

Assessing impact of women health on poverty based on evidence from Nepal

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Abstract

Using the Nepal Living Standard Survey (NLSS) data for the year 2010, this paper attempts to investigate and analyze the factors determining poverty and female chronic illness, hypothesizing that interconnections exist between the two. Along with descriptive analysis, a simultaneous equation model using logit regression for binary dependent variable and Poisson regression analysis for the count data dependent variable has been estimated. The results at first sight are counter-intuitive because poor health and better levels of living are seen to go hand in hand. A deeper analysis shows that households relying on use of firewood for cooking and fuel in an attempt to reduce their fuel expenditure and maximize the food expenditure, expose themselves to higher health risks. The study urges that appropriate programs may be developed uplift the living standards and health outcomes of those at the lower echelons.

Keywords: Health, poverty, female, employment, Nepal
