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**Socio-Economic and Structural Determinants of Malnutrition in Under Five Children in Pakistan: A Cross-Sectional Study on PDHS 2017-2018 Data**

Ameen.T.<sup>1</sup> (Masters student)

**Scientific Supervisor: PhD. Technical Sciences Bespalov A.<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>ITMO University  
[talhaameen1997@gmail.com](mailto:talhaameen1997@gmail.com)

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**Abstract:**

Child malnutrition is the major public health problem in Pakistan, and both household and structural factors are equal culprit for it. Although both of these factors are responsible for poor child nutrition, their independent effects as well as the effect of clustering of access barriers are still not fully understood. This research was focused on finding their separate and combined effects on child malnutrition as well as effect of clustering of access barriers on child malnutrition.

**Keywords:** Child Malnutrition, Socio-economic determinants, Healthcare access barriers, Household wealth inequality.

**Социально-экономические и структурные детерминанты недоедания среди детей до пяти лет в Пакистане: кросс-секционное исследование на основе данных PDHS 2017–2018 г.**

Амин Т.<sup>1</sup> (магистрант)

**Научный руководитель: к.т.н. Беспалов А.<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Университет ИТМО  
[talhaameen1997@gmail.com](mailto:talhaameen1997@gmail.com)

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**Аннотация:**

Недоедание среди детей является одной из основных проблем общественного здравоохранения в Пакистане, при этом как домохозяйственные, так и структурные факторы в равной степени способствуют её распространению. Несмотря на то, что обе группы факторов влияют на состояние питания детей, их независимые эффекты, а также влияние кластеризации барьеров доступа к медицинской помощи до настоящего времени изучены недостаточно. Настоящее исследование направлено на выявление отдельных и совокупных эффектов этих факторов, а также влияния кластеризации барьеров доступа на распространённость детского недоедания.

**Ключевые слова:** детское недоедание, социально-экономические детерминанты, барьеры доступа к медицинской помощи, неравенство благосостояния домохозяйств.

PDHS 2017-2018 dataset was used in this research [1,2], and children from 0–59-month age was included. To find out the separate and combine effect of household and structural factors three model Logistic regression was used. To find out the effect of clustering of access barriers on child malnutrition different complimentary tests were performed such as Cronbach-alpha, Polychoric correlation etc. Results of this study tells that the major predictor of child malnutrition in Pakistan is wealth. Structural factors showed some association with malnutrition, but it is weak as compared to wealth. As far as clustering of access barrier is concerned, access barriers are more common in poor wealth household groups but more structured in richest wealth household groups.

The conclusion of the study is that the Pakistan government will not only focus on economic status of the people but also try overcoming the compounding effects of access barrier in order to reduce child malnutrition and to achieve their SDGs goals.

## References

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