

Supplementary Material

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Table S1. Sample representation from NFHS-3 – NFHS-5 for children under five years

	NFHS-3 (2005-2006) children under five years (% of total sample)	NFHS-4 (2015-2016) children under five years (% of total sample)	NFHS-5 (2019-2021) children under five years (% of total sample)
Total Pre-analytical Data (513, 855)	48, 084 (9.36%)	244, 508 (47.58%)	221, 263 (43.06%)
	Sample of NFHS round (%)	Sample of NFHS round (%)	Sample of NFHS round (%)
Dependent Variable - Stunting			
Non-flagged observations	41, 306 (85.90%)	225, 002 (92.02%)	206, 025 (93.11%)
Flagged observations	6,778 (14.10%)	19,506 (7.98%)	15,238 (6.89%)
Missing observations	---	---	---
Flags and Missing value contributions	6,778 (14.10%)	19,506 (7.98%)	15,238 (6.89%)
Predictors – Used as controls in the regressions and decomposition analyses			
Marginalised Social Group			
Flagged observations	2,093 (4.35%)	10,767 (4.40%)	11,041 (4.99%)
Missing observations	---	---	---
Total (23,901, 4.65%)			
ICDS Utilisation in the last 12 Months			
Flagged observations	121 (0.25%)	---	---
Missing observations	---	---	---
Total (121, 0.02%)			
Private Institutional Delivery			
Flagged observations	18 (0.04%)	---	---
Missing observations	---	---	---
Total (18, 0.00%)			
Mother's Media Exposure			
Flagged observations	38 (0.08%)	---	---
Missing observations	---	---	---
Total (38, 0.01%)			
Mother's Height			
Flagged observations	1,990 (4.14%)	2,831 (1.16%)	5,543 (2.51%)

Missing observations	---	---	---
Total (10,364, 2.02%)	---	---	---
Mother's Balanced Diet			
Flagged observations	---	---	---
Missing observations	103 (0.21%)	---	---
Total (103, 0.02%)			
Mother's Age at First Birth			
Flagged observations	3 (0.01%)	231 (0.09%)	33 (0.01%)
Missing observations	---	---	---
Total (267, 0.05%)			
No Toilet Facility in the Household			
Flagged observations	55 (0.11%)	---	1 (0.00%)
Missing observations	---	---	---
Total (56, 0.01%)			
Safe Water Facility			
Flagged observations	4 (0.01%)	---	---
Missing observations	---	---	---
Total (4, 0.00%)			
Final analytic sample after removing flags associated with the stunting (471, 333)	41, 306	225, 002	206, 025
Final analytic sample after removing flags and missing values associated with stunting (dependent variable) and all the predictor variables used in the analysis (443, 039)	38, 996 (81%)	211, 729 (86.6%)	192, 314 (86.9%)
Total flags and missing value contributions for dependent variable and independent variables considered	9,088 (19%)	32, 779 (13.4%)	28, 949 (13.1%)

Table S.2. Results for the logistic regression analysis with all the included covariates

	NFHS-3 (2005-2006)		NFHS-4 (2015-2016)		NFHS-5 (2019-2021)	
	Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR) [95% CI]	P-values	Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR) [95% CI]	P-values	Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR) [95% CI]	P-values
Wealth Quintile						
Poorest	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Poorer	0.775 [0.710,0.846]	(<0.0001)	0.905 [0.872,0.939]	(<0.0001)	0.924 [0.884,0.964]	(0.0003)
Middle	0.675 [0.598,0.762]	(<0.0001)	0.803 [0.765,0.844]	(<0.0001)	0.834 [0.794,0.876]	(<0.0001)
Richer	0.497 [0.420,0.589]	(<0.0001)	0.701 [0.652,0.753]	(<0.0001)	0.706 [0.665,0.749]	(<0.0001)
Richest	0.363 [0.292,0.450]	(<0.0001)	0.619 [0.565,0.678]	(<0.0001)	0.636 [0.588,0.688]	(<0.0001)
Marginalised Social Group						
Unreserved category	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
SC	1.158 [1.048,1.279]	(0.0039)	1.207 [1.148,1.268]	(<0.0001)	1.210 [1.149,1.274]	(<0.0001)
ST	1.139 [1.002,1.296]	(0.0471)	1.155 [1.089,1.224]	(<0.0001)	1.191 [1.116,1.271]	(<0.0001)
OBC	1.061 [0.970,1.160]	(0.1963)	1.109 [1.063,1.156]	(<0.0001)	1.110 [1.058,1.165]	(<0.0001)
Religion						
Hindu	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Muslim	1.142 [1.025,1.273]	(0.0164)	1.154 [1.104,1.207]	(<0.0001)	1.166 [1.108,1.227]	(<0.0001)
Christian	1.285 [1.034,1.596]	(0.0237)	0.941 [0.837,1.058]	(0.3087)	0.960 [0.843,1.092]	(0.5318)
Other Religion	1.195 [0.989,1.443]	(0.0644)	1.064 [0.934,1.213]	(0.3506)	0.985 [0.878,1.106]	(0.8037)
Residence						
Rural	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Urban	1.179 [1.074,1.293]	(0.0005)	1.037 [0.992,1.084]	(0.1055)	1.015 [0.970,1.063]	(0.5151)

Maternal Education						
Illiterate	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Primary	0.868 [0.795,0.948]	(0.0016)	0.895 [0.857,0.934]	(<0.0001)	0.926 [0.883,0.972]	(0.0017)
Secondary	0.795 [0.730,0.867]	(<0.0001)	0.774 [0.746,0.804]	(<0.0001)	0.814 [0.782,0.848]	(<0.0001)
Higher	0.637 [0.530,0.767]	(<0.0001)	0.641 [0.596,0.688]	(<0.0001)	0.698 [0.657,0.743]	(<0.0001)
Sex of the Child						
Female	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Male	1.003 [0.949,1.060]	(0.9218)	1.069 [1.041,1.097]	(<0.0001)	1.080 [1.052,1.110]	(<0.0001)
Age of the Child (in months)						
0	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
1	1.595 [0.870,2.922]	(0.1310)	1.162 [0.851,1.585]	(0.3444)	0.911 [0.743,1.116]	(0.3669)
2	1.348 [0.747,2.432]	(0.3216)	1.458 [1.070,1.987]	(0.0169)	0.740 [0.610,0.897]	(0.0022)
3	1.168 [0.646,2.114]	(0.6068)	1.480 [1.094,2.002]	(0.0111)	0.628 [0.518,0.761]	(<0.0001)
4	1.262 [0.700,2.274]	(0.4391)	1.232 [0.909,1.669]	(0.1782)	0.599 [0.495,0.724]	(<0.0001)
5	1.394 [0.783,2.481]	(0.2589)	1.301 [0.959,1.766]	(0.0913)	0.653 [0.535,0.798]	(<0.0001)
6	1.603 [0.904,2.842]	(0.1063)	1.202 [0.886,1.631]	(0.2377)	0.599 [0.494,0.727]	(<0.0001)
7	2.026 [1.155,3.554]	(0.0138)	1.283 [0.949,1.733]	(0.1048)	0.703 [0.575,0.860]	(0.0006)
8	2.133 [1.218,3.738]	(0.0081)	1.441 [1.068,1.944]	(0.0169)	0.743 [0.611,0.903]	(0.0028)
9	2.240 [1.267,3.960]	(0.0055)	1.692 [1.258,2.275]	(0.0005)	0.719 [0.594,0.869]	(0.0007)

10	2.883 [1.613,5.154]	(0.0004)	1.830 [1.348,2.484]	(0.0001)	0.828 [0.678,1.012]	(0.0659)
11	3.676 [2.051,6.588]	(<0.0001)	2.211 [1.636,2.988]	(<0.0001)	0.914 [0.757,1.104]	(0.3510)
12	3.691 [2.082,6.543]	(<0.0001)	2.328 [1.726,3.140]	(<0.0001)	1.008 [0.837,1.213]	(0.9350)
13	5.102 [2.859,9.107]	(<0.0001)	2.991 [2.219,4.032]	(<0.0001)	1.140 [0.948,1.371]	(0.1626)
14	6.025 [3.382,10.732]	(<0.0001)	3.691 [2.772,4.914]	(<0.0001)	1.298 [1.080,1.559]	(0.0053)
15	6.371 [3.625,11.195]	(<0.0001)	3.854 [2.870,5.175]	(<0.0001)	1.530 [1.271,1.843]	(<0.0001)
16	6.448 [3.679,11.302]	(<0.0001)	4.302 [3.185,5.812]	(<0.0001)	1.592 [1.329,1.907]	(<0.0001)
17	6.504 [3.670,11.524]	(<0.0001)	4.402 [3.273,5.920]	(<0.0001)	1.780 [1.484,2.135]	(<0.0001)
18	9.029 [5.071,16.076]	(<0.0001)	4.882 [3.638,6.553]	(<0.0001)	1.705 [1.410,2.062]	(<0.0001)
19	7.690 [4.384,13.491]	(<0.0001)	4.751 [3.537,6.382]	(<0.0001)	2.089 [1.734,2.518]	(<0.0001)
20	9.230 [5.263,16.188]	(<0.0001)	5.183 [3.861,6.959]	(<0.0001)	1.910 [1.587,2.298]	(<0.0001)
21	12.352 [6.730,22.671]	(<0.0001)	5.503 [4.090,7.405]	(<0.0001)	1.734 [1.439,2.089]	(<0.0001)
22	11.608 [6.535,20.619]	(<0.0001)	6.361 [4.728,8.558]	(<0.0001)	1.938 [1.614,2.328]	(<0.0001)
23	8.406 [4.709,15.004]	(<0.0001)	5.762 [4.274,7.767]	(<0.0001)	1.890 [1.570,2.276]	(<0.0001)

24	10.027 [5.652,17.788]	(<0.0001)	4.709 [3.498,6.338]	(<0.0001)	1.403 [1.167,1.686]	(0.0003)
25	7.763 [4.428,13.611]	(<0.0001)	3.674 [2.738,4.931]	(<0.0001)	1.465 [1.222,1.757]	(<0.0001)
26	7.663 [4.331,13.560]	(<0.0001)	4.263 [3.167,5.739]	(<0.0001)	1.368 [1.140,1.642]	(0.0007)

27	7.980 [4.497,14.162]	(<0.0001)	3.924 [2.916,5.282]	(<0.0001)	1.364 [1.130,1.647]	(0.0012)
28	6.591 [3.750,11.585]	(<0.0001)	4.601 [3.426,6.179]	(<0.0001)	1.466 [1.225,1.756]	(<0.0001)
29	6.787 [3.872,11.894]	(<0.0001)	4.377 [3.245,5.904]	(<0.0001)	1.496 [1.248,1.792]	(<0.0001)
30	6.650 [3.817,11.588]	(<0.0001)	4.541 [3.331,6.191]	(<0.0001)	1.570 [1.308,1.885]	(<0.0001)
31	9.981 [5.626,17.705]	(<0.0001)	4.128 [3.075,5.543]	(<0.0001)	1.514 [1.256,1.825]	(<0.0001)
32	9.847 [5.566,17.420]	(<0.0001)	4.339 [3.226,5.837]	(<0.0001)	1.717 [1.422,2.072]	(<0.0001)
33	8.955 [5.053,15.868]	(<0.0001)	4.544 [3.381,6.109]	(<0.0001)	1.602 [1.332,1.927]	(<0.0001)
34	10.674 [6.045,18.849]	(<0.0001)	5.099 [3.793,6.856]	(<0.0001)	1.859 [1.549,2.232]	(<0.0001)
35	10.986 [6.168,19.569]	(<0.0001)	5.218 [3.883,7.012]	(<0.0001)	1.732 [1.440,2.084]	(<0.0001)
36	8.424 [4.790,14.816]	(<0.0001)	4.767 [3.550,6.401]	(<0.0001)	1.524 [1.272,1.827]	(<0.0001)
37	6.663 [3.715,11.952]	(<0.0001)	4.661 [3.466,6.270]	(<0.0001)	1.514 [1.261,1.819]	(<0.0001)
38	8.029 [4.567,14.116]	(<0.0001)	4.476 [3.335,6.007]	(<0.0001)	1.546 [1.290,1.854]	(<0.0001)
39	7.017 [3.969,12.405]	(<0.0001)	4.319 [3.201,5.828]	(<0.0001)	1.524 [1.270,1.829]	(<0.0001)
40	5.991 [3.418,10.503]	(<0.0001)	4.356 [3.240,5.856]	(<0.0001)	1.517 [1.263,1.822]	(<0.0001)
41	6.975 [3.930,12.380]	(<0.0001)	4.613 [3.437,6.191]	(<0.0001)	1.670 [1.392,2.003]	(<0.0001)
42	7.658 [4.397,13.338]	(<0.0001)	4.097 [3.051,5.501]	(<0.0001)	1.626 [1.343,1.969]	(<0.0001)
43	7.106 [3.990,12.656]	(<0.0001)	4.426 [3.298,5.938]	(<0.0001)	1.581 [1.318,1.896]	(<0.0001)
44	8.261 [4.659,14.650]	(<0.0001)	4.361 [3.250,5.852]	(<0.0001)	1.567 [1.304,1.884]	(<0.0001)
45	8.671 [4.912,15.305]	(<0.0001)	4.532 [3.376,6.084]	(<0.0001)	1.367 [1.140,1.642]	(<0.0001)

46	9.704 [5.484,17.172]	(<0.0001)	4.485 [3.343,6.016]	(<0.0001)	1.704 [1.411,2.057]	(<0.0001)
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47	9.669 [5.428,17.226]	(<0.0001)	4.522 [3.356,6.093]	(<0.0001)	1.592 [1.325,1.914]	(<0.0001)
48	10.331 [5.882,18.146]	(<0.0001)	4.208 [3.132,5.653]	(<0.0001)	1.509 [1.231,1.850]	(0.0001)
49	6.378 [3.615,11.253]	(<0.0001)	3.790 [2.798,5.136]	(<0.0001)	1.285 [1.072,1.541]	(0.0067)
50	5.286 [2.972,9.403]	(<0.0001)	4.010 [2.980,5.397]	(<0.0001)	1.157 [0.964,1.389]	(0.1175)
51	6.000 [3.436,10.477]	(<0.0001)	3.704 [2.739,5.009]	(<0.0001)	1.219 [1.014,1.465]	(0.0349)
52	5.936 [3.368,10.462]	(<0.0001)	3.762 [2.801,5.051]	(<0.0001)	1.234 [1.023,1.489]	(0.0284)
53	6.630 [3.737,11.763]	(<0.0001)	3.690 [2.736,4.977]	(<0.0001)	1.334 [1.111,1.603]	(0.0020)
54	5.335 [3.006,9.469]	(<0.0001)	3.785 [2.817,5.087]	(<0.0001)	1.256 [1.047,1.506]	(0.0138)
55	6.233 [3.511,11.065]	(<0.0001)	3.297 [2.451,4.434]	(<0.0001)	1.410 [1.175,1.691]	(0.0002)
56	6.996 [3.925,12.469]	(<0.0001)	3.385 [2.522,4.543]	(<0.0001)	1.407 [1.172,1.690]	(0.0002)
57	7.114 [4.064,12.455]	(<0.0001)	4.108 [3.049,5.534]	(<0.0001)	1.469 [1.217,1.773]	(0.0001)
58	7.070 [4.035,12.388]	(<0.0001)	3.940 [2.930,5.298]	(<0.0001)	1.413 [1.174,1.701]	(0.0003)
59	9.077 [5.145,16.012]	(<0.0001)	4.817 [3.574,6.493]	(<0.0001)	1.464 [1.204,1.780]	(0.0001)
Birth Order						
Birth order of child is 1	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Birth order of child is 2	1.124 [1.044,1.210]	(0.0020)	1.104 [1.067,1.143]	(<0.0001)	1.100 [1.064,1.137]	(<0.0001)
Birth order of child is >= 3	1.081 [0.989,1.182]	(0.0852)	1.169 [1.121,1.220]	(<0.0001)	1.190 [1.141,1.241]	(<0.0001)

ICDS Utilisation in the last 12 months						
No ICDS utilisation	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
ICDS utilisation	1.022 [0.952,1.097]	(0.5545)	1.087 [1.056,1.120]	(<0.0001)	1.040 [1.006,1.075]	(0.0193)
Private Institutional Delivery						
No	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Yes	0.937 [0.855,1.028]	(0.1712)	0.890 [0.856,0.925]	(<0.0001)	0.876 [0.843,0.911]	(<0.0001)
Skilled attendants at birth						
No	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Yes	0.871 [0.806,0.942]	(0.0005)	0.933 [0.902,0.965]	(0.0001)	0.938 [0.899,0.978]	(0.0028)
Mother's BMI						
High BMI	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Low BMI	1.191 [1.117,1.268]	(<0.0001)	1.291 [1.251,1.332]	(<0.0001)	1.372 [1.326,1.420]	(<0.0001)
Mother's Age (in years)						
Mothers' Age < 18	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Mothers' Age b/w 18-30	0.690 [0.516,0.922]	(0.0122)	1.391 [1.019,1.898]	(0.0376)	0.937 [0.699,1.255]	(0.6616)
Mothers' Age > 30	0.684 [0.502,0.933]	(0.0163)	1.314 [0.960,1.798]	(0.0878)	0.853 [0.634,1.149]	(0.2964)
Mother's Media Exposure						
Read no news	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Read news weekly	0.869 [0.783,0.964]	(0.0079)	0.957 [0.910,1.006]	(0.0818)	0.995 [0.940,1.053]	(0.8573)
Mother's Height (in cm)						
Mother's Height	0.934 [0.928,0.939]	(<0.0001)	0.936 [0.933,0.938]	(<0.0001)	0.940 [0.938,0.943]	(<0.0001)

Fuel Sources						
Absence of Clean Fuel	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref

Clean Fuel Sources	1.052 [0.925,1.195]	(0.4410)	0.993 [0.942,1.047]	(0.7859)	0.998 [0.961,1.037]	(0.9308)
State/UTs						
Andhra Pradesh (includes Telengana)	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Arunachal Pradesh	0.692 [0.535,0.896]	(0.0052)	0.742 [0.637,0.865]	(0.0001)	0.658 [0.574,0.754]	(<0.0001)
Assam	0.863 [0.685,1.087]	(0.2101)	0.923 [0.825,1.034]	(0.1664)	0.806 [0.726,0.894]	(<0.0001)
Bihar	1.161 [0.952,1.415]	(0.1402)	1.250 [1.136,1.375]	(<0.0001)	0.922 [0.848,1.003]	(0.0573)
Chhattisgarh	1.306 [1.076,1.585]	(0.0069)	1.094 [0.976,1.227]	(0.1234)	0.863 [0.778,0.957]	(0.0053)
Goa	0.805 [0.622,1.043]	(0.1008)	0.840 [0.610,1.156]	(0.2837)	1.128 [0.830,1.534]	(0.4407)
Gujarat	1.876 [1.539,2.287]	(<0.0001)	1.491 [1.334,1.665]	(<0.0001)	1.304 [1.184,1.437]	(<0.0001)
Haryana	1.627 [1.332,1.987]	(<0.0001)	1.535 [1.364,1.727]	(<0.0001)	0.939 [0.851,1.037]	(0.2143)
Himachal Pradesh	1.203 [0.963,1.503]	(0.1041)	1.086 [0.921,1.281]	(0.3268)	1.169 [1.004,1.360]	(0.0439)
Jammu and Kashmir (includes Ladakh)	0.822 [0.636,1.062]	(0.1339)	1.095 [0.962,1.248]	(0.1705)	0.957 [0.835,1.098]	(0.5317)
Jharkhand	0.796 [0.654,0.969]	(0.0227)	1.157 [1.045,1.280]	(0.0049)	0.836 [0.760,0.920]	(0.0003)
Karnataka	1.187 [0.980,1.438]	(0.0795)	1.392 [1.237,1.567]	(<0.0001)	1.125 [1.017,1.245]	(0.0222)
Kerala	0.855 [0.664,1.100]	(0.2228)	1.017 [0.862,1.199]	(0.8438)	1.049 [0.907,1.214]	(0.5187)
Madhya Pradesh	1.147 [0.958,1.374]	(0.1350)	1.294 [1.177,1.424]	(<0.0001)	0.927 [0.849,1.012]	(0.0888)
Maharashtra	1.426 [1.173,1.733]	(0.0004)	1.247 [1.112,1.399]	(0.0002)	1.167 [1.058,1.288]	(0.0021)
Manipur	0.807 [0.651,1.002]	(0.0520)	1.003 [0.879,1.145]	(0.9653)	0.612 [0.526,0.712]	(<0.0001)
Meghalaya	1.062 [0.755,1.494]	(0.7294)	1.281 [1.083,1.514]	(0.0038)	1.152 [0.974,1.363]	(0.0980)
Mizoram	0.768 [0.536,1.100]	(0.1491)	0.976 [0.807,1.180]	(0.8023)	0.871 [0.715,1.062]	(0.1723)
Nagaland	0.629 [0.473,0.837]	(0.0015)	0.890 [0.752,1.054]	(0.1766)	0.996 [0.819,1.213]	(0.9719)
Delhi	1.844 [1.438,2.365]	(<0.0001)	1.215 [0.975,1.515]	(0.0828)	1.072 [0.939,1.225]	(0.3047)
Odisha	0.869 [0.702,1.075]	(0.1965)	0.818 [0.736,0.909]	(0.0002)	0.681 [0.618,0.750]	(<0.0001)

Punjab	1.202 [0.950,1.522]	(0.1248)	1.196 [1.012,1.412]	(0.0352)	0.896 [0.786,1.022]	(0.1032)
Rajasthan	1.113 [0.921,1.345]	(0.2665)	1.442 [1.309,1.589]	(<0.0001)	0.995 [0.905,1.095]	(0.9248)
Sikkim	0.759 [0.565,1.021]	(0.0682)	1.092 [0.881,1.354]	(0.4227)	0.602 [0.420,0.864]	(0.0058)
Tamil Nadu	0.738 [0.600,0.908]	(0.0041)	0.984 [0.875,1.106]	(0.7849)	0.848 [0.765,0.941]	(0.0018)
Tripura	0.618 [0.473,0.806]	(0.0004)	0.526 [0.434,0.638]	(<0.0001)	0.767 [0.656,0.897]	(0.0009)
Uttar Pradesh	1.413 [1.204,1.659]	(<0.0001)	1.434 [1.308,1.571]	(<0.0001)	1.023 [0.946,1.107]	(0.5673)
Uttarakhand	1.374 [1.103,1.711]	(0.0046)	1.203 [1.064,1.360]	(0.0032)	0.801 [0.699,0.918]	(0.0015)
West Bengal	0.804 [0.658,0.982]	(0.0327)	0.806 [0.711,0.913]	(0.0007)	0.792 [0.704,0.891]	(0.0001)
N	38996		21172 8		192314	
chi2	3273.943		10115.2 08		7119.7 03	

Table S3. Results for the Poisson regression analysis with all the included covariates

	NFHS-3 (2005-2006)		NFHS-4 (2015-2016)		NFHS-5 (2019-2021)	
	Coefficient [95% CI]	P-values	Coefficient [95% CI]	P-values	Coefficient [95% CI]	P-values
Wealth Quintile						
Poorest	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Poorer	-0.109 [-0.149,-0.070]	(<0.0001)	-0.039 [-0.058,-0.021]	(<0.0001)	-0.035 [-0.057,-0.012]	(0.0023)
Middle	-0.190 [-0.251,-0.129]	(<0.0001)	-0.108 [-0.135,-0.080]	(<0.0001)	-0.091 [-0.118,-0.064]	(<0.0001)
Richer	-0.379 [-0.472,-0.286]	(<0.0001)	-0.207 [-0.250,-0.164]	(<0.0001)	-0.201 [-0.236,-0.166]	(<0.0001)
Richest	-0.605 [-0.735,-0.476]	(<0.0001)	-0.312 [-0.369,-0.255]	(<0.0001)	-0.286 [-0.335,-0.237]	(<0.0001)
Marginalised Social Group						
Unreserved category	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
SC	0.069 [0.024,0.114]	(0.0029)	0.111 [0.083,0.140]	(<0.0001)	0.128 [0.095,0.161]	(<0.0001)
ST	0.063 [0.006,0.119]	(0.0289)	0.092 [0.059,0.125]	(<0.0001)	0.119 [0.080,0.158]	(<0.0001)
OBC	0.031 [-0.010,0.073]	(0.1384)	0.066 [0.041,0.091]	(<0.0001)	0.076 [0.045,0.107]	(<0.0001)
Religion						
Hindu	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Muslim	0.066 [0.020,0.112]	(0.0053)	0.083 [0.059,0.107]	(<0.0001)	0.094 [0.064,0.124]	(<0.0001)
Christian	0.119 [0.013,0.226]	(0.0285)	-0.043 [-0.118,0.031]	(0.2557)	-0.027 [-0.110,0.056]	(0.5271)
Other Religion	0.073 [-0.013,0.159]	(0.0971)	0.026 [-0.051,0.103]	(0.5078)	-0.012 [-0.083,0.058]	(0.7365)
Residence						
Rural	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Urban	0.081 [0.039,0.124]	(0.0002)	0.025 [-0.000,0.051]	(0.0525)	0.010 [-0.018,0.039]	(0.4775)
Maternal Education						
Illiterate	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Primary	-0.048 [-0.086,-0.010]	(0.0144)	-0.044 [-0.065,-0.022]	(0.0001)	-0.036 [-0.062,-0.011]	(0.0047)
Secondary	-0.096 [-0.136,-0.056]	(<0.0001)	-0.128	(<0.0001)	-0.110	(<0.0001)

			[-0.148,-0.108]		[-0.132,-0.088]	
Higher	-0.307 [-0.427,-0.187]	(<0.0001)	-0.287 [-0.336,-0.239]	(<0.0001)	-0.235 [-0.275,-0.195]	(<0.0001)
Sex of the Child						
Female	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Male	0.001 [-0.023,0.025]	(0.9304)	0.036 [0.021,0.050]	(<0.0001)	0.045 [0.029,0.061]	(<0.0001)
Age of the Child (6 month intervals)						
0-6	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
6-12	0.379 [0.272,0.487]	(<0.0001)	0.140 [0.086,0.193]	(<0.0001)	0.014 [-0.037,0.064]	(0.5947)
12-18	0.878 [0.777,0.979]	(<0.0001)	0.652 [0.603,0.701]	(<0.0001)	0.402 [0.357,0.446]	(<0.0001)
18-24	1.093 [0.992,1.193]	(<0.0001)	0.864 [0.817,0.911]	(<0.0001)	0.579 [0.536,0.622]	(<0.0001)
24-30	1.011 [0.911,1.112]	(<0.0001)	0.749 [0.701,0.797]	(<0.0001)	0.430 [0.385,0.474]	(<0.0001)
30-36	1.084 [0.984,1.183]	(<0.0001)	0.792 [0.743,0.840]	(<0.0001)	0.517 [0.472,0.561]	(<0.0001)
36-42	0.982 [0.883,1.081]	(<0.0001)	0.783 [0.735,0.831]	(<0.0001)	0.474 [0.429,0.519]	(<0.0001)
42-48	1.047 [0.949,1.145]	(<0.0001)	0.768 [0.721,0.816]	(<0.0001)	0.499 [0.454,0.544]	(<0.0001)
48-54	0.939 [0.838,1.041]	(<0.0001)	0.698 [0.649,0.748]	(<0.0001)	0.367 [0.319,0.415]	(<0.0001)
54-60	0.960 [0.858,1.063]	(<0.0001)	0.698 [0.650,0.747]	(<0.0001)	0.417 [0.372,0.463]	(<0.0001)
Birth Order						
Birth order of child is 1	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Birth order of child is 2	0.059 [0.024,0.093]	(0.0010)	0.056 [0.036,0.075]	(<0.0001)	0.057 [0.037,0.077]	(<0.0001)
Birth order of child is >= 3	0.035 [-0.004,0.074]	(0.0800)	0.083 [0.060,0.105]	(<0.0001)	0.099 [0.075,0.123]	(<0.0001)
ICDS Utilization in the last 12						
No ICDS utilization	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
ICDS utilization	0.010 [-0.020,0.041]	(0.5053)	0.049 [0.033,0.065]	(<0.0001)	0.020 [0.001,0.040]	(0.0425)
Private Institutional Delivery						

No	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Yes	-0.040 [-0.087,0.007]	(0.0961)	-0.073 [-0.096,-0.049]	(<0.0001)	-0.086 [-0.111,-0.062]	(<0.0001)
Skilled attendants at birth						
No	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Yes	-0.059 [-0.093,-0.024]	(0.0009)	-0.030 [-0.046,-0.014]	(0.0003)	-0.032 [-0.054,-0.010]	(0.0051)
Mother's BMI						
High BMI	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Low BMI	0.077 [0.050,0.104]	(<0.0001)	0.130 [0.114,0.146]	(<0.0001)	0.174 [0.155,0.192]	(<0.0001)
Mother's Age (in years)						
Mothers' Age < 18	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Mothers' Age b/w 18-30	-0.183 [-0.307,-0.060]	(0.0037)	0.209 [0.004,0.415]	(0.0458)	-0.053 [-0.233,0.128]	(0.5679)
Mothers' Age > 30	-0.181 [-0.312,-0.049]	(0.0071)	0.177 [-0.030,0.383]	(0.0935)	-0.107 [-0.291,0.077]	(0.2539)
Mother's Media Exposure						
Read no news	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Read news weekly	-0.085 [-0.144,-0.026]	(0.0049)	-0.040 [-0.072,-0.008]	(0.0149)	-0.010 [-0.048,0.029]	(0.6254)
Mother's Height (cm)						
Mother's Height	-0.030 [-0.032,-0.028]	(<0.0001)	-0.034 [-0.035,-0.032]	(<0.0001)	-0.034 [-0.035,-0.033]	(<0.0001)
State/UTs						
Andhra Pradesh (includes Telengana)	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Arunachal Pradesh	-0.162 [-0.288,-0.035]	(0.0123)	-0.161 [-0.259,-0.063]	(0.0013)	-0.262 [-0.351,-0.173]	(<0.0001)

Assam	-0.060 [-0.174,0.054]	(0.2987)	-0.027 [-0.097,0.043]	(0.4452)	-0.130 [-0.195,-0.065]	(0.0001)
Bihar	0.064 [-0.024,0.153]	(0.1533)	0.130 [0.072,0.188]	(<0.0001)	-0.052 [-0.103,-0.002]	(0.0426)
Chhattisgarh	0.119 [0.032,0.205]	(0.0071)	0.066 [-0.003,0.135]	(0.0597)	-0.088 [-0.152,-0.025]	(0.0066)
Goa	-0.166 [-0.324,-0.008]	(0.0400)	-0.136 [-0.362,0.089]	(0.2365)	0.082 [-0.131,0.295]	(0.4502)
Gujarat	0.287 [0.198,0.376]	(<0.0001)	0.234 [0.167,0.301]	(<0.0001)	0.152 [0.094,0.209]	(<0.0001)
Haryana	0.224 [0.130,0.319]	(<0.0001)	0.242 [0.169,0.314]	(<0.0001)	-0.056 [-0.120,0.008]	(0.0858)
Himachal Pradesh	0.081 [-0.034,0.197]	(0.1683)	0.030 [-0.079,0.139]	(0.5917)	0.090 [-0.006,0.185]	(0.0672)
Jammu and Kashmir (includes Ladakh)	-0.103 [-0.239,0.034]	(0.1397)	0.043 [-0.039,0.124]	(0.3033)	-0.058 [-0.148,0.032]	(0.2057)
Jharkhand	-0.084 [-0.177,0.009]	(0.0761)	0.096 [0.035,0.156]	(0.0019)	-0.103 [-0.160,-0.046]	(0.0004)
Karnataka	0.078 [-0.015,0.172]	(0.1006)	0.193 [0.122,0.263]	(<0.0001)	0.066 [0.004,0.128]	(0.0369)
Kerala	-0.144 [-0.298,0.011]	(0.0686)	-0.044 [-0.163,0.074]	(0.4658)	0.002 [-0.100,0.105]	(0.9643)
Madhya Pradesh	0.073 [-0.012,0.157]	(0.0935)	0.153 [0.095,0.212]	(<0.0001)	-0.050 [-0.104,0.004]	(0.0674)
Maharashtra	0.175 [0.082,0.268]	(0.0002)	0.141 [0.070,0.212]	(0.0001)	0.094 [0.034,0.155]	(0.0023)
Manipur	-0.114 [-0.226,-0.002]	(0.0454)	0.001 [-0.083,0.086]	(0.9782)	-0.330 [-0.435,-0.225]	(<0.0001)
Meghalaya	0.037 [-0.111,0.186]	(0.6221)	0.171 [0.075,0.267]	(0.0005)	0.077 [-0.021,0.174]	(0.1244)
Mizoram	-0.120 [-0.301,0.062]	(0.1969)	-0.012 [-0.134,0.110]	(0.8496)	-0.093 [-0.222,0.036]	(0.1574)
Nagaland	-0.216 [-0.360,-0.073]	(0.0032)	-0.064 [-0.171,0.043]	(0.2385)	-0.012 [-0.136,0.112]	(0.8464)
Delhi	0.287 [0.167,0.407]	(<0.0001)	0.125 [-0.012,0.261]	(0.0731)	0.046 [-0.039,0.131]	(0.2927)
Odisha	-0.061 [-0.165,0.043]	(0.2514)	-0.097 [-0.162,-0.031]	(0.0037)	-0.235 [-0.296,-0.173]	(<0.0001)
Punjab	0.073 [-0.045,0.192]	(0.2241)	0.085 [-0.021,0.192]	(0.1168)	-0.099 [-0.186,-0.013]	(0.0245)

Rajasthan	0.048 [-0.045,0.142]	(0.3107)	0.209 [0.150,0.269]	(<0.0001)	-0.013 [-0.073,0.046]	(0.6588)
Sikkim	-0.130 [-0.287,0.027]	(0.1038)	0.040 [-0.101,0.180]	(0.5800)	-0.360 [-0.630,-0.091]	(0.0088)
Tamil Nadu	-0.185 [-0.299,-0.070]	(0.0015)	-0.020 [-0.096,0.057]	(0.6124)	-0.125 [-0.194,-0.056]	(0.0004)
Tripura	-0.242 [-0.386,-0.099]	(0.0009)	-0.400 [-0.534,-0.265]	(<0.0001)	-0.157 [-0.256,-0.058]	(0.0019)
Uttar Pradesh	0.144 [0.069,0.220]	(0.0002)	0.203 [0.146,0.260]	(<0.0001)	0.011 [-0.038,0.059]	(0.6646)
Uttarakhand	0.155 [0.051,0.259]	(0.0035)	0.113 [0.038,0.189]	(0.0033)	-0.161 [-0.256,-0.066]	(0.0009)
West Bengal	-0.098 [-0.198,0.001]	(0.0531)	-0.118 [-0.196,-0.040]	(0.0031)	-0.139 [-0.213,-0.066]	(0.0002)
N	38996		21172	8	192314	
chi2	3871.7	67	11126.0	82	8479.009	

Note - Coefficient values of the continuous covariates in the analysis report the expected increase or decrease in log count of stunted children in the sample with one unit increase in the covariates. And the coefficient values of an indicator variable report the expected difference in log count of the stunted children between the group attributes and their corresponding reference group.

Table S4. Results of the logistic regression for 64 intersecting subgroups of marginalised social group, household wealth, maternal education, and residence in NFHS-5

	NFHS-5 (2019-2021)	
	Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR) [95% CI]	P-values
Intersectional Subgroups Considered		
None of the Above, Tertiary, Non-poor, Urban	Ref	Ref
ST, No education, Poor, Urban	5.341 [3.134,9.104]	(<0.0001)
ST, Primary, Poor, Urban	2.694 [1.649,4.402]	(<0.0001)
ST, Secondary, Poor, Urban	3.272 [2.122,5.046]	(<0.0001)
ST, Tertiary, Poor, Urban	3.874 [1.541,9.738]	(0.0040)
ST, No education, Non-poor, Urban	3.476 [2.134,5.662]	(<0.0001)
ST, Primary, Non-poor, Urban	2.868 [1.922,4.278]	(<0.0001)
ST, Secondary, Non-poor, Urban	1.455 [1.163,1.820]	(0.0010)
ST, Tertiary, Non-poor, Urban	0.897 [0.608,1.324]	(0.5838)
ST, No education, Poor, Rural	3.761 [3.263,4.335]	(<0.0001)
ST, Primary, Poor, Rural	3.298 [2.817,3.861]	(<0.0001)
ST, Secondary, Poor, Rural	2.817 [2.445,3.245]	(<0.0001)
ST, Tertiary, Poor, Rural	1.968 [1.431,2.705]	(<0.0001)
ST, No education, Non-poor, Rural	2.831 [2.261,3.545]	(<0.0001)
ST, Primary, Non-poor, Rural	2.797 [2.245,3.484]	(<0.0001)
ST, Secondary, Non-poor, Rural	2.287 [1.966,2.659]	(<0.0001)
ST, Tertiary, Non-poor, Rural	1.708 [1.286,2.268]	(0.0002)
SC, No education, Poor, Urban	4.519 [3.361,6.076]	(<0.0001)
SC, Primary, Poor, Urban	3.381 [2.355,4.855]	(<0.0001)
SC, Secondary, Poor, Urban	3.264 [2.446,4.356]	(<0.0001)

SC, Tertiary, Poor, Urban	0.960 [0.351,2.623]	(0.9366)
SC, No education, Non-poor, Urban	2.895 [2.273,3.689]	(<0.0001)
SC, Primary, Non-poor, Urban	2.560 [2.000,3.277]	(<0.0001)
SC, Secondary, Non-poor, Urban	2.030 [1.721,2.396]	(<0.0001)
SC, Tertiary, Non-poor, Urban	1.213 [0.984,1.497]	(0.0711)
SC, No education, Poor, Rural	4.126 [3.588,4.744]	(<0.0001)
SC, Primary, Poor, Rural	3.762 [3.224,4.389]	(<0.0001)
SC, Secondary, Poor, Rural	3.023 [2.626,3.479]	(<0.0001)
SC, Tertiary, Poor, Rural	2.245 [1.761,2.862]	(<0.0001)
SC, No education, Non-poor, Rural	2.924 [2.481,3.445]	(<0.0001)
SC, Primary, Non-poor, Rural	2.696 [2.273,3.197]	(<0.0001)
SC, Secondary, Non-poor, Rural	2.030 [1.769,2.329]	(<0.0001)
SC, Tertiary, Non-poor, Rural	1.457 [1.208,1.758]	(0.0001)
OBC, No education, Poor, Urban	3.781 [2.768,5.167]	(<0.0001)
OBC, Primary, Poor, Urban	2.864 [1.933,4.243]	(<0.0001)
OBC, Secondary, Poor, Urban	2.618 [1.982,3.457]	(<0.0001)
OBC, Tertiary, Poor, Urban	1.836 [0.793,4.251]	(0.1562)
OBC, No education, Nonpoor, Urban	2.274 [1.851,2.794]	(<0.0001)
OBC, Primary, Non-poor, Urban	2.178 [1.792,2.646]	(<0.0001)
OBC, Secondary, Non-poor, Urban	1.733 [1.500,2.002]	(<0.0001)
OBC, Tertiary, Non-poor, Urban	1.123 [0.961,1.312]	(0.1436)
OBC, No education, Poor, Rural	4.115 [3.593,4.714]	(<0.0001)
OBC, Primary, Poor, Rural	3.389 [2.924,3.929]	(<0.0001)
OBC, Secondary, Poor, Rural	2.585 [2.259,2.959]	(<0.0001)
OBC, Tertiary, Poor, Rural	1.880 [1.521,2.324]	(<0.0001)

OBC, No education, Nonpoor, Rural	2.857 [2.466,3.309]	(<0.0001)
OBC, Primary, Non-poor, Rural	2.300 [1.973,2.682]	(<0.0001)
OBC, Secondary, Non-poor, Rural	1.827 [1.602,2.083]	(<0.0001)
OBC, Tertiary, Non-poor, Rural	1.304 [1.118,1.520]	(0.0007)
None of the Above, No education, Poor, Urban	3.953 [2.254,6.933]	(<0.0001)
None of the Above, Primary, Poor, Urban	5.758 [2.861,11.590]	(<0.0001)
None of the Above, Secondary, Poor, Urban	2.130 [1.218,3.724]	(0.0080)
None of the Above, Tertiary, Poor, Urban	3.411 [0.658,17.685]	(0.1439)
None of the Above, No education, Non-poor, Urban	2.740 [2.073,3.622]	(<0.0001)
None of the Above, Primary, Non-poor, Urban	2.246 [1.648,3.061]	(<0.0001)
None of the Above, Secondary, Non-poor, Urban	1.570 [1.330,1.854]	(<0.0001)
None of the Above, No education, Poor, Rural	3.603 [3.042,4.269]	(<0.0001)
None of the Above, Primary, Poor, Rural	2.747 [2.217,3.404]	(<0.0001)
None of the Above, Secondary, Poor, Rural	2.213 [1.874,2.614]	(<0.0001)
None of the Above, Tertiary, Poor, Rural	1.131 [0.780,1.638]	(0.5163)
None of the Above, No education, Non-poor, Rural	2.282 [1.884,2.765]	(<0.0001)
None of the Above, Primary, Non-poor, Rural	2.528 [2.058,3.104]	(<0.0001)
None of the Above, Secondary, Non-poor, Rural	1.482 [1.288,1.705]	(<0.0001)
None of the Above, Tertiary, Non-poor, Rural	0.946 [0.790,1.133]	(0.5466)
N	195802	
Chi ²	2932.319	

Note - Economic position variable were aggregated/dichotomized such that they were recoded into poor and non-poor; poorest and poorer categories were combined into a single category “poor”, and the middle, richer and richest wealth quintiles were grouped into “non-poor”. Sample size differs due to the fewer predictor variables in this particular analysis.

Figure S1. Graph illustrating the Adjusted Odds Ratios of the 64 intersecting subgroups of household wealth, maternal education, urban/rural residence, and marginalised social groups in NFHS-5

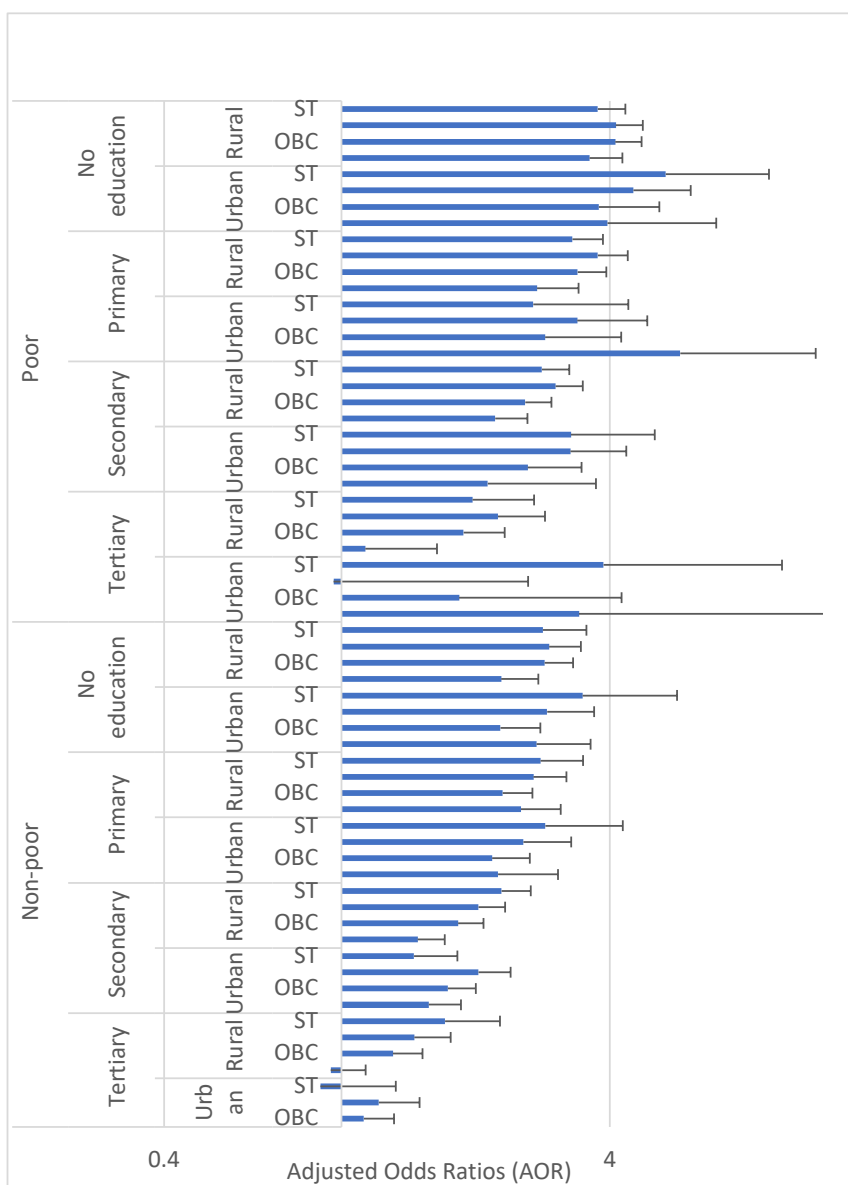


Figure S2. Graph illustrating the Adjusted Odds Ratios of the intersecting subgroups for marginalised social groups and urban/rural residence for children who were poor and had illiterate mothers in NFHS-5



Figure S3. Graph illustrating the Adjusted Odds Ratios of the intersecting groups of marginalised social groups, urban/rural residence, household wealth, and maternal education

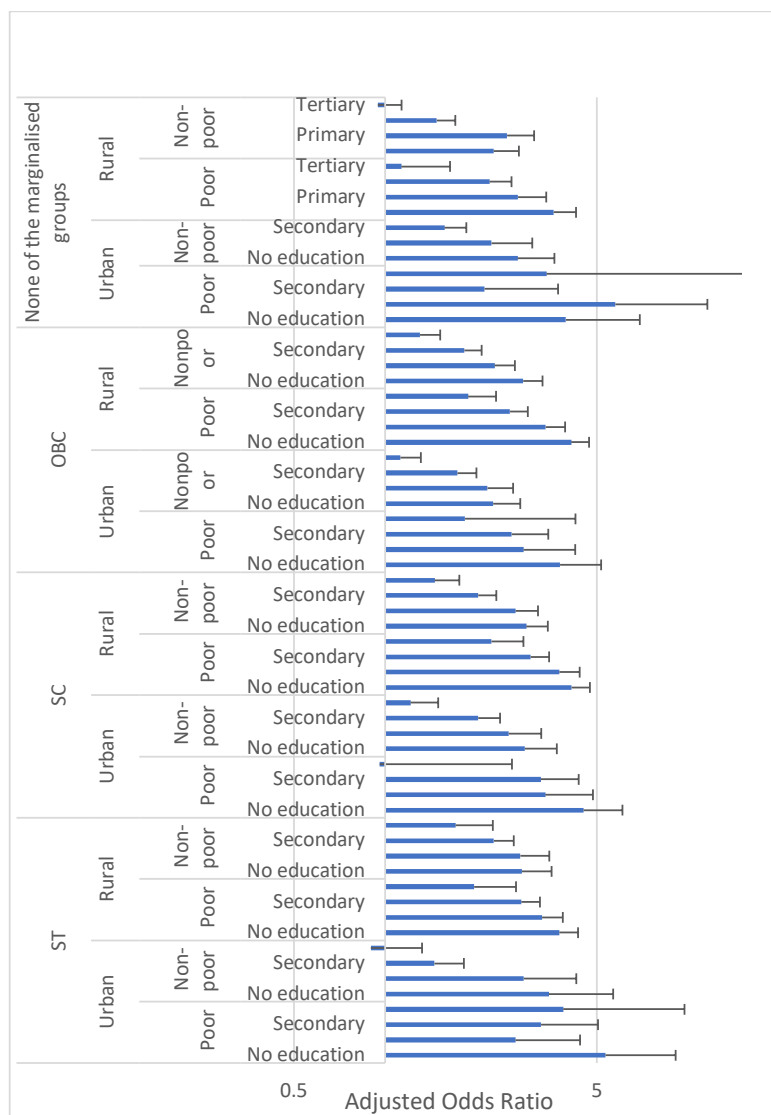


Table S5. Results of the Kitagawa-Oaxaca-Blinder Decomposition (LPM) analysis for the selected social factors using NFHS-3 coefficients as counterfactuals

	Explained Coefficients		Explained Contributions (%)	
	Coefficients (Standard Errors)	P-values	Contributions (Standard Errors)	P-values
Wealth Group	-0.058 (0.006)	(<0.0001)	45.817 (5.099)	(<0.0001)
Socially Marginalised Groups	0.002 (0.001)	(0.0132)	-1.419 (0.577)	(0.0138)
Religion	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.4044)	0.203 (0.244)	(0.4042)
Residence	0.000 (0.000)	(0.4084)	-0.257 (0.309)	(0.4054)
Maternal Education	-0.018 (0.003)	(<0.0001)	14.047 (2.571)	(<0.0001)
Sex of the Child	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.9261)	0.002 (0.018)	(0.9261)
Age of the Child (in months)	-0.002 (0.001)	(0.0128)	1.928 (0.770)	(0.0123)
Birth Order	-0.001 (0.001)	(0.4308)	0.799 (1.014)	(0.4309)
ICDS Utilisation in the last 12	0.002 (0.003)	(0.6078)	-1.285 (2.501)	(0.6075)
Private institutional delivery	-0.001 (0.001)	(0.2392)	0.544 (0.461)	(0.2385)
Skilled attendants at birth	-0.014 (0.004)	(0.0002)	10.785 (2.892)	(0.0002)
Mother's BMI	-0.007 (0.001)	(<0.0001)	5.687 (1.074)	(<0.0001)
Mother's Age (in years)	-0.001 (0.000)	(0.0649)	0.559 (0.304)	(0.0656)
Mother's Media Exposure	0.001 (0.000)	(0.0135)	-0.735 (0.301)	(0.0145)
Mother's Height (in cm)	-0.002 (0.001)	(0.1268)	1.230 (0.791)	(0.1200)
Mother's Diet	-0.002 (0.001)	(0.0233)	1.455 (0.643)	(0.0236)
Mother's age at 1st birth (in years)	-0.008 (0.002)	(0.0008)	6.203 (1.853)	(0.0008)
Household Size	-0.002 (0.001)	(0.0176)	1.234 (0.520)	(0.0176)
Household Sanitation	-0.009 (0.006)	(0.1478)	6.730 (4.653)	(0.1481)
Household head	0.000 (0.000)	(0.4746)	-0.249 (0.348)	(0.4745)
States/UTs	0.001 (0.001)	(0.4774)	-0.751 (1.062)	(0.4797)
Observations	231310		231310	

Table S6. Results of the detailed Kitagawa-Oaxaca-Blinder decomposition (LPM) using NFHS-3 coefficients as counterfactuals

	Explained Coefficients		Explained Contributions (%)	
	Coefficients (Standard Errors)	P-values	Contributions (Standard Errors)	P-values
Wealth Quintile				
Poorest	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Poorer	-0.002 (0.001)	(<0.0001)	1.922 (0.402)	(<0.0001)
Middle	-0.009 (0.001)	(<0.0001)	7.474 (1.206)	(<0.0001)
Richer	-0.022 (0.003)	(<0.0001)	17.318 (2.189)	(<0.0001)
Richest	-0.024 (0.003)	(<0.0001)	19.102 (2.205)	(<0.0001)
Marginalised Social Group				
Unreserved category	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
SC	0.001 (0.000)	(0.0112)	-0.923 (0.366)	(0.0117)
ST	0.000 (0.000)	(0.1426)	-0.273 (0.187)	(0.1436)
OBC	0.000 (0.000)	(0.2724)	-0.223 (0.204)	(0.2733)
Religion				
Hindu	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Muslim	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.2804)	0.230 (0.212)	(0.2786)
Christian	0.000 (0.000)	(0.0999)	-0.159 (0.096)	(0.0990)
Other Religion	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.1784)	0.132 (0.099)	(0.1808)
Residence				
Rural	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Urban	0.000 (0.000)	(0.4084)	-0.257 (0.309)	(0.4054)
Maternal Education				
Illiterate	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Primary	0.001 (0.000)	(0.0056)	-0.444 (0.162)	(0.0061)
Secondary	-0.010 (0.002)	(<0.0001)	7.966 (1.482)	(<0.0001)
Higher	-0.008 (0.002)	(<0.0001)	6.525 (1.480)	(<0.0001)
Sex of the Child				

Female	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Male	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.9261)	0.002 (0.018)	(0.9261)
Age of the Child (in months)				
0	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
1	0.000 (0.000)	(0.1618)	-0.177 (0.127)	(0.1622)
2	0.000 (0.000)	(0.4510)	-0.038 (0.050)	(0.4508)
(3	0.000 (0.000)	(0.5878)	-0.018 (0.033)	(0.5876)
4	0.000 (0.000)	(0.6700)	-0.013 (0.030)	(0.6698)
5	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.3249)	0.067 (0.068)	(0.3246)
6	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.9417)	0.004 (0.054)	(0.9417)
7	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.0298)	0.318 (0.147)	(0.0300)
8	-0.001 (0.000)	(0.0140)	0.442 (0.180)	(0.0139)
9	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.7768)	0.030 (0.105)	(0.7769)
10	0.000 (0.000)	(0.1750)	-0.182 (0.134)	(0.1741)
11	0.001 (0.000)	(0.0029)	-0.562 (0.189)	(0.0029)
12	0.001 (0.000)	(0.0215)	-0.411 (0.179)	(0.0215)
13	0.000 (0.000)	(0.3216)	-0.218 (0.220)	(0.3219)
14	0.000 (0.000)	(0.7915)	-0.066 (0.249)	(0.7915)
15	-0.001 (0.000)	(0.0809)	0.456 (0.261)	(0.0811)
16	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.8630)	0.044 (0.255)	(0.8630)
17	-0.001 (0.000)	(0.0274)	0.607 (0.276)	(0.0276)
18	-0.001 (0.000)	(0.0030)	1.162 (0.389)	(0.0028)
19	-0.001 (0.000)	(0.0137)	0.757 (0.307)	(0.0136)
20	-0.001 (0.000)	(0.0952)	0.570 (0.341)	(0.0949)

21	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.6372)	0.168 (0.356)	(0.6370)
22	0.001 (0.000)	(0.1512)	-0.495 (0.345)	(0.1518)
23	0.001 (0.000)	(0.0017)	-0.898 (0.286)	(0.0017)
24	0.001 (0.000)	(0.0098)	-0.852 (0.332)	(0.0102)
25	0.000 (0.000)	(0.1986)	-0.367 (0.285)	(0.1990)
26	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.2752)	0.327 (0.299)	(0.2756)
27	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.3998)	0.255 (0.303)	(0.4001)
28	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.9720)	0.009 (0.270)	(0.9720)
29	0.000 (0.000)	(0.8214)	-0.062 (0.275)	(0.8214)
30	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.2464)	0.324 (0.280)	(0.2468)
31	-0.001 (0.000)	(0.2420)	0.406 (0.347)	(0.2420)
32	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.7174)	0.127 (0.351)	(0.7173)
33	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.2005)	0.391 (0.306)	(0.2016)
34	0.001 (0.000)	(0.0426)	-0.675 (0.334)	(0.0431)
35	0.001 (0.000)	(0.0257)	-0.703 (0.316)	(0.0261)
36	0.000 (0.000)	(0.2148)	-0.387 (0.313)	(0.2154)
37	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.2739)	0.295 (0.270)	(0.2739)

38	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.3122)	0.316 (0.313)	(0.3120)
39	-0.001 (0.000)	(0.0108)	0.759 (0.300)	(0.0112)
40	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.3090)	0.285 (0.281)	(0.3094)
41	0.001 (0.000)	(0.0204)	-0.643 (0.278)	(0.0207)
42	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.2707)	0.334 (0.304)	(0.2715)
43	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.5712)	0.160 (0.283)	(0.5710)
44	-0.001 (0.000)	(0.0015)	1.076 (0.340)	(0.0015)

45	0.000 (0.000)	(0.1948)	-0.385 (0.297)	(0.1950)
46	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.6695)	0.140 (0.327)	(0.6696)
47	0.000 (0.000)	(0.2043)	-0.386 (0.304)	(0.2042)
48	0.001 (0.000)	(0.0023)	-1.007 (0.332)	(0.0024)
49	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.6016)	0.134 (0.257)	(0.6017)
50	0.000 (0.000)	(0.8204)	-0.052 (0.231)	(0.8204)
51	-0.001 (0.000)	(0.0242)	0.618 (0.274)	(0.0241)
52	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.2260)	0.318 (0.263)	(0.2264)
53	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.9109)	0.032 (0.289)	(0.9109)
54	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.7079)	0.093 (0.248)	(0.7080)
55	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.6395)	0.129 (0.274)	(0.6394)
56	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.9798)	0.007 (0.273)	(0.9798)
57	0.000 (0.000)	(0.8858)	-0.040 (0.280)	(0.8858)
58	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.2743)	0.308 (0.282)	(0.2754)
59	0.001 (0.000)	(0.0038)	-0.901 (0.312)	(0.0038)
Birth Order				
Birth order of child is 1	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Birth order of child is 2	0.001 (0.000)	(0.0033)	-1.144 (0.391)	(0.0034)
Birth order of child is >= 3	-0.002 (0.001)	(0.0949)	1.943 (1.165)	(0.0953)
ICDS Utilization in the last 12				
No ICDS utilization	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
ICDS Utilization	0.002 (0.003)	(0.6078)	-1.285 (2.501)	(0.6075)
Private Institutional Delivery				
No	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Yes	-0.001 (0.001)	(0.2392)	0.544 (0.461)	(0.2385)
Skilled attendants at birth				

No	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Yes	-0.014 (0.004)	(0.0002)	10.785 (2.892)	(0.0002)
Mother's BMI				
High BMI	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Low BMI	-0.007 (0.001)	(<0.0001)	5.687 (1.074)	(<0.0001)
Mother's Age (in years)				
Mothers' Age < 18	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Mothers' Age b/w 18-30	0.001 (0.001)	(0.0707)	-0.716 (0.399)	(0.0726)
Mothers' Age > 30	-0.002 (0.001)	(0.0460)	1.276 (0.643)	(0.0473)
Mother's Media Exposure				
Read no news	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Read news weekly	0.001 (0.000)	(0.0135)	-0.735 (0.301)	(0.0145)
Mother's Height (in cm)				
Mother's Height	-0.002 (0.001)	(0.1268)	1.230 (0.791)	(0.1200)
Mother's Diet Diversity				
less than 4	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
4 or more type of dietary intake	-0.002 (0.001)	(0.0491)	1.248 (0.636)	(0.0497)
Mother's Balanced Diet				
Mother does not consume balanced diet	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Mother consumed balanced Diet	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.0859)	0.208 (0.121)	(0.0852)
Mother's Age at First Birth (in years)				
Mother's age at 1st birth	-0.008 (0.002)	(0.0008)	6.203 (1.853)	(0.0008)
Household Size				
No. of Household Members	-0.002 (0.001)	(0.0176)	1.234 (0.520)	(0.0176)
Toilet Facility				
Has toilet	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
No Toilet	-0.011	(0.0066)	8.586	(0.0068)

	(0.004)		(3.170)	
Safe Water Sources				
Unsafe water facility	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
HH has a safe water facility	-0.001 (0.001)	(0.5177)	0.640 (0.989)	(0.5177)
Sex of the Household Head				
Female Head	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Male Head	0.000 (0.000)	(0.4746)	-0.249 (0.348)	(0.4745)
Fuel Sources				
Absence of Clean Fuel	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Clean Fuel Sources	0.003 (0.004)	(0.4675)	-2.496 (3.435)	(0.4675)
State/UTs				
Andhra Pradesh (includes Telengana)	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Arunachal Pradesh	0.000 (0.000)	(0.0740)	-0.024 (0.014)	(0.0743)
Assam	0.000 (0.000)	(0.5579)	-0.040 (0.068)	(0.5583)
Bihar	0.000 (0.001)	(0.3657)	-0.382 (0.424)	(0.3678)
Chhattisgarh	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.7187)	0.049 (0.136)	(0.7187)
Goa	0.000 (0.000)	(0.3370)	-0.004 (0.004)	(0.3368)
Gujarat	-0.001 (0.001)	(0.1857)	0.782 (0.591)	(0.1862)
Haryana	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.7266)	0.075 (0.214)	(0.7268)
Himachal Pradesh	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.7380)	0.007 (0.021)	(0.7382)
Jammu and Kashmir (includes Ladakh)	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.2409)	0.048 (0.041)	(0.2393)
Jharkhand	0.000 (0.000)	(0.5998)	-0.084 (0.160)	(0.6000)
Karnataka	0.000 (0.000)	(0.3229)	-0.125 (0.127)	(0.3227)
Kerala	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.4571)	0.048 (0.064)	(0.4558)
Madhya Pradesh	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.2365)	0.331 (0.280)	(0.2372)
Maharashtra	0.000 (0.001)	(0.3539)	-0.376 (0.404)	(0.3527)
Manipur	-0.000	(0.9556)	0.000	(0.9555)

	(0.000)		(0.008)	
Meghalaya	0.000 (0.000)	(0.6350)	-0.021 (0.044)	(0.6354)
Mizoram	0.000 (0.000)	(0.3916)	-0.007 (0.008)	(0.3918)
Nagaland	0.000 (0.000)	(0.0109)	-0.058 (0.023)	(0.0110)
Delhi	0.001 (0.000)	(0.0010)	-0.481 (0.148)	(0.0011)
Odisha	0.000 (0.000)	(0.4462)	-0.089 (0.118)	(0.4471)
Punjab	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.2589)	0.125 (0.112)	(0.2614)
Rajasthan	0.000 (0.000)	(0.8565)	-0.023 (0.127)	(0.8564)
Sikkim	0.000 (0.000)	(0.1283)	-0.009 (0.006)	(0.1279)
Tamil Nadu	-0.001 (0.000)	(0.0663)	0.487 (0.263)	(0.0642)
Tripura	0.000 (0.000)	(0.2913)	-0.043 (0.041)	(0.2921)
Uttar Pradesh	0.000 (0.001)	(0.5917)	-0.378 (0.707)	(0.5931)
Uttarakhand	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.9327)	0.005 (0.059)	(0.9327)
West Bengal	0.001 (0.000)	(0.1324)	-0.562 (0.376)	(0.1349)
Observations	231310		23130	

Table S7. Results for the Kitagwa-Oaxaca-Blinder decomposition (Logit) for changes in stunting prevalence between NFHS-3 and NFHS-5 using NFHS-3 coefficients as counterfactuals

Panel A: Changes in mean prevalence	All India Aggregate	
	Coefficients/Contributions (Standard Errors)	P-values
Stunting in NFHS-5	0.357 (0.002)	(<0.0001)
Stunting in NFHS-3	0.484 (0.004)	(<0.0001)
Total Change	-0.127 (0.005)	(<0.0001)
Explained	-0.115 (0.007)	(<0.0001)
Explained Contribution (%)	91.132 (5.930)	(<0.0001)
Unexplained	-0.011 (0.008)	(0.1438)
Unexplained Contribution (%)	8.868 (5.930)	(0.1348)

Table S8. Results for the detailed Kitigawa-Oaxaca-Blinder decomposition (Logit) using NFHS-3 coefficients as counterfactuals for the predictor and control variables

	Explained Coefficients		Explained Contributions (%)	
	Coefficients (Standard Errors)	P-values	Contributions (Standard Errors)	P-values
Wealth Quintile				
Poorest	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Poorer	-0.002 (0.000)	(<0.0001)	1.769 (0.376)	(<0.0001)
Middle	-0.009 (0.001)	(<0.0001)	7.015 (1.158)	(<0.0001)
Richer	-0.021 (0.003)	(<0.0001)	16.887 (2.182)	(<0.0001)
Richest	-0.026 (0.003)	(<0.0001)	20.162 (2.291)	(<0.0001)
Marginalised Social Group				
Unreserved category	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
SC	0.001 (0.000)	(0.0095)	-0.925 (0.359)	(0.0100)
ST	0.000 (0.000)	(0.1279)	-0.281 (0.185)	(0.1288)
OBC	0.000 (0.000)	(0.2419)	-0.238 (0.204)	(0.2429)
Residence				
Rural	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Urban	0.000 (0.000)	(0.4089)	-0.251 (0.302)	(0.4060)
Maternal Education				
Illiterate	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Primary	0.000 (0.000)	(0.0078)	-0.392 (0.149)	(0.0084)
Secondary	-0.009 (0.002)	(<0.0001)	7.081 (1.390)	(<0.0001)
Higher	-0.010 (0.002)	(<0.0001)	7.888 (1.666)	(<0.0001)
Sex of the Child				
Female	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Male	-0.000 (0.000)	(0.9221)	0.002 (0.018)	(0.9221)

Table S9. Results of the Kitigawa-Oaxaca- Blinder decomposition using NFHS-5 coefficients as counterfactuals

Panel A: Changes in mean prevalence	All India Aggregate	
	Co-efficients/Contributions (Standard Errors)	P-values
Stunting in NFHS-5	0.357 (0.002)	(<0.0001)
Stunting in NFHS-3	0.484 (0.004)	(<0.0001)
Total Change	-0.127 (0.005)	(<0.0001)
Explained	-0.086 (0.004)	(<0.0001)
Explained Contribution (%)	68.047 (3.676)	(<0.0001)
Unexplained	-0.040 (0.006)	(<0.0001)
Unexplained Contribution (%)	31.953 (3.676)	(<0.0001)