

The Relationship between Health, Wealth, and Caste in India: A Non-Linear Investigation
by
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Abstract

This study examines the effect of wealth on health in India using data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) conducted during 2005-2006. Findings from a non-linear analysis observe a dual problem in India; the population suffers from both malnutrition and obesity. This approach results in an inverted u-shaped regression line which implies that health improves with wealth up until a certain point after which health starts to worsen. The effect of caste on wealth is also studied. Caste is found to be a significant predictor of health outcomes in some, but not all, specifications considered.