

Economics
Seminar
Series
2015



SOUTH ASIAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF ECONOMICS

Seminar

***Utilization of ICDS services and their impact on child
health outcomes
Evidence from three East Indian states***

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Date: September 11, 2015
(Friday)
Time: 2 :30 p.m.
Venue: FSI Hall, Akbar Bhawan
Satya Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi

All are Welcome

Abstract

The study analyzes a rural household's decision to participate in a public pre-school intervention called the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), and evaluates its impact on anthropometric outcomes of children in Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa in 2012. We account for perceptions of availability of various ICDS services in analyzing the decision to use ICDS services. Using multinomial logit models, we find that access costs, defined both in physical (distance) and social (caste) terms are the main drivers of ICDS utilization. To estimate the impact of ICDS utilization on anthropometric outcomes, we use matching methods where participants choose to utilize one of the multiple services offered by the ICDS (rather than the binary models of utilization commonly used in the literature). Our results suggest that conditional on utilization, compared to singleton services, utilization of multiple services translates into larger increase in weight-for-age and height-for-age.