

WASTED POTENTIAL

THE COMPLEX CRISIS OF CHILD MALNUTRITION IN URBAN INDIA

CWIC EMERGING SCHOLAR TALK LAVANYA MADHUSUDAN C'09

Despite rapid economic growth in recent years, India's rates of child malnutrition are among the highest in the world. Child malnutrition impairs the immune system, retards cognitive development, and limits productivity later in life. This study describes the prevalence of child malnutrition within an urban slum population in Bangalore, India, one of the most rapidly growing urban centers in the world. From interviews with mothers information regarding various factors influencing nutritional status was obtained, including maternal nutrition knowledge and beliefs, access, quality and quantity of foods, and structural and environmental factors. As child malnutrition is a complex issue, community-based research is essential to understanding the cultural context of malnutrition. Because addressing child malnutrition must be an interdisciplinary effort, suggestions for research in economics, psychology, anthropology and medicine will be presented.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 15TH

5:30-7:00 PM

COHEN HALL 402

