ABSTRACT

Child malnutrition is one of the most serious issues in Pakistan. Punjab being a one of the largest province has high prevalence of malnutrition. The focus of this study is to explore risk factors of malnutrition considering MICS-2018. In order to measure malnutrition, we have considered three anthropometric measures, namely, stunting, wasting and underweight and employed logistic regression to see the impact of considered factors on these anthropometric measures. We further considered WHO and NCHS references to measures stunting, wasting and underweight in order to see the impact of these reference to determine the potential risk factors. The results show that area, tobacco, gender, and cough are significant in stunting growth for WHO and not significant for NCHS. While vitamin A is the only factor which is found to be significant in stunting growth for NCHS standards. Furthermore, mother's education and breastfeeding are found significant for WHO standards in wasting, while not significant in NCHS. Gender and breastfeeding are found significant in underweight for WHO and not significant in NCHS.