aged 6-59 months in Bangladesh.

METHODS

Study design: National Food Security and Nutrition Surveillance 2018-2019 round, a nationwide cross-sectional study.

Participants: 4,625 children of 6-59 months (6-23 months: 1,589; 24-59 months: 3,036).

Outcome measures: Single and multiple concurrent forms of malnutrition (at least 2 forms of malnutrition) ¹.

Explanatory variables: Based on the literature review and data availability, variables with a p-value ≤ 0.2 in the unadjusted analysis included in the adjusted analysis ².

Data analysis: Stata (v17.0) software was used. Multivariable logistic regression was performed to estimate the unadjusted and adjusted odds ratios (OR).

RESULTS

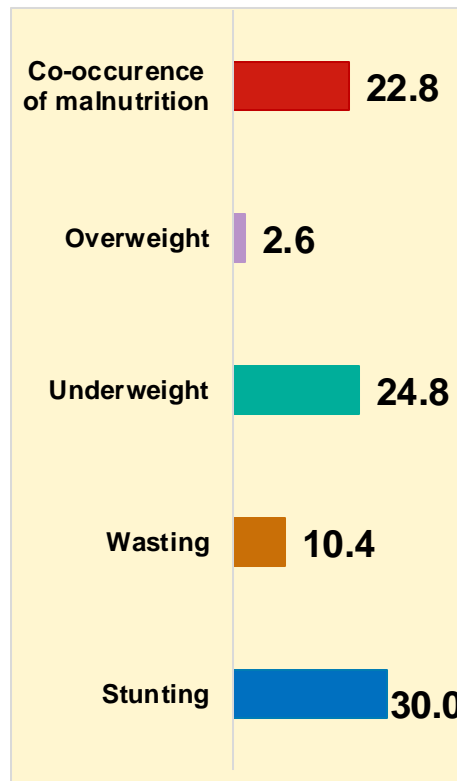


Figure 1: Prevalence of malnutrition among 6-59 months children

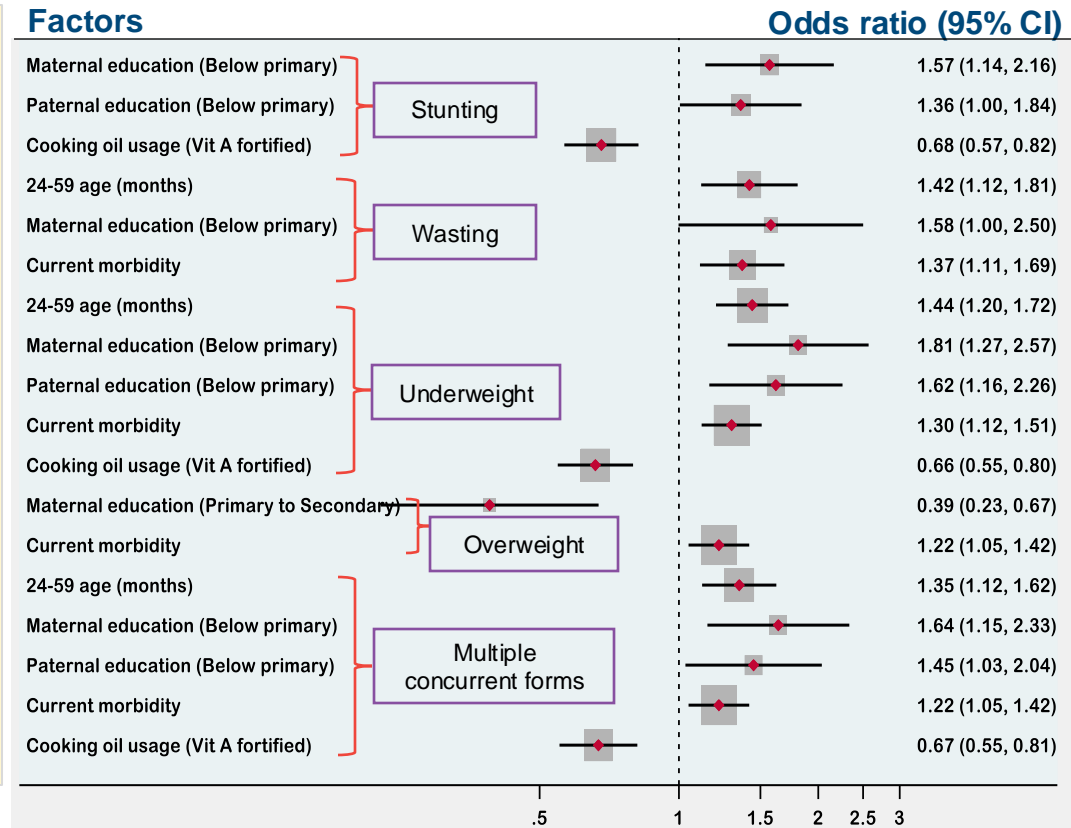


Figure 2: Forest plot of factors associated with malnutrition

IMPLICATIONS

- ❑ Different forms of child malnutrition often co-exist, requiring a multifaceted approach.
- ❑ Associated factors should be prioritized during program design and implementation.

References:

- ¹Chowdhury, M. R. K., Rahman, M. S., Billah, B., Kabir, R., Perera, N. K. P., & Kader, M. (2022). The prevalence and socio-demographic risk factors of coexistence of stunting, wasting, and underweight among children under five years in Bangladesh: a cross-sectional study. *BMC Nutrition*, 8(1), 84.
- ² Maldonado G, Greenland S. (1993). Simulation study of confounder selection strategies. *Am J Epidemiol*;138:923-36