

Gendered impact of violence against women on children's growth up to 2-years:

Analysis of MINIMat longitudinal cohort data from rural Bangladesh

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Introduction

- Undernutrition accounts for 45% of deaths of children under age five globally (WHO, 2021)
- Evidence syntheses indicate that Intimate partner violence is a risk factor for poor child growth and malnutrition (Bhatt et al., 2023; Vahedi et al., 2023)
- Predominant use of cross-sectional data
- Children often treated as a homogenous group
- Insufficient sex-disaggregated analysis of outcomes.

Objectives

- To identify trajectories of child growth up to two years separately for male and female children;
- To examine the impact of different types of domestic violence (DV) on these identified trajectories for both male and female children.

Methodology

- Data source:** MINIMat cohort
- Study site:** Matlab sub-district
- Outcome variable:** Height-for-age z-scores (HAZ) up to 2 years;
- Main covariates:** Different types of DV (i.e., controlling behavior, emotional, physical, sexual).
- Sample size:** Combined- 3337, male children-1702, female children-1635
- Analysis:**
- Latent class growth modellings to identify different HAZ trajectories
 - Multinomial logistic regressions for identifying impact of DV on different trajectories

Result

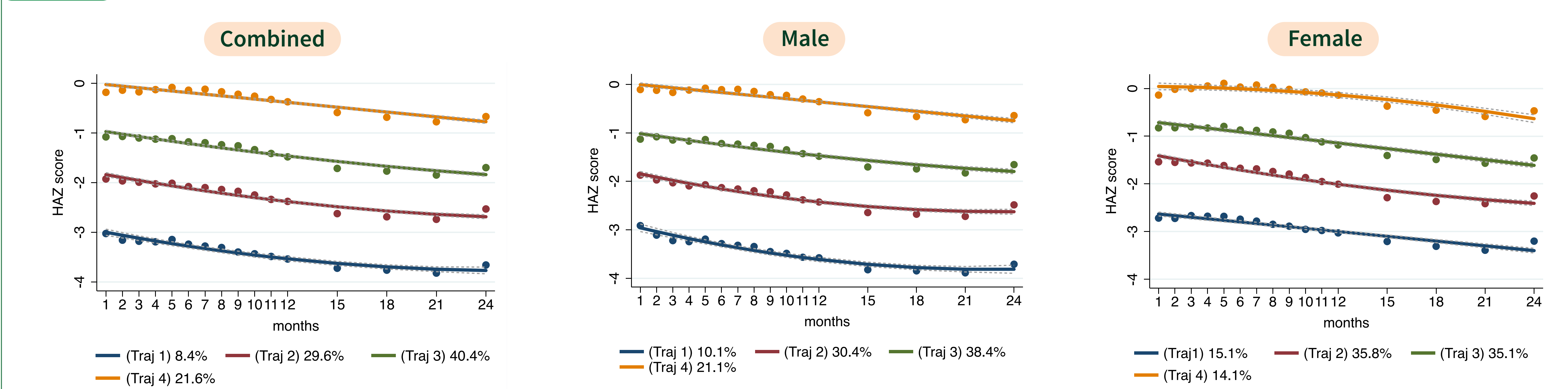


Figure 1: HAZ trajectories of children from birth to 2-years of age

Exposure to lifetime DV#	Combined Sample		Male Children			Female Children	
	Non-stunted (Traj 4) (ref)	Severely stunted (Traj 1)	Non-stunted (Traj 4) (ref)	Severely stunted (Traj 1)	Moderately stunted (Traj 2)	Non-stunted (Traj 4) (ref)	Severely stunted (Traj 1)
	mOR (95% CI)		mOR (95% CI)			mOR (95% CI)	
Emotional	1.67 (1.16-2.40)*		1.67 (1.03 – 2.72)*	1.47 (1.01-2.14)*		1.28 (0.76-2.13)	
Controlling behavior	1.24 (0.90-1.71)		0.87 (0.56-1.35)	1.01 (0.74-1.39)		1.66 (1.08-2.56)*	

Table 1: Results of multinomial logistic regression analysis of effect of DV on different HAZ trajectories of children

Conclusions

- Child growth programs should address DV.
- DV interventions often overlook emotional violence and controlling behavior.
- Greater attention to emotional violence and controlling behavior is needed to address child growth.

*p-value< 0.05

Multinomial odds ratios (mORs) were generated from a multivariate multinomial logistic regression adjusted for women's age, education, wealth, and, parity.

As physical and sexual domestic violence showed no significant effects, only findings for emotional domestic violence and controlling behavior are presented.