

**FLOOD RISK AND NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF CHILDREN  
IN INDIA: EVIDENCE BASED ON NFHS-5 DATA**

**SAIRINDHRI MUKHOPADHYAY**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*Floods are one of the most destructive form of annually occurring natural disasters in India. Among other things, the floods contribute to devastating impact on the nutrition and overall health of a child, mainly those under 5 years of age. Vulnerability of children to flood risk operates through food shortages, surge in disease burden, and disruption of the healthcare services. This study examines the nutritional impact of flood across Indian districts by analyzing the relationship between rainfall induced floods and the nutritional status of children reported in the National Family Health Survey 5 (2019-2021). The Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) is estimated to capture the flood situation across districts and analyze its relationship with child nutrition measures such as wasting, underweight and stunting. Other factors impacting the undernourishment of a child like mother's education, sanitation facilities etc. are also taken into consideration. The results suggest significant role played by flood risk in determining the nutritional status of children, and highlight the need for strengthening the healthcare services and food supply to combat these adverse effects of floods in future.*

**Key words:-** Floods, stunting, wasting, underweight, Standardized Precipitation Index  
Food security, healthcare services.

**JEL CODES:-** I15, Q54, I12, I18, Q18.