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What Determines Food (in)security in Pakistan? new Evidence Using Food Insecurity Experience Scale Survey Module (FIES-SM)

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Abstract

The available literature on food insecurity measures focuses intensively on calories available per capita at the national level (FAO), household income and expenditure procedures, individuals' dietary intake, anthropometry, and recently developed method by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the so-called experience based food insecurity measurement scales. However, to our best knowledge, limited studies are available for the case of Pakistan. Accordingly, we are using food insecurity experience scale, originally adopted in the US, similar tools followed in various part of the world incorporating quantitative, qualitative, psychological, and social dimension of food security. Using Pakistan Panel Household Survey 2010 data, where household classify themselves on a ten-scale ranking from the food secure to the food insecure household, we find that the determinants of food insecurity are not limited by household consumption, but also affected by household size, household demographic structures, agriculture land ownership, borrowing, natural shocks, violence and inflation. Importantly, we use non parametric analysis to study the relation between household per capita income and food insecurity situation as well as the relation between food insecurity and inflationary shocks. The result shows a positive trend of income and food security however, non proportional. In addition, the linear probability model results are in line with the aforementioned findings. Moreover, the link test result confirms that all the models utilised in the analysis are well specified. In conclusion, priority should be given to specific targeted determinants that are more important in the alleviation of food insecurity, while making and implementing public policy given the limited available resources.

Keywords: FAO, Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), key words: food (in)security, Link test., ordered probit model, Pakistan