

## **Impact of Mother's Secondary Education on Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Among Under-Five Children**

*Kazi Md. Abul Kalam Azad & M. Omar Rahman  
Independent University, Bangladesh*

### **Abstract**

The aim of this study is to find the effect of the mother's education on the prevalence of severe Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI) among under-five children in Bangladesh. This study uses a large nationally representative dataset from Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS) 2004. A child was considered to have experienced severe ARI if the mother reported that the child had a cough in the last two weeks preceding the survey date along with all of the three symptoms (i) short, rapid breathing; (ii) difficulty in breathing; (iii) chest in-drawing. Prevalence of severe ARI is higher among children born to mothers with primary or less education compared to children of mothers completing secondary or higher education (5.0 and 8.1 percent respectively). Bivariate logistic regression (adjusting for clustering) shows that household poverty (lower than 60% asset score), children's lower age, sex of child if boy, malnutrition (lower weight/height, lower rates of Vitamin A supplementation), mother's lower age at childbirth, mother's lower education are risk factors for severe ARI among under-5 children in Bangladesh. However, using multivariate logistic regression, the effect of household poverty becomes insignificant meaning that higher severe ARI among poor children is due to the mother's lack of education. Therefore, improving mother's education could have significant salubrious effects on severe ARI in children in the developing world, reducing childhood deaths and will assist us in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

**Keyword:** Risk factor, severe ARI, childhood, maternal education, Bangladesh.