

Under-Five Mortality and the Environment of Health in the Third World: A Nigerian Example

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ABSTRACT The study examines the impact of what is herein called ‘the environment of health’ on pediatric health. The study adopts a multiple regression analysis to identify explanatory values of selected variables in respect of under-five mortality in the third world using the Nigerian example. The under-five mortality trend in Nigeria for 14 years (1988-2001) was selected as focus. The data source is the African development Banks Gender, Poverty and Environmental indicators on African Countries for 2002 and 2003. At the level of individual variables, most of our prior expectations relating to the variable behaviors were validated. The study thus indicated that although these parameters may not work in the same magnitude, they often work in the same direction. It is clear that most deaths associated to the children under the age of five are accounted for by variables in the environment of health and these variables are within the framework of the issues that can be fine tuned by governments and agencies in the health sector planning and programmes. The challenges raised in the study are squarely within the reach of government.