DETERMINANTS OF WOMEN MALNUTRITION IN ORISSA: EVIDENCE FROM NFHS-III DATA.

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Malnutrition is created by human being itself. It starts from birth and ends with death. It is a disease of human societies. Malnutrition, 'the silent killer', creates widespread distress, especially in developing countries like India. Malnutrition is caused by different factors-physiological, personal, social, cultural, economical and political at a specific time for a given individual. Food shortage may be a leading cause of malnutrition in over-populated regions.

The population of Orissa mainly depends on agriculture and around half of them are living below poverty level. Malnutrition in Orissa varies widely across region, age, gender, social groups; and several socio-economic factors and cultural practices determine the malnutrition status.

The major objectives of the present study are,
- To assess the levels of malnutrition among women in Orissa.
- To study the associated influence of malnutrition among women in Orissa.

For the present study, data provided by the National Family Health Survey III, which was conducted during 2005-06 has been used. From the present study it has been concluded that majority of women were undernourished in the age group 15-19. Higher percent of undernourished women were from the rural areas. Majority of malnourished women had two to three children. Most of the malnourished women were illiterate. Majority of the malnourished women were working women. Majority of malnourished women were from the lower economic back ground. From the current study it has been found that women under age or lower age group had suffered more from anemia. Similarly majority rural women were the worst sufferer. Most of the illiterate women were affected by anemia. Working women were more anemic. SC/ST and other backward class women were the worst suffer. Women with higher income group had fewer anemias.