



Adult Illness in Dhaka Slum Households

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KEYWORDS Cluster Analysis. Livelihood Group. Cost of Illness. Socio-economic. Demographic. Morbidity

ABSTRACT Cluster analysis was used to identify relatively homogenous groups within Dhaka slum households, who report similar patterns of livelihood. Four groups emerged which may be summarised as “self employed”, “casual unskilled”, “female headed” and “casual skilled” households on the basis of their socio-economic, demographic and occupational characteristics. The “self employed” and “casual skilled” groups were better off in terms of income, assets and creditworthiness. The greatest burden of adult illness fell in the “casual unskilled” and “female headed”. Programmes, which mitigate the adverse effects of adult ill health on household economies, might help break the cycle of ill health and poverty, which characterise many urban slum households, and could help reduce inequalities between livelihood groups.

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