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Emerging Social Issues Division

Social Policy and Population Section

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Article **Impacts of Bio-social Factors on Morbidity among Children Aged Under-5 in Bangladesh (Demographers' Notebook)**

Author *Md. Israt Rayhan, M. Sekander Hayat Khan and Md. Shahidullah*

Abstract The prevalence of diseases among children aged under-5 is regarded as one of the most important indicators of social health hazards. This study investigates the impact of some demographic, socio-economic, environmental and health-related factors on morbidity among children aged under-5 in Bangladesh, using data from the 1999-2000 Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS, 1999-2000). The study considers the three most common diseases/conditions affecting children in this age group: (a) acute respiratory infection (ARI); (b) diarrhoea; and (c) fever. Bi-variate and multi-variate analysis were performed to identify the determinants of children aged under-5 morbidity. The analysis revealed that 18.5 per cent of the children had had acute respiratory infection, 6 per cent had experienced diarrhoea and that 27 per cent had had a fever at some point in the two weeks preceding the survey. Types of housing, age of child, vaccinations coverage and mother's education were found to be significantly associated with the prevalence of under-5 morbidity.

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