

Abstract

Floods can occur unexpectedly and affect certain groups more than others. I use a difference-in-difference method to identify the causal impact of the 2010 Pakistan flood on maternal and newborn health care utilization. To estimate the likelihood of health care utilization, I use Pakistan Demographic and Health Surveys data two years before and one year after the event, combined with the georeferenced data on the flood among studied years. Through logistic regressions, I determine whether flood-affected communities significantly predicted the differences in the utilization of health care services. Results show that the odds ratio of attending the required number of antenatal visits and postnatal checks was lower in flooded areas than in non-flooded areas. Similarly, the child's size at birth was reported as less than average in the exposed districts. Therefore, medical protection should be enhanced for vulnerable groups, and extra effort should be considered to ensure access to maternal health care services to protect pregnant women's livelihoods in similar disaster settings.

Key Words: Difference-In-Difference, Flood, Maternal, Newborn, Pakistan